

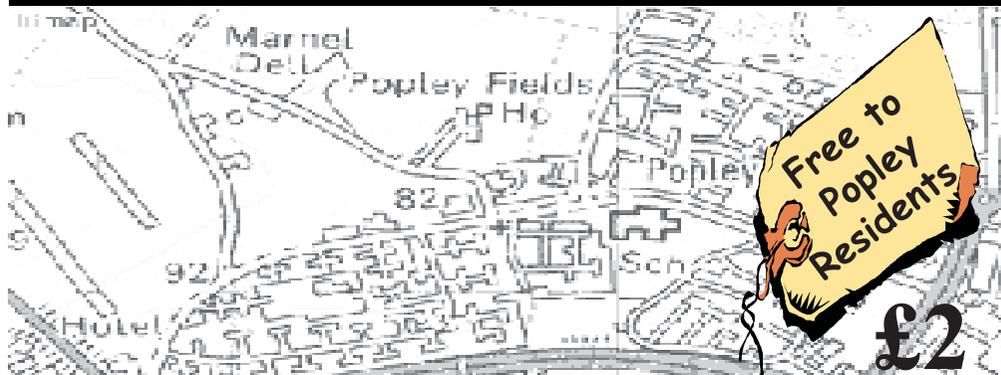
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

February 2018

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 192



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-2-18) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: As you will see from the Popley West Councillors report there have been a lot of reports about thefts from cars in Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow Residents have got together and a meeting was arranged with residents, police, Councillors and The Neighbourhood Watch to form a local scheme. Thank you Clare for volunteering to be the nominated Coordinator for the area so that the scheme can press ahead. The report of the meeting will be in next month's Popley Matters. There is also advice for us all from the police on page

12 on preventing thefts. Look to the Stars is the 2018 Mayors Charity Concert, local choirs and orchestras (mostly youth) will be performing to raise funds for the last of the Mayor's Community Chest Charity. To date 32 groups have had grants and it is hoped to help many more, see details on page 23. If you are into conservation, Marnel and Popley Conservation have a busy year ahead and I am sure would like more volunteers to help.

Are you a local business large or small would you like to advertise in Popley Matters? We currently have some spaces available from a quarter page, half page or a full one. The cost starts at £30 for a quarter page with discounts for six months onwards. We also do one off issues and leaflet deliveries so call me on the number below.

We still need people to deliver Popley Matters so if you could spare an hour a month you would be most welcomed.

Do you enjoy reading Popley Matters? What else would you like to see changed in what is your community magazine?

We welcome articles from groups and clubs, also residents that might like to write about their hobbies or maybe even the history of Popley? Email the Editor at editor@popleymatters.org.uk. Contact me at either 405 Abbey Road, phone me, on 01256 819924 or email me at editor@popleymatters.org.uk.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

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

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Thank you for your support.



St. Michael's Hospice Events 2018



**Farleigh Wallop
Woodland Walk**
8th April



Basingstoke Run
16th May



Sunflower Service
10th June



Big Wheel
22nd July



SMH & TC Golf Day
14th September



Moonlight Walk
13th October



Light up a Life
2nd December



01256 848848



stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events

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Gym Team: 01256 337576 Main Reception: 01256 337573

Councillors' Page: Marnel Park has had a lot of problems reported of thefts from cars. There is CCTV footage and it seems around 3 am is the time the thieves strike. Please make sure you have locked your vehicle. By the time you read this we will have had the first public meeting at Everest Community Academy that will be attended by the police and officials from Neighbourhood Watch as the residents are getting together to organise a Neighbourhood Watch scheme that will cover Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow. At the time of writing this we are expecting about forty residents to attend and, this was before 2000 leaflets were printed and a group of residents delivered them to publicise the meeting. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped especially Claire who will be the first Neighbourhood Coordinator, and her mum Linda for helping to get the leaflets delivered with notice of the meeting in plenty of time. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: There are plans over the next year to improve the paths and crossing in the older parts of Popley. Cllr David Potter, Cllr Janet Westbrooke and I met officers from Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke & Deane to look at the plans for Popley East. We have suggested some further improvements, for instance that the new bus stop in Shakespeare Road should have some kind of cover. There will also be twelve more parking spaces created. Abbey Road and some other roads in Popley West will be next in the scheme.

While we were there we were joined by the walk leader from BDBC Healthy Walks who is working on getting a walkway from Popley's Chineham Park to the Community Park near the Apollo Hotel. Paul and I are continuing to press for green gym equipment for our area and we now have the support of the officer.

We have identified some more potholes that are marked and will be repaired by Hampshire County Council and we have contacted BDBC about the pothole in the Abbey Road shops area as the car park area is their responsibility.

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

Popley East: Before Christmas we received reports that the traffic lights at the crossing on the A33 leading from Shetland Road to the Lidl/Dunelm shops were not working but that residents were still continuing to cross there. This raised serious safety concerns as we know this is generally a very well used crossing.

We made urgent enquiries of Hampshire County Council and as a result arrangements were made to immediately put in place temporary pedestrian crossing lights and temporary warning signs. 'Temporary Crossing Ahead' were also installed on the approaches.

We are concerned to see, as reported, that the Bermuda & Marlowe Doctors Practice on Shakespeare Road has been given a 'requires improvement' rating again by the Care Quality Commission following another inspection in November. We will be monitoring developments as the practice seek to recruit a new Practice Manager to take forward the changes required.

Residents have reported concerns regarding pedestrian safety on Shakespeare Road due to vehicles speeding and the lack of safe crossing points.

We arranged to meet with Councillor Jane Frankum and Officers from Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke & Deane to discuss possible improvements and are pleased to say that agreement has been reached for works to include traffic calming measures in the form of pinch points, additional crossing provisions and a new footpath from Popley Way to the Splash Pad. We also asked that a bus shelter or canopy be installed at the bus stop near to Byron Close. The improvements will also provide some additional parking bays.

Residents in the vicinity of the planned works will receive details from Hampshire County Council with the works expected to be started just after the spring. We'll keep you updated when we hear more.

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



Starting new this month, we have B's Beauty. Fully qualified and specialising in hair removal, via waxing and threading and ear piercing. Contact her on 07434993106 for prices, availability and further information.

WHATS ON IN FEBRUARY:

MONDAY:	12.30-2.30pm	Bingo!!
	7.30-10pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Popley Little People
	5-7pm	Sama Karate
WEDNESDAY:	9am	Slimming World
	11	Slimming World
	11.45-1.30pm	Oasis Lunch club
	5.30 & 7.30pm	Slimming World
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Community Café
	8-9pm	4 Fits Sake
FRIDAY:	10.00am-1.30pm	Melrose Tots
	NEW 10am-12pm	B's Beauty
	6.15-9.15pm	Friday Youth Club
SATURDAY:	9.15am-4pm	7 TH Day Adventist Church
	10am	Sabath School - Bible Study
	11.30	Divine Worship
	1pm	Free Community Lunch
	Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details	
SUNDAY:	Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.	
	2-5pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, conferences and regular groups. **Please ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at melrosehal21@gmail.com or website www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk**

Also find us on facebook: Melrose Hall.

A Big Thank you

Thank you to the very kind lady who stopped the Mini Bus she was driving when she saw that I had fallen on the pathway of my house in Appleton Drive on Thursday 25th January around 3pm. She very kindly made sure that I was Ok.

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BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB STEPS INTO THE SHADY WORLD OF 'WHO DUNNIT?' !

The Basingstoke Lions Club (BLC) is proud to present “**Murder in the Main**” on Saturday 17 March, 7.30pm for 8pm, at St. Leonard’s Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, Basingstoke RG23 7ED.

Guaranteed to set the brows a-furrowing, the brains a-ticking and probably the throats a-chortling, the Club is delighted to be working with The Oakley Pantomime Society (TOPS), to offer an evening of mystery, murder and mayhem.

Formed seventeen years ago by Ann Davis and a few local folk who had decided that Oakley should have its own pantomime, TOPS staged its first production, “Cindy’s Fella”. To their surprise, people liked it, so they went on to produce more pantos (who can forget last year’s ‘Jack in a Beanie’ - just when you thought you knew all you could about ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’!), cabaret nights and murder mysteries, as well as a children’s theatre workshop. The result? Their productions are a regular sell-out, attended by a loyal audience of followers, both local and from outside the immediate area.

Add this factor to the large number of people who consistently attend the Lions’ Club’s events whatever the act, tickets are likely to go quickly and space is limited, so potential ‘detectives’ are strongly advised to book their seats to be at the ‘scene of the crime’ as soon as possible. Bring picnics to help feed the brain – a bar will be provided to offer drinks at very reasonable prices.

The Basingstoke Lions Club has a packed programme for the next year featuring several new acts which promise the usual high quality for which the Club has become known. (See www.basingstokelions.org.uk)

Tickets for ‘Murder in the Main’ : £10 - available from:

Website : <http://basingstokelions.org.uk/fundraising.html>

John Hibberd: jhibberd440@btinternet.com – 01256 461086/07736 736687

Ann Vicars: av@mypostoffice.co.uk – 01256 781927/07808 574809

Hello,

I am Ruby Jolliffe, a seventeen-year-old with a passion for helping others to reach their full potential and enjoy life along the way. I have an interest in journalism so am practising my communication skills with you! I go to Peter Symonds College and even though I am still studying my A-Levels, I have learned a lot throughout my journey in education and the sometimes dreaded 'teenage' years. I feel it is necessary for us, a group of so called teens often labelled as 'moody' 'boisterous' 'wild' or 'difficult' to put an end to the name calling and show our true characters and the delights we can be. Hormones can be taken into consideration when they decide to flare up or explode in a fiery temper! We are still growing and are still children, just some of us slightly taller, some with stubbly chins, some with exotic hair colours and some still looking like a 12-year-old boy who at heart loves 'Pokémon Go' but in fact is an 18-year-old 'man' who is going to Oxford University in 2018.

But it is all ok. We are all changing and developing and we need to work together to succeed.

My 'Teen Talk' isn't going to replicate a boring and dreary school assembly of incessant demands and inspirational quotes making you feel slightly nauseous or cringe or reminding you that you'd rather be asleep in your bed or watching the infamous @Zoella' (whom let's face it, we are all too ashamed to admit to each other that we have been watching her since we were 11 whilst trying to copy her 'top knot' hairstyles and 'Autumn Berry Eyes' tutorial- well we still are).

Anyway, I am here to put together all our worries, hurdles and problems that we will communally face as we try to learn about and embrace the feared 'adulthood'. Also to try make life more bearable as we get to grips with our developing bodies and go on a quest to understand what is really going on!

We will survive. Our parents did, and they didn't turn out too bad, right? Who knows! Our individualities are so vast that no one really knows the rights and wrongs in our tiny bubbles. We can work together to get some ideas of how to make it through and flourish.

Email me with any ideas and questions you have and together we can make sense of what is happening as you progress into a teenager @ rubyj17@gmail.com

Let's take care of ourselves and each other

Remember "Work hard! Play hard!"

Ruby J xoxo

Basingstoke Voluntary Action



Charity & Community Group Support & Information

www.bvaction.org.uk

admin@bvaction.org.uk - 01256 423816



BVA, The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF
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St Gabriel's Church

Loving God Welcoming You!

St Gabriel's is your local Church of England Parish Church. We are a vibrant, multi-generation and multi-cultural congregation who worship together every Sunday at 1030a.m.

We believe that worshipping God is all about family, fellowship and fun as we grow together in faith. Our worship is lively and informal in its approach and we offer weekly and very energetic children's groups from age 5 upwards.

We meet in St Gabriel's Church on Tewkesbury Close off Popley Way (RG24 9DU). Please visit our website www.stgabrielspopley.net or call us on 01256 324734/463024. We look forward to welcoming you!

Goodbye to a Disastrous year!

With the exception of my autumn visit to Minsk, this year has been an unmitigated disaster!

Firstly, on arriving in Minsk Airport, back in May, for my birthday celebrations, I discovered I'd either lost, or had stolen, my passport back in Gatwick Airport!

I wasn't allowed to leave the airport, spent a reasonably comfortable night in a secure room and returned on the next flight home on the following day! Everyone in Minsk Airport went out of their way to make sure I was well supplied with bottles of water and mountains of sandwiches.

Secondly, at the end of June a local roofing firm was approached to clear the moss from the guttering. Unsurprisingly, I was told the guttering was rotten and would need replacing. Then, I was told water had seeped behind the metal cladding and had rotted the wooden battens. I left them to carry on as I had to pick up Julia and Katya, from Minsk, from Luton Airport! When I returned home the cladding had been ripped off and new plastic cladding had been ordered. I was then informed that several of the tiles were cracked, water had rotted the roofing felt, the wooden battens and the tiles, felt and battens would need replacing!

The cost of all this was now approaching £30,000! A neighbour, who had also dealt with this company, advised me to contact Trading Standards and we are now in the process of taking this company to court for over charging and, possibly, completing unnecessary work!

Other than that, my autumn visit to Minsk was a success. As usual, I went to the Linguistic University (two departments), the State University (again, two departments) and the Pedagogical University. I met Tanya who used to work in the Belarusian Embassy in London and now teaches at the Linguistic University. I knew her from the many visits to the Embassy to sort out my visa.

As always, my circle of friends in Minsk grows with every visit!

Julia, Katya and Ira all want to come to Basingstoke next summer! They all enjoy their visits to Popley. There's no way I'm having the three of them staying with me at the same time!

Julia and Katya will come and then Ira so I'll be exhausted by the end of the summer!

For some reason that escapes me, all the girls insist on helping me deliver the 'Popley Matters'!

Terry Jones



Spring Term 2018



Team Everest

Congratulations to our Year 11 Boys who won the Basingstoke KS4 Badminton League and will now represent Basingstoke at the County Championships.

Upcoming Dates

Half Term 12 February—16 February
 Year 11 Final GCSE Commence—14 May
 Upper School Disneyland Paris Trip—11 February



Jennifer Weldon
 Head Girl

Students View

Coming back after Christmas is always hard- getting back into the usual regime of early mornings and hard work from lie-ins and relaxation, but I found it easier than I thought. Teachers have dived straight back into lessons, and it almost feels like those three long weeks never happened.

The Y11 students have had their college interviews, and beaming faces show clearly their happiness at earning their places in college. It is our last full term here at Everest, and I know that many will miss it. All years are working hard to reach their full potential and their work is paying off. Already grades are higher than last year!

An optimistic future faces us, and I feel it will only get better.

Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra Spring Classics Concert

Saturday 24th February 2018, 7:45pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

**Humperdinck - Hansel and Gretel Overture, Reinecke - Ballade for flute and orchestra,
Dvorak - Slavonic Dances and Saint-Saens - Organ Symphony**

Our spring concert brims over with popular Romantic classics. Humperdinck's delightful Hansel and Gretel Overture from his fairy-tale opera is based on a number of folk-inspired themes including the charming Abendsegenor Evening Hymn. Although not so well-known today, Reinecke was a very influential musical figure in his day. Sandra Ball, one of the orchestra's flautists, plays his beautiful Ballade which is full of late-Romantic harmony, skilful counterpoint and ever-pleasant melodies. Inspired by Brahms' Hungarian Dances, Dvorak's Slavonic Dances were originally written for piano duet but were soon orchestrated at the request of his publisher and have become very popular and often-played staples of the orchestral repertoire. Hampshire-based organist Graham Bint joins the orchestra to perform Saint-Saens' Organ Symphony, one of the 19th century's most significant and technically sophisticated orchestral works.

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01256 423874

Live Music Tea Dance

Raffle Proceeds for Chineham Village Hall Funds

On Sunday 18th March, 2:00pm till 5:00pm at Chineham Village Hall - David Smith will be presenting a Live Music Tea Dance with the Raffle proceeds in aid of Chineham Village Hall.

There will be Live Music with David Smith himself at the keyboards. David has recorded many CD albums for dancing throughout the years with the Savoy Music Label.

Last year David Smith Dance School raised £250.00 for the Chineham Village Hall Funds.

If you would like tickets or for further information, please contact David: Tel: 07791 749163 or email: david@davidsmithdance.com



Message to Cllrs Paul and Jane Frankum from Christie our PCSO after contacting the police on the reports of many thefts from cars:

“I appreciate this is frustrating, particularly as these have now increased to Basingstoke, not just Popley.

We are doing all we can with the separate investigations and are following all lines of enquiry. All teams are patrolling as much as possible and places that have been targeted have been discussed at briefings (which every team has at the start of every shift).

From what I can see, the most common form of entry is by opening the car door because it is not locked, and therefore is not classed as forced entry.

We are in the process of completing other actions that are ongoing.

Crime prevention tips, here are some of the most common ones we like to give out:

- When leaving your car, close all windows and lock your car;
- Upon locking your vehicle try your car door to ensure it is actually locked;
- Park your car in an attended car park;
- Look for public car parks approved by the Park Mark scheme;
- When parking at home, use your garage. If you don't have a garage, park in a well-lit area;
- Don't leave anything on display in your vehicle;
- Take all your personal possessions with you;
- Remove sat nav holders and visible sat nav ring marks from windscreens;
- Leave the glove box open to show there's nothing inside;
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser to your car;
- Record the details of your property on the Immobilise website (see right);
- Do not store your car's documents in the car; and
- Secure your wheels using locking wheel nuts.”

Editor's Note:- This seems like good advice and I expect most people do it anyway but it is so easy to forget that on that odd time.

Over 55s Forum

There are a few places available for the Stow Marie Great War Aerodrome in Essex with 2 short film shows, tour of Aerodrome plus afternoon tea with Vera Lynn (Recording Artist Lorrie Brown). Price including coach £43.50.

Other trips to be finalised are: Postal Museum in London. Denbries Vinery with afternoon tea in Dorking Morgan car Factory Tour; JCB Factory Tour; and World of Wedgewood Tour. Thank you. **Gerald.(Secretary)**



The Marie Curie Daffodil Day

Happy New Year and thank you very much for your generosity at Chineham Shopping Centre in 2017 when we raised £884.22.

Marie Curie Cancer Care provides home nursing for terminally ill people and runs some hospices in the UK. Unfortunately they are unable to provide nurses in the Basingstoke area but they do have nurses in other parts of Hampshire. They also fund research into Palliative Care.

The major fundraising event of the year is the Daffodil Day which is 24 February in Chineham, 3 March in the Town Centre, 10 March at Wyevale and 8 & 9 March at Morrisons. If you can spare an hour or more please call Sally on 023 8026 3123 or go to www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil to register for a collection near you. Thank you.

A Local Member's View of Alcoholics Anonymous

"My name is Alan and I'm an alcoholic..."

I must have said that thousands of times by now, but I'll never forget the first time I admitted that I'd lost control of my drinking. With hindsight, my drinking had been out of control for a long time before I tried to stop. And when I did try to put the brakes on, it accelerated.

Let me make one thing clear. If you can control and enjoy your drinking, if you can honestly say that applies to you, you are not an alcoholic.

But if, when you honestly want to, you find you can't stop entirely, or if when drinking you have little control over the amount you take, we probably need to talk. Because alcoholism is a progressive, incurable, fatal illness. It will strip you of everything, the last thing it will rob you of is any dignity, and then it will kill you. Without meaning to shock, I've seen it happen too many, far too many times.

But there is a way out. Many of us in Basingstoke, some of us even living in Popley, have found a hand up and out of the pit of active alcoholism. We have a solution.

We meet every Monday at noon and every Thursday at 8pm at Church Cottage, behind St Michael's Church in the town centre, and every Tuesday and Friday at 8pm and Sunday at 4pm across town at Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, Brighton Hill. We also have meetings in Overton, Tadley and Hook. There are meetings in every town right across the country, and indeed around the world. You can call us on 0800 9177 650 or email us at help@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

If drink is costing you more than money, and you want to stop, get in touch now. AA saved my life, and we can help you too. **Alan S, Popley**



6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter

Throughout November and December of 2017 we have been part of the Tesco carrier bag charity collection (those little blue tokens you get from the cashier after you've paid for your weekly shop). If you were able to pop any blue or red tokens in to our box during the collection period we would like to say a massive thank you.

The fantastic thing about this charity collection is that each charity will receive some amount of funding so everyone's a winner.

We would also like to thank the Mayor's Community Chest for approving a grant to go towards our recruitment equipment, this will go a long way to getting the word out about Boys' Brigade, increasing our ranks and help further our support of local young people.

As we approach February we look forward to our moving day!! Don't worry we aren't moving out of St Gabriel's Church but from the hall we use at the church in to the main worship area. This is due to the hall being knocked through in to the newly built hall extension. Once all the building work has finished we will have over double the space we originally had allowing us to do so much more at the church.

Are you up to the challenge?

We are looking for volunteers to join our officer and helper team. We meet on a Monday evening from 6:15-7:15pm and need additional support running our younger section. Give us a ring: **07775 535434** or drop us an email: **6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com**.



"Aiming High, Achieving Together."

Motivation
Excellence
Respect
Teamwork
Opportunities
Never give up

Spring News
January 2018

Year R – Everyday Heros

Our topic was launched through a video link directly from Wonder Woman. She set the children a challenge to find out what an everyday hero meant.

Lots of exciting visitors came to talk to the children about their interesting jobs. They included firefighters, a sailor, and a lady from the Dog's Trust. The children even had the opportunity to interview our very own Headteacher, Mrs James, about how she helps children to learn and grow. All the children talked about their aspirations and who inspires them. Watch out world!

Year 1 – Toys are AWESOME!

It's safe to say that Tawny Owls, Barn Owls and Speckled Owls all agreed with our topic title, Toys are Awesome! They couldn't wait to share and compare their favourite toys with their peers and we found out there are many different types of toys. We also compared their present day toys with toys from the past, including Victorian dolls and Ancient Egyptian dice. Did you know they didn't have batteries back then?

Year One launched their topic with an unexpected message from Lego Batman asking them to investigate a suspicious little red bus. The children worked extremely hard describing the bus and reporting back to Batman so he knew exactly what he was dealing with. One child reported that "The red Naughty Bus whizzed through the sticky, orange beans." He was a Naughty Bus indeed!

During our topic we had enormous fun exploring printing and cubism using Lego and the scientists in all of us investigated pushing and pulling using a range of toys.

The children ended the topic with a construction workshop and demonstrated their building talents using Lego, K'nex and building bricks. They were all left feeling proud of their successes and we look forward to our next learning adventure!

Year 2 – Antarctica

The year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the penguins of Antarctica. They received a letter from the WWF asking for their help. The WWF are very concerned about the fact that, due to global warming, the ice is melting so could the children of Merton Infant School possibly help raise some awareness of this issue.

The children decided that it would be a great idea to raise money so they could adopt their very own penguin. They created fact files full of information about the dangers the penguins are facing. They also created 3D collages and painted pictures they could sell at their art gallery. They promoted their art gallery by producing persuasive posters. The year 2 children managed to raise a staggering £170 and were able to adopt not one, but 3 penguins!



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Dear Friends

Communication rules! Or so we are told. We do communicate in so many different ways in these days of high tech! TV, Internet, mobile phones, text messaging, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Skype, Facetime, Instagram – did I forget one – probably! I often wonder however did we get our message across before all this stuff came along. Well ... we picked up the phone to speak, or the pen to write or even better we got on the bus (train, car, bike) and visited.

As human beings we need to communicate with one another; it's how we're meant to be! We were never designed to live in isolation, separated from others but to be in company with one another sharing our lives, our experiences, our ups and our downs. It's through that interaction with others that we grow as beings, it's the means by which we understand what it is to be community.

Going back further in history – before the telephone and perhaps even before the majority of people could read or write and before modern transport systems enabled us to move so easily from one place to another to visit! I guess the main medium of communication then would have been story! The telling and re-telling of occasions, events and incidents to listeners who would then tell it to others; in this way news would spread.

Jesus loved to communicate and often it was exactly in this way that he communicated, through the power of story, and different types of story at that! One of his favourites was the use of something called a parable. A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson often with a meaning that the hearers were left to work out for themselves. So for example the parable of the sower or the parable of the lost sheep, the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son.

Over the next few months through my article I want to explore some of those with you and see how they can work out in our modern culture and society and to see how the timeless stories of Jesus can help us live out our lives today. Communication rules; I hope you'll find the exploration informative, helpful and a way of growing towards the living God who loved us enough to send His son to be one of us. May He richly bless you and yours this month.

With every blessing
Arthur
(Vicar of St Gabriel's)
☎324734



Probud Hears about Radio Times

The Probud Club of Basingstoke, the social group for retired professional and business managers, listened with interest about radio broadcasting memories in the era of 1930s - 60s. It was presented by John Pitman, who grew up during WW2 on a farm near Winchester, where the “wireless” was the main form of information and entertainment.

Like many places in those days his home had no electrical supply and the radio was powered by an accumulator, an early form of battery consisting of glass phials filled with acid and it had to be taken away for recharging. However radio broadcasting goes back to the turn of the twentieth century after the invention of valves made it possible to receive electrical signals. The first broadcast took place on Christmas Eve 1906 from the New York Metropolitan Opera House but the only listeners were ships moored in New York harbour.

1920 saw the first radio news broadcast by the Marconi Experimental Station at Whittle near Chelmsford followed two years later with regular entertainment programmes. The British Broadcasting Company morphed into the Corporation in 1926 becoming the BBC.

Many memories were stirred as old radio programmes were recalled, ITMA, Worker’s Playtime, Have a Go, In Town Tonight, Ray’s a Laugh, Much Binding in the Marsh, Life with the Lyons, Meet the Huggetts, Take it from Here, Dick Barton, Journey in to Space, Two Way Family Favourites, Billy Cotton Band Show, the Goon Show, Round the Horne, Mrs Dale’s Diary and The Archers. Who would believe that a ventriloquist’s dummy would have a successful radio show called Educating Archie. The New York Opera still broadcasts on Christmas Eve but today over 300 radio stations around the world carry the programme.

For more information about the Probud Club see their web site www.probudasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone Paul Flint on 07770 886521.



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Saturday 17th February

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All welcome - 8pm till late. £8 on the door. Licensed bar and Low Prices.

Profits to Brain Tumour Research – Charity number 1153487.

Future dates:

Saturday 17th March

Tommy Allen's Trafficker.

Saturday 21st April

Pete Harris Blues Band.

For further details please contact

Rex on 01256 321837 / mobile 07979 422590



It's been a slow start for football in 2018, with many games called off due to water logged and frozen pitches, however we have seen a few good games played, one of those being our U15s who played their Hampshire Cup Semi-final in January. Unfortunately they weren't successful this time, losing to a very competent Newport IOW - we wish them all the best for the final!

We will be holding our annual Quiz Night on Friday 9th February, 7:30pm at Mays Bounty. Children are welcome! Further details are available on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mfcpopleyyouth.

Once again, we'd like to thank this seasons sponsors, and should anyone be interested in sponsoring a team next season, please contact the committee on committee@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

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As always we are looking for volunteers to help with coaching and the running of the club, if you would like more information, please contact us on volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk.

Chineham Board Gamers

Chineham Board Gamers would like to invite you to our open day on 24th March.

If you yearn for a challenge beyond Monopoly or Scrabble or wish to try something new then pass us a visit.

The open day will run from 12:00 to 11pm and is a FREE event for new people.

We are running a 2 hour session for small children 12 to 14pm and will run appropriate games.

Most of our board games will be aimed at 10 year olds and upwards after 2pm.

We will also be joined by local Barista "Cuppa Joe" from 1 to 5pm.

We also ask that if children are attending they are accompanied by an adult.

Please find us at Chineham Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham Basingstoke, RG24 8LT.



BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

VDG Ken Staniforth attended our last business meeting. He's always a welcome guest as he's not one of the platitudinous corporate clones that we often entertain. The purpose of his visit (apart from enjoying our delightful company) was to present some long service awards. So, congratulations Brian (45 years) and Denise (15 years).

Between those two stalwarts would have been Philip (30 years) had I not been off sunning myself in New Zealand. Instead, when my name was announced some wag muttered "who's Philip?" which apparently caused mass hysteria. So, what follows is a bit of pay back! The Club celebrated the festive season with a Christmas Dinner. I've seen the pictures. It was more like something out of "The Rue Morgue". And apparently there was some dirty dancing – the mind boggles! It's much more likely to have been reminiscent of "The Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett. Enough already!

Members of the Club have been out at various locations tin shaking in aid of our Christmas Giving. Thank you all for your marvellous response. The guy who said "you'd have to bring back public hanging to enthuse the people of Basingstoke" clearly got it all wrong. All it takes is Lennie our dancing Lion, a bit of lively music, and everyone gets right into the spirit of the season – at least we hope that was the spirit that got into the man who donated the entire contents of his pockets. Those whom we have helped in the past are always particularly generous, and you warmed the cockles of our collective hearts by supporting our first Bunnings Sausage Sizzle when the temperature was a lip-blistering 3 degrees. Once again, many thanks. It was also great to be congratulated several times on the quality of our shows, particularly the Sussex Jazz Kings and the Heritage Light Orchestra. We also had a request to bring back ABBA Sensation, but that will have to wait until 2019.

Our Christmas community support commitments currently stand at £2,400. But we've had a couple of other requests, special blankets for refugee children in Syria, and an entertainer for children having to spend Christmas in Basingstoke Hospital. We will support both.

10/02/2018 Moscow Drug Club at QMC – tickets are selling like hotcakes. Call Maurice, you might get lucky.

Contact Maurice Hockley: Email mauricehockley@hotmail.com or Tel: 01256 421867

03/03/2018 Swimathon at the Town Centre Pool – This is an early opportunity to get a team together and get "summer" fit. It's a tough event, but the enthusiasm on the night is hard to beat!

Contact Tony Bamberger: Email tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01256 850254

17/03/2018 Murder Mystery at St Leonards Oakley – Well-known and popular Oakley resident Ann Davis is organising the murder and mayhem for us. Latest scuttlebutt is that a member of the audience will be the "victim" Fancy your chances? You can bring your own picnic and we will be running our usual competitively priced bar.

Contact: John Hibberd: Email jhibberd440@btinternet.com or Tel: 01256 461086

Details of all events can be found on our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk

LIONS CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Put your contact details on the "Contact Us" page of our website and someone will get in touch.



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Welcome to 2018! The pond is full, we haven't had too much snow and my wellies aren't leaking ...It's going to be a good year!!

After a long hot summer we took the opportunity to give the pond bottom a good clean out of rubbish (please don't be a litter bug!), rapidly spreading flag iris clumps and wood that had fallen in.

Let me tell you flag iris is funny stuff, it's quite leafy, but the roots are really long in proportion to the stalks. Once you get at it, it's super rewarding to see it go though, it suffocates the other species and generally isn't a good thing to share space with.

We have handed the pond back to the mallards and coots again now. They seem to love life, as they should. It's wet, they have food, and the rubbish is (mostly) gone!

In 2018 we will be concentrating on rolling back the years of neglect in the woodland areas to the east and west of the main pond. At least one of our group remembers growing up in Popley and spending summer holidays checking out the pond life, before getting a bag of chips down the road. No names mentioned, hey Mr Roberts ☺.

In the autumn we hope to start regular coppicing of the hazel planted at the top of the bank behind the pond. We have a small contingent of volunteers who are totally experienced in coppicing. Currently the rest of us don't have a clue, but we shall learn, and try not to do too bad a job of it, we promise.

The intention for coppicing in this area was set out 20 years ago and more with the expectation that a regular coppicing cycle - the traditional way of managing woodland - would be needed in due course. Well, here we are ladies and gents, the time is now!!

The by-products of this process are bean poles, pea sticks and stakes for all manner of uses in allotments and gardens - and all biodegradable, without a hint of plastic! Juicy loot for you keen gardeners out there, aye!

In other news, the group is yet to have our first annual Christmas get together, so rather than wait until December, we will be having a New Year's knees up instead - I'm personally in need of a warm fire and a glass of something now that our central heating is on the blink. Watch this space lovely people, you're all invited!!

(Natalie)

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With so many young people enjoying Scouting in Popley every week, we do have a small number of places available in some sections but there are also dozens of young people who want to join who cannot because we are bursting at the seams. The age ranges are Beavers (6-8) Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (10-14).

The Leaders are passionate about giving every young person who wants to join, the opportunity of the life changing experiences that Scouting offers. In order to do this we need more adult volunteers to help run weekly meetings, organise events and to share in the fun and adventure. But we also need people to help behind the scenes as well.

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Tuesday evening Community bingo, doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm. Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available at halftime).

Wednesday evening 6-7pm Lou Bedford Yoga classes for details ring Lou on 07753109222 or go online at www.loubedfordyoga.co.uk.

Thursday evening 4.30 - 6.30pm Street dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult, school term time. Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484.

Thursday evening C.M.A kick boxing from 7 - 8.30pm.

Friday evening Friday Club (children) 6 -7pm.

The hall is also available to hire for parties etc at reasonable rates.

Chineham Library

For children this month activities will include the preschool rhyme times on Tuesdays, with the under ones at 10am and the over ones at 11am. Preschool story times take place every Saturday except the first in the month at 10am, and craft sessions take place on the first Saturday between 10am and 12pm. The Chatterbooks children's reading group meets on 15th February and 15th March at 3.45 – 4.45pm. For information about future Coding Club dates please see the staff. We also have a special event coming up for children of Charlie's storytelling parties. The date for this is 12th February with sessions at 1.45 and 3pm costing £3.75. Tickets can be booked via the library.

Regular activities for adults continue with the Crime Reading Group meeting on 3rd February and 17th March, and CHIPPS on 14th February and 14th March. The new reading group and the new creative writing groups have now met and would love to have more members join them. Age Concern will continue to hold their regular computer sessions for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings between 10am – 1pm. For details and to book a place please contact the area office on: 01256 423874.

There are also some interesting activities coming up in the near future. From 19th February until 12th March we are running a free course called 'Art for Wellness' with sessions from 10am – 1pm. This is free to attend but places need to be reserved. On 17th March at 2pm we are holding a session on Container Gardening, with some plants available for sale afterwards. Tickets are for sale costing £4 each.

Please continue to follow us via social media and other sources for details of future events. **Cathy Foster**

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There are many ways to get involved as a Samaritans volunteer, whether it be as a listening or fundraising volunteer, or to help with publicity, there will be a place at Samaritans for you. We also reach out to the community by working with schools, colleges and universities, prisons, hospitals, and major music festivals.

Find out more about volunteer roles at Basingstoke Samaritans using the details opposite.



Find out about volunteering with Basingstoke Samaritans

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