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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-6-19) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

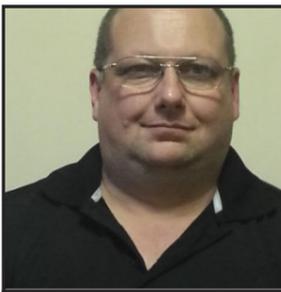
Message from the Editor: Here we are nearly half way through the year and holidays are on most people's minds. There are a lot of residents who don't manage to enjoy a holiday away from home. I was looking at places to see and go to that aren't too expensive as we have a Councillor from Euskirchen staying with us for a week at the end of this month. Sven has visited Basingstoke with the official twinning group for a few years and has come to love Basingstoke and wants to know more about our area. I am finding it difficult to choose as I never really realised just how much history and activities there are. On the list is Milestones, Willis Museum, The Anvil, Proteus Creation Space, The Vyne, Jane Austen Museum, Stratfield Saye House, Basing, Winchester, Whitchurch Silk Mill, Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery, the Winklebury Gala and a lot more. We will be spending one of the days in the council office as some young students are coming from Euskirchen into the council and Mayor's parlour to learn about our town and then our students do a return visit. Far too much to be able to fit all these all in, with only a week's stay and, to end the visit, we will also be celebrating Paul's birthday!

Later in the month is the ever popular St Gabriel's Summer Fayre on page 16, Winklebury Gala on page 21 and Basingstoke Festival is at the beginning of July. If you have an event with a group or club over the summer months why not let us know about it? If it's too late this year let us know in plenty of time for next year.

With the, hopefully, warm weather comes picnic sand playing in, at the Splash Pad and Popley Community Park so please remember to put your rubbish in the bins. If they are full take the litter home for the few who seem to ignore it, the dog waste too. But most of all please be aware that children are out playing and drive carefully; park where people can see clearly where its safe to cross the road.

Finally with the beautiful (I hope) weather why not deliver the Popley Matters, enjoy the walk and meet new people? Contact details as below.

We welcome articles from groups and clubs, also residents who might like to write about their hobbies or 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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Chineham Library

Our annual Summer Reading Challenge starts on 13th July and runs until 14th September. This year it is called 'Space Chase', so do encourage your 4 – 11 year olds to sign up for it and collect their rewards for reading six books over the Summer. Also, we need help to run the scheme, so would be delighted to hear from anyone aged over 14 who could offer a couple of hours a week. Application forms are available online or in the Library.

On 4th July we are holding another of our popular evening events, this time called 'Murder by Gaslight'. This will involve a dramatic presentation based around infamous poisoners William Palmer and Harvey Crippen, by the 'Don't Go Into the Cellar' theatre group. Tickets costing £12.50 are available from the library or online.

Our regular groups will be meeting as usual, with the Crime Reading group on 22nd June and the Chineham Fiction group on 29th, both from 10.30 – 11.30am. The Writing Group meets on 13th from 5.30 -7pm, and the new Cuppa and Chat over 50s drop-in group on 12th and 26th from 10.30am. Age Concern continue to provide computer tuition for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings. Places can be booked through the office on: 01256 423874. Activities for children also continue as usual, with Rhymetimes on Tuesdays for under ones at 10am and 11am for over ones. Storytimes will take place Saturdays at 11am excluding the 1st June and 6th July when there will be craft sessions from 10am. Construction Club takes place Saturdays from 2 - 3.30pm. Chatterbooks meets on 18th from 3.45 -4.45pm. The Stay and Play group for preschool children and parents meets on 5th and 19th from 10 -11am.

We hope to see you in the library soon.

Cathy Foster

Volunteering Basingstoke Discovery Centre

My name is Jackie Slater and I work as a Library Team Assistant / Volunteer Coordinator at Basingstoke Discovery Centre (public library).

We need lots of volunteers to assist us with the Summer Reading Challenge from mid-July to mid-September.

Do you have some spare time in the summer? Would you like to listen to children telling you about the exciting books they have read as part of the Summer Reading Challenge? If so, and you would like to help, please visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre and ask the staff for further details.



Firstly I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of those who came along to the Festival this year. Without our community support it just wouldn't be possible to hold this kind of event.

For those who were not able to make it, you missed a beautiful dry May day, dance and singing performances from Merton Junior School, traditional dancing from the local Nepalese community and much more in the arena area. As usual everyone loved the fair with everything from Hook a Duck to the Dodgems. Marnel and Merton schools both took part in the children's art competition which saw some great work judged by our local councillors, Paul and Jane Frankum.

One of the key features of the Festival is the way that the community pulls together to make the event happen and I think we'd all like to thank those that volunteer their time to set up, marshal and allow everyone to have a great day, especially the guys in the red t-shirts from New Testament Church of God for their hard work behind the scenes and on the day.

Here's looking forward to next year,

Phil Mean

Popley Festival Committee Chair

PS: Remember to like us on Facebook to keep up to date with the 2019 festival and, if you would like to be involved or volunteer for next year, contact us via the website at www.popleyfestival.org.uk

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Over 55s Forum

The Forum's next Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th June 2019, at the Carnival Hall, Basingstoke. Guest speakers will be from the Canal Society and the Forestry Commission. One of our guest speakers for August is "Bonny Sartin" who was with The Yetties folk group from Somerset years ago. He has thirteen subjects to speak about, then may finish with a couple of songs, who knows?

The Forum is still getting people every week wanting to join our ever growing Forum, which shows we are doing a great job for all the over 55's in the borough.

There are seats available to the general public on the following trip; a day trip to Brighton (do as you please) on Sunday 14th July 2019, price £17.00 which is good value, because if you go by car, you have the expense of petrol/diesel and car parking fees.

Please book with Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com

Our Variety Show to Celebrate the "International Day for Older People" will be held on Saturday 28th September 2019 at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke 2pm to 5pm. There will be a professional compere/comedian - tribute act and another surprise act which is being arranged. Refreshments are included. Ticket price to be agreed but in past years we only charged £6.00. Why not put this date in your diary.

All the best.

Gerald (Secretary & Tour Manager)

Hello my name is Frankie and I work for a lovely charity MHA Live at Home Basingstoke and Deane. We offer various activities and lunch clubs across Basingstoke and East Hants enabling members to continue to get out and about. We cater for the over 60s who seem to have become isolated within their own homes. We also offer a befriending service where we will go round once a week and just sit and have a good old natter and play board games if you like to.

I just completed my first ever 10,000 feet sky dive for our charity and raised just over £600 pounds in sponsor money. This money will come back into our own scheme to enable us to continue delivering activities at an affordable cost to our members. My skydive was third time lucky due to the weather conditions, but what an amazing experience and yes I'm crazy enough to be signing up to do the 15,000 feet sky dive next year.

This year we have 20 members going off on the group holiday for a week and we have some lovely day trips planned through the New Forest. All the sponsor money and funding we receive goes into all these trips and activities to keep the cost down to our members

If you know of anyone that would be interested in becoming a member or you want to find out more information on what we provide please contact me at francesca.wildash@mha.org.uk or contact me on 01256 346022



County Councillor Report : Working as a team the Popley East Councillors and I have been getting improvements to the new layout coming out of Popley Way into Reading Road and we have had some success, however vehicles coming out of Lidl and Dunelm that want to go back towards Reading are turning into Popley Way and turning round in Shakespeare Road instead of going to the Oakridge Road roundabout. Once they have turned into Popley Way they should continue a little further to the next roundabout by Mallory Road and that would be much safer and quicker. We have asked for a no u-turn as there have been near misses and a lot of road rage.

The consultation on extending parking restrictions finished on 1st June and so we were not able to put it in Popley Matters. It was on social media and notices from the council displayed where put around the areas affected. There was a good response and now the officers have to read and collect evidence before it is put to the portfolio holder to make a final decision.

On a happier and more positive note the tarmacking of the paths and new path in Popley Community Park is now completed. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

Popley West: Now that the path in the Popley Community Park is finished we continue to push with Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) grants for some green gym equipment (suitable for all ages to use) to be installed all around the perimeter of the park. It would also be good to have a pathway/track around the park so people could use it to walk or run, maybe even get the chance to do sponsored walks/runs like we used to in the large area that is Spiers Meadow. I have fond memories of Scouts and Boys Brigade doing just that. We do have a concern with the MUGA area as residents are reporting that youths are climbing up and over the approximately twenty five foot wire fence, even when the gate is unlocked and they can just walk in. This is dangerous and we would urge youths not to take the risk of seriously hurting themselves.

There are still reports of people not bagging and removing their dog's mess; there are eleven bins to use so no excuse not to do it.

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: During a storm in the winter of 2017/18 a large tree in Shakespeare Road fell down. Urgent action was required to remove it, however, the stump has remained ever since. Residents have asked us why it's still there and we've taken it forward with a request that it now be ground out and the grass reinstated however this has not proven to be as straightforward as first thought. As can often be the case, in locations where the trees have grown substantially over the years they can sometimes interfere with services and cabling, as has found to be the case here. Having now established ownership of the services, arrangements are being made for the company and the tree surgeons to work together to ensure the safe removal without disrupting any services.

We've written before of concerns raised by residents about drivers undertaking dangerous u-turns at the junction of Popley Way and the Reading Road. We agree that the road design when the Dunelm and Lidl complex was developed could have been better but it's now established and won't be changed so we have been pushing for measures to be taken to help prevent these manoeuvres. A series of barriers have now been installed and we have also asked for appropriate No U-Turn signage to be added.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk



Probud Spring Ladies' Lunch

The annual Spring Ladies' lunch was the latest formal gathering of the Probud Club of Basingstoke, the social club for retired professional and business managers. Organised once again by Alan and Liliane May they came up with the goods when they arranged this occasion for members and their spouses. It was held at the Test Valley Golf Club. By working closely with the chef they ensured that all forty one attendees received their pre-ordered food – there were four selections available from three courses – and they produced all the printed menus and table name cards as well as the information sheets after they devised two separate quizzes. And if that wasn't enough that also ran the raffle.

Alan has been the Honorary Treasurer of the Probud Club of Basingstoke for over a decade. In that time he and Liliane have become experts at successfully arranging not only this lunch but also the club's Christmas dinner. While these are the two formal events to which wives/lady friends are invited there are many other social occasions during the year when the distaff side of the family are involved.

Guest of honour was Janet Fagg, the President of Basingstoke Ladies' Probud Club, who was welcomed by Vice President Richard Wood. She was equally at home on this occasion as the wives of some members of the men's club belong to the Ladies' Probud Club.

For more information about the Probud Club of Basingstoke see their website www.probudbasingsstoke.wordpress.com or for an informal chat contact their Secretary, Paul Flint, on 07770 886521. For enquiries about Basingstoke Ladies' Probud Club contact Janet Fagg on 07986 133382.

Basingstoke Lions Club

We spent a total of £1,185 last month. The majority of this was spent on white goods and furniture to assist families in need and, in one case, to alleviate the effects of a ceiling collapse. We also made a contribution to the moving expenses of Spotlight Basingstoke, a charity which aims to improve the life experience and prospects of children.

Annual expenditure £20, annual expenditure £19-19-6d = happiness. Annual expenditure £20, annual expenditure £20-0-6d = misery. Thus spoke Mr Micawber in David Copperfield. We, I regret to say, are miserable!

Although our April Quiz raised £430 our subsequent event at QMC, ABBA Sensation, did not perform as well financially. This was no fault of the group who gave a superb rendering of all the originals' hits and kept the dancefloor busy all the time. But, as Robert Burns once wrote "facts are chieftains that winna ding" (facts are indisputable) – we did not do nearly as well as expected.

So now we are relying on a group of true originals "The Moscow Drug Club" to redress the balance. The allure of the smoky voiced siren and her virtuoso group of musicians can set anyone's blood racing. So come and get in the mood with some gypsy jazz at QMC on 20th July. Tickets are available from Maurice Hockley email: mauricehockley@hotmail.com or telephone 01256 421867, Toucan Travel at Chineham or direct from our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk. This will also allow you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. But, don't just "follow" us – JOIN US!

Our programme for the rest of the year is currently:-

21st September: Ali Mak Rhythm and Blues Band at the Royal British Legion

9th November: Quiz Night at the Millenium Hall (note changed date)

16th November: Basingstoke's very own Heritage Light Orchestra who are in the throes of putting together a special performance for us. More anon!

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Building work update: the roof is almost finished, the windows and doors will be going in shortly and then the first fix will start. Please check out our website for weekly updates and photos.

Looking for a venue for your party or group? Ring Vicki on 01256 420676 or e-mail us melrosehall2@gmail.com for hire information or to arrange a tour. Or find us at www.Melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk or on Facebook.

WHATS ON IN JUNE:

MONDAY:	12.30-2.30pm 7.00-8.00pm 8.00-10.00pm	Bingo!! Yoga with Tory Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Popley Little People
WEDNESDAY:	9.00 and 11.00am	Slimming World with Jo
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am 7.00-9.00pm	Community Café 4 Fits Sake
FRIDAY:	11.45-1.30pm 10.00am-12.00pm	Oasis Lunch Club NHS Dairy free parents' group (Last Friday of the month)
SATURDAY:	6.15-9.15pm 9.15am-4.00pm 10am 11.30am 1pm	Friday Youth Club 7 TH Day Adventist Church Sabbath School - Bible Study Divine Worship Free Community Lunch
SUNDAY:	Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.	



Hello Everyone!

Our typical working season has come to an end with the need to avoid disturbing the newts as they head into breeding mode.

But that doesn't mean we're about to go quiet on you... We've got some litter picking, Bio-Blitzing, pub tripping, bottle trapping plans up our sleeves to keep us amused through the summer!!

We've got a WhatsApp group now which means the core team are more in touch than ever and we're getting to do smaller ad hoc tasks that don't require a Work Party leader - if you're interested please send us an email or Facebook message :)

In other news we've just taken in a nice big box of new PPE so we're all kitted out with health and safety in mind - that kind of stuff has an expiry date but luckily BDBC has our backs!

As ever come find us in our usual places - if you're not sure where that is email us here: popleyponds@gmail.com **All the best - Natalie**

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Spring 2019 Visit to Minsk.

Nothing is constant...All is passing.

The weather at the end of March and through April was bright and sunny but there was a bitterly cold easterly wind blowing most of the time. It only rained once, in the night, during the whole month I was in the wilds of Minsk.

There are many building projects that haven't progressed since my autumn visit.

It appears the developers run out of money and just abandon the half constructed flats, shops and hotels. However, there are signs that the economy of Belarus, or at least in Minsk, is improving. At least 30% to 40% of the cars you see driving around are new, or at least newish, BMWs, Mercedes, Audis and Range Rovers.

The situation at the Linguistic University isn't improving, at the moment, in that the teachers are expected to become involved in extracurricular activities, all unpaid, of course!

Due to this, Julia and Katya (two regular visitors to Basingstoke) have left the Linguistic University. Julia is going to live and work, teaching English, in China while Katya, who is now married, is off to join her husband in Germany. Most of the teachers I speak to are trying to find jobs abroad as wages and conditions in Minsk lag well behind the rest of Europe.

At least one man I know gave up teaching as he now earns more driving a trolley bus than he did as a teacher. That's not to say trolley bus drivers shouldn't be well paid.

Well, now Julia is off to China and Katya is married and going to Germany to live and work, I'm now recruiting two replacements for them. Thanks to Natasha, who is standing on my right, I was introduced to two of Natasha's private students. Liza is standing to Natasha's right while Oksana is standing very close to my left. Liza is only fifteen years old so I'm still looking for a replacement for Julia.

The only reasons I get on well with the girls in Minsk is because I'm English and I treat the girls differently from the men in Belarus.



Basingstoke Air Scouts



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

Group Scout Leader	Colin Karslake	07796 772500
Beaver Leader	Mandy Pain	07508 204098
Cub Leader	Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Scout Leader	Kevin Pocock	07717 108560

The highlight of the Cub year so far has been the annual District Cub Camp, this year the camp was held at Longridge Activity Centre on the River Thames, near Marlow. Longridge was chosen because being a water activity centre it gave us a chance to offer the Cubs an opportunity to earn badges and try activities, they wouldn't normally be able to earn and do, so this report is going to concentrate on the camp.



Friday 3rd May saw the advanced party of Leaders arrive at Longridge to prepare our camping area, ready for the arrival of 96 excited Cubs on Saturday morning, by putting up tents and party tents for cooking and eating in.

On Saturday morning once the Cubs arrived and set up their beds in their tents, that was going to be their home for the next two nights. The Cubs were split into their activity groups and then off to enjoy the activities planned for them. The activities planned for the weekend comprised of Dragon Boat Racing, Raft Building, Kayaking and Giant Swing which were run by Longridge Instructors. T shirt



dyeing, Astronomy and free time run by the Leaders looking after each group. Saturday and Sunday evenings ended with the traditional campfire, with the Sunday one having added feature of Basingstoke Cubs Camp factor which involved the Cubs in their activity putting on some sort of act with a vote taken to decide the best.

The catering team kept the Cubs well fed over the weekend with breakfast consisting of cereal and a Full English while the evening meals consisted of pasta bolognese on Saturday and chicken korma curry on Sunday complete with popadoms and onion bhajis.

Currently all three sections have spaces for new members, so if any of that takes your fancy, you are more than welcome to come down on a Tuesday evening for Beavers and Cubs, or a Friday evening for the Scouts for a taste of what's it's all about.

To continue providing all these and more activities for all three of our sections we are in need of more adults to help out or even maybe to become Leaders. Full training is available for new Leaders, much of which can be done online in your own time. The only qualification needed, you must like working with kids and like having a bit of fun. If you are interested please contact myself, Group Scout Leader, Colin Karslake on 07796 772500 or contact us through the group website, www.base2000.co.uk or even via Facebook.





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Merton Junior School



We are incredibly proud of all our pupils at Merton; they are kind to one another and to the adults around them; they have great perseverance and determination and do not let challenges get the better of them and they are sensitive and show compassion to each other and the other children across the school—all traits which will help them to become successful as they venture into the next chapter of their adventure, and beyond.

Our Year 6 pupils have been demonstrating all of these qualities whilst working on some collaborative art pieces as part of their 'It's more than just words' project which show off their teamwork and artistic skills.



Each of our year groups complete a Home Learning project and this term they have been particularly arty and creative. These images are a few examples of some excellent work in Year 5 inspired by Andy Warhol as they too demonstrate their artistic flair.

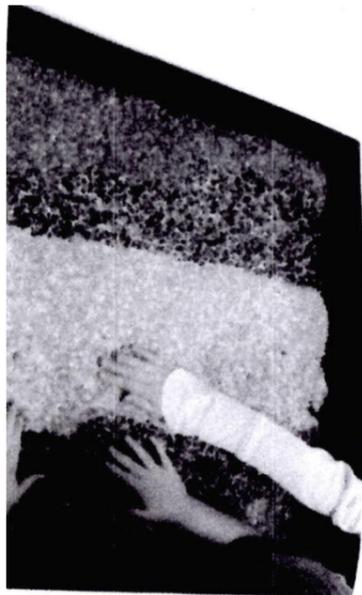
If you are looking for a Year 3 place for September 2020 then come and visit us on the 9th October 2019 – between 2pm-3pm or 6pm-7pm.



Some of our children will be performing at Popley Festival – we look forward to seeing you there!



Romsey Close, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9HB
admin.office@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk
(01256) 326573



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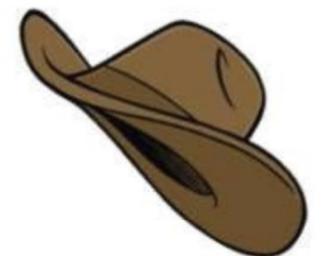
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Good news for Basingstoke District Disability Forum

I'm pleased to report that after a challenging 6 months Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) are still operating and are embarking on lots of exciting projects for local people who are affected by disability.

We welcome Tony Capon (CEO of Basingstoke Voluntary Action) as our new Interim Chairperson, and would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Brydges for her leadership during the last 5 months, who will return to her role of Treasurer. We also wish to thank Pamela Heyfron, Rob Heyfron, John Jessup and Brian Catchpoole for their hard work and dedication as trustees of BDDF and wish them well for the future as they have stepped down from the Board.

Upcoming events

We are very busy organising lots of events and services, I have the following to share with you:

- Disability ConneXions Talk meetings will be again taking place on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 12.30-2.30pm at Church Cottage (behind St Michaels' Church). These are informal coffee afternoons for people to drop in and make new friends, enjoy a free cuppa and learn about what services are available to them in Basingstoke.

- Coffee & Chat will be running on 3rd

Telephone Fraud

If you have a caller display facility on your landline and you see what looks like an incoming UK mobile or landline number, please don't take it for granted that it actually is. Fraudsters can 'spoof' number so that people receiving the call think they are dealing with someone genuine.

When this happens with a call made to your mobile phone – it can even show the name as 'Bank' if that is how you have it stored in your mobile, leading you to think it's a genuine call from your bank, when it isn't. Do not confirm anything and do not start any process. This trick is often used when fraudsters will have successfully hacked a person's email or other account, so they can speak with authority about financial transactions you have made recently, leading you to think you are speaking with someone genuine.

The Telephone Preference Service
Page 20

Wednesday of the month at The Orchard 10am-12noon, all welcome please pop in and join us.

- FREE learning courses from anxiety management to IT are being offered throughout the year- get in touch for more information.

- Time For You, mental well-being workshop starting 3 June- weekly Monday morning sessions with option of a one to one session with the practitioner.

- Members' Event in October- if you would like to become a free member of BDDF please contact me info@bddf.org.uk

- Public disability information and awareness day in Basingstoke town centre in August – look out for more info.

Reaching out

Would you like to meet people in your own community? Have a regular date in your diary to meet up and enjoy coffee and a chat?

If you can spare a couple of hours to organise and run a regular coffee morning, afternoon or even evening in your local community, I'd love to hear from you.

Amanda Knowles, ConneXions Coordinator

cannot protect you from these types of calls, as they are there to ensure genuine companies do not make contact if you have registered to opt out of receiving unsolicited calls.

The advice is simple, never enter into any business with someone who you cannot 100% verify. Call your bank using a number you have sourced yourself, or better still, visit your bank in person.

Remember -

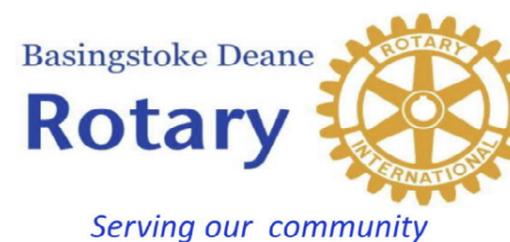
- Banks will never call you to get you to transfer money or ask for your PIN

- Police will never call you to assist in an investigation regarding money, jewellery or debit/credit cards

- HMRC will never call you to tell you they have an arrest warrant for you because you have an outstanding tax bill

Visit Action Fraud for more advice and to sign up for alerts on the latest scams.

Hampshire Constabulary Crime Prevention Advisor Victoria Snow



CONTACTS

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

YOUR LOCAL
ROTARY
ROUNDUP



Mick Bowden with his 1936 Lanchester LA10 judged Best in Show by Cllr. Diane Taylor, Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane



The War Memorial park

Classic Cars and the Sun bring the crowds to the War Memorial Park

The sun brought the crowds to Basingstoke's 28th Festival of Transport held in the War Memorial Park on 12th May. Jointly organised by the Thornycroft Society and Basingstoke Deane Rotary the show attracted nearly 1000 exhibitors and was attended by over 20,000 visitors.

The exhibitors included - pre war cars, post war cars, commercial vehicles, tractors, stationary engines, motor bikes and car clubs. With 92 stalls including autojumble, trade stalls and 10 local charities there was plenty to entertain the public. The children were well catered for with the addition this year of The Funky Playbus, a double decker bus converted into a play area and the ever popular fire engines which are always a great attraction to children. On such a sunny day ice creams were very popular while a hog roast, burger vans were complimented by tea and coffee vans.

President of Basingstoke Deane Rotary Julian Ricketts said "The club were delighted to have the opportunity to serve the local community of Basingstoke and Deane and look forward to organising future Festivals and carrying on the excellent work and high standards set by the Thornycroft Society."

The Basingstoke Festival of Transport has become one of the largest shows of its kind in the South of England photos of the show can be viewed and downloaded free of charge from BDRC's photo storage site basingstokedeanerotary.smugmug.com

Look out for
ARK DAY 21st JUNE
raising money for the much needed Cancer Centre



Tony Frimley with his 1979 Bedford TK which won him the Best Commercial Vehicle in Show award.



Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men and women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. You might be pleasantly surprised!
Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane Twitter: @RBstokeDeane



Divorce Reform to End Blame Game

Divorcing couples will no longer have to blame each other for the breakdown of their marriage thanks to a new law announced by the government.

The Family Law team at Phillips welcome a recent announcement from the Justice Secretary, David Gauke, who said the aim of the new law is to help reduce family conflict.

The move follows a 12-week public consultation which showed widespread support for no-fault divorce.

New legislation will be introduced to Parliament to update the current 50-year-old divorce law which has been shown to exacerbate conflict, working against any prospect of reconciliation as well as being damaging to children by undermining the relationship between parents.

The issue was highlighted in the media last year when 68-year-old Tini Owens' appeal for divorce was rejected by The Supreme Court. She wanted the Court to grant her a divorce on the grounds that she is unhappy with her marriage.

Mrs Owens maintained that her relationship with her 80-year-old husband Hugh had broken down irretrievably because of his unreasonable and controlling behaviour.

However, Mr Owens refused to divorce and denies the allegations from his wife.

The couple who were married over 40 years ago have lived separately since 2015.

Although sympathetic to her situation, The Supreme Court's decision meant that Mrs Owens must remain married until 2020.

The reason for this is that under the current law, unless a person can prove their marriage has broken down due to adultery, unreasonable behaviour or desertion, the only way to get a divorce without a spouse's consent is to live apart for five years.

Welcoming the much-needed changes, Hayley Eachus, who is a family law specialist at Phillips Solicitors, said: "The news will help move family law in this country into the 21st Century."

"The change will mean that separating couples will no longer have to apportion blame for marriage breakdown, which can be very painful not only for the separating couple, but also for their children and wider family."

If you are considering divorcing or separating from your partner, whether you are married or not, please do not hesitate to contact Hayley by calling 01256 854633 or by emailing hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk

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TIME ON YOUR HANDS, FEELING A BIT BRAIN DEAD, NEED A NEW CHALLENGE?

Have your circumstances changed recently (children started school? Recently retired? A student requiring work experience?). If you now find you have got some time for you and would like to fill it with something stimulating and interesting then why not consider volunteering at Citizens Advice? Many people don't realise that Citizens Advice is a charity giving information and advice on a variety of subjects. Furthermore it is very much dependant on volunteers like us!

I decided to go for it because I wanted something that was not only flexible around the school run but also would give me the school holidays to spend with the children. Being able to choose my own hours was hugely beneficial to me and one of the major draws of this charity. I also hadn't been in the workplace for a number of years, so didn't feel I had the confidence for a 'proper job'. Volunteering for a couple of half days per week has increased my knowledge and re-built my confidence.

I also wanted to do something to help in the local community, but I know I'm not a committee person. For me, Citizens Advice offered a role that was much more 'hands on'. Every day you find yourself face to face with clients with real issues who need us. By helping them solve their problems, a volunteer can experience real satisfaction with the knowledge you have actually made a difference to a client's life.

Don't worry if you feel you need to be very intelligent or know lots of stuff. You get plenty of training and the information is at your fingertips, as long as you feel comfortable in accessing the organisation's website.

So what does a typical day entail? There are many roles that you can volunteer for; whether it be as a Receptionist, Administrator, Assessor or Advisor. As an Advisor, I see clients with a whole range of issues, some major and some relatively minor. All are problems that our community experience. One day I may have a client who is homeless and needs help getting somewhere to stay, another who has got bailiffs knocking at their door, one may just want to know how to apply for a Blue Badge pass. Whether big or small, the problems people experience are real to them and they are always grateful to have the help. Sometimes so much so that cake and/or flowers appear!

Despite joining because of the flexibility it offered, I have found volunteering at Citizens Advice extremely rewarding. I'm using my brain, I've learnt so much and am continually learning. No two situations are the same and just when you think you've seen it all, another situation walks through the door!

So, if you want to do something that is mentally stimulating with flexible hours, paid expenses and the feeling of doing something worthwhile that is outside of the home then please consider volunteering for Citizens Advice. Or if it's not something that interests you, do you know anybody who might want to give it a try?

Philippa

If interested you can apply by emailing trainingadmin@basingstokecab.org.uk or if anyone has any questions and would like to have a chat please call 01256 845871 and speak to Di



Upcoming dates: Half Term break
we return on Monday 3rd June
Thursday 13th June year 10 Parents Evening



Our year 11 students are currently taking their GCSE's and we are preparing to say goodbye to them, we wish them every success in both the exams and for the future.

Our year 10 student have been taking part in a series of workshops focusing on Interview Techniques, Apprenticeships and Further Education.

Unfortunately, we have noticed that there has been an outbreak of fly-tipping at the rear of the school, items have included living room furniture and garden waste.

Congratulations to all our Students who took part in the UK Maths Challenge.



Gateway Church here in Basingstoke.

Gateway is a community focused church that gathers every Sunday at 10.30am at Queen Mary's College. We're a church that wants our atmosphere to be authentic - a place where questions can be asked, help can be found and friends can be made.

We're really excited that as a church we've been able to partner with the charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to open up a debt centre for Basingstoke.

CAP believe that nobody should be held hostage by debt and poverty. But the truth is that they are rife in the UK. In a society where people live behind closed doors, thousands are desperately poor. Unable to feed their children, incapable of paying to heat their homes in winter, the grip of poverty is relentless. It breaks families apart and drives many to think that suicide is the only solution.

UK poverty is real, with millions locked in its grip. That's why we're so excited to be able to offer this help to the people of Basingstoke to bring life changing freedom and good news to people in desperate need.

This service is completely free and open to anyone struggling with debt. I and volunteers from Gateway Church will visit people in their homes to help them get free from debt and also to help care for them through challenging times.

If you are struggling with debt, please, call CAP on 0800 328 0006 or visit www.gatewaylife.co.uk/care.

Kind regards,
Ben Martin

Dear Friends

June, June oh June! Sitting here in my study writing this I keep glancing out of the window and looking over the church grounds. We're well into spring now and summer is swiftly approaching. I know this because the grass is growing at a speedy rate accompanied by the inevitable weed patch that forms the border of the church car park. We have plans to dig this out in a couple of weeks and plant some border and bedding plants, which I am certain will improve its appearance – or will it?

A couple of years ago when we first dug this bed out I threw in a mixture of wild flower seeds and this year in among the nettles and dock leaves we have some lovely wild daises and what looks like a wild fuchsia (I'm no expert on flower and fauna). In its untidiness there is a kind of beauty in this stretch of land that I find fascinating. God's wondrous creativity emerges not just at the Chelsea Flower Show or our well planted parks and gardens but in the unruliness of weeds and wild flowers. He loves them too, they are part of his creation, and I have no doubt that the wildlife is also greatly enjoying the less cultivated areas of St Gabriel's.

Same for us really! We don't all lead neat and orderly lives. Sometimes circumstance and situation mean that there can be a wildness and unruliness about our lives that is beyond our control and can make us feel isolated or cut off from the stuff of life that others take as normal. Does that mean we're isolated or cut off from the God who created us, desires the best for us and has a plan for us? Not a bit of it! Jesus said 'I have come to seek and save the lost!' Whatever or wherever we find ourselves Jesus knows us and is alongside us ready and waiting to share with us.

The trouble is, left unchecked the weeds can choke the life out of the flowers and so, sadly, I need to take action in order to save the flowers! Maybe we'll leave just a little patch of weeds to serve as a reminder and to help the wildlife! God too acted to prevent the weeds of circumstance and situation choking the life out of you – He sent His son Jesus to live, to die and to be raised again for you. If you want to get in touch with the ultimate Gardener then come along to St Gabriel's any Sunday morning at 10.30am and we'll show you how.

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St Gabriel's Church, Popley
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Visit our page or
www.stgabrielspopley.net
For more details



MFC Popley All Stars - spaces have become available to join our group. If your child is in Year R (currently) and wants to join a fun, safe and enjoyable football team, please contact us on: committee@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk.

Our Under 8s have had a phenomenal season with goals and smiles aplenty. Jack C was our standout performer this month. We now look forward to the tournament season before we embark on a 7-a-side season under the guidance of new head coach Dan. Exciting times ahead.

MFCPY Under 11s finished 3rd in the spring league and reached the quarter final of our first tournament! We have 5 more to come so, hopefully, we can bring at least one trophy home.

You can get regular updates on Twitter, @MFC_PopleyYouth and by using the hashtags #MFCPY #REDandBLACKARMY.

MFC Popley Youth has a dedicated club page on Facebook (as well as individual team pages), and you can also find us on Instagram.

MFC Popley Youth, FA Charter Standard Development Club and Nike Partner Club, has a dedicated club shop website where you can purchase kit and accessories - www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/mfcpopley/.

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club through our main website: <http://mfcpopleyyouth-co-uk.bisongrid.com>. **Zak Collingwood**

6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter



With the Easter and May bank holidays over we return in full swing, looking at our classes and sport sessions. We'll shortly be starting our Summer programme so we are looking ahead to new games and activities for the young people.

Behind the scenes of Boys' Brigade we regularly hold staff meetings to make sure we are doing the most we can. The latest meeting was for our annual week long camping trip. This year we are trying something different, we are combining our Junior and Company section camps instead of 2 separate trips which will give all the young people a better camp.

We congratulate Lennon, one of our Junior members, who will be moving up to the older section. Lennon has met a lot of the members of Company section already so will fit straight in.

We continue to get involved with our national BB Raise The Bar campaign - our next challenge is to set a target number per section. We need to grow our ranks and we would really like to see our group flourish. The more members we have the more we get to do so if you or you know someone who would like to join see below.

We're recruiting?

We are looking for new members to join both our age groups, 5-10 and 10-18yo. If you'd like to see what we are about come for a taster session on a Monday evening, 6:15 - 7:15pm (5-10yo) and 7:00-9:00pm (10-18yo).

Contact us on **07775 535434** or drop us an email at 6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com.



How much could you raise with £50 in 3 months for your local Hospice?

St. Michael's Hospice are inviting local organisations to put their money-making skills to the test with their first ever Accumulator Challenge. Each participating team will be given a £50 loan and three months to find interesting and innovative ways of accumulating their pounds to make as much profit as possible, all of which will be donated back to St. Michael's Hospice.

The three-month challenge kicks off with a launch night on 2nd September where teams will collect their £50 cash loan, as well as receiving lots of fundraising ideas to help generate their money. They will also be taken on a tour of the Hospice to learn how their money will make a difference to local people suffering from a life-limiting illness. The challenge will culminate with an awards evening in December, where the top teams will be awarded for their fundraising efforts.

Laura Holmes, Events Manager at St. Michael's Hospice said, *"We are very excited to launch our brand-new challenge for 2019! This is the perfect team building activity for companies, groups and societies, schools, colleges, family and friends who'd like to do something fun to raise vital funds to support our Hospice. We can't wait to meet the teams at our launch event and see all the innovative ways they choose to raise money for our Hospice. We're expecting competition to be fierce amongst our local supporters so don't miss out, sign up today!"*

To register for St. Michael's Hospice Accumulator Challenge, please visit:
www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events

To discuss taking part in the Accumulator Challenge or if you have any queries, please get in touch with Laura Holmes:

Tel: 01256 848846

Email: events@stmichaelshospice.org.uk



Local Update

Dear Residents,

I am PC WHITE and I am your local Police Officer for Basingstoke North – this is an update on our current priorities in the area for the last month. Our priorities in the area are burglaries, theft from motor vehicle and criminal damage. Burglaries in the area have been mainly targeting commercial premises or public buildings such as schools and local community facilities. The offenders have been targeting portable items such as mobile phones and laptops. Anyone working in or operating at buildings such as these should reduce the risk by removing these types of items from the building when finishing for the day. Criminal damage in the area continues to be an issue and local Officers are working to reduce this by undertaking patrols in the most affected areas. There continues to be thefts from motor vehicles in particular from cars that are parked in the road. These are occurring in the early hours of the morning. A significant number of vehicles that have been targeted have not been locked and secure when left. Residents can take a number of steps to protect themselves from being victims of this type of crime by following the advice below.

- 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.
- Secure your wheels using locking wheel nuts.
- Log your property for free at www.immobilise.com

More information about alarms can be found on the Thatcham and Sold Secure websites.

There have also been a number of thefts of cycles in particular in the area surrounding the railway station. If you intend to leave your bike unattended please ensure that you use a good quality lock and chain to secure it.