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POPLEY MATTERS

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Issue 211



Contents

Message from the Editor	Page 1	Bermuda Hall History	Page 14-15
Melrose Hall Reopening	Page 3	Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers	Page 16
Councillors' Page	Page 4	Arthur Botham	Page 17
Basingstoke Variety Show 2019	Page 6	NeighbourCare Needs You	Page 18
Police News	Page 7	Rotary Basingstoke Deane	Page 20
Local Radio Station	Page 9	Probus News	Page 21
Popley Fields Macmillan Coffee Morning	Page 10	Air Scouts Report	Page 23
Phillips Solicitors Advice	Page 11	Get Involved Bermuda Hall	Page 24
BVA DBS Clinic and Volunteering Appointments	Page 12	Lions Club of Basingstoke	Page 26
MFC Popley	Page 12	Everest Community Academy News	Page 27
Interesting Facebook Groups	Page 12	Chineham Library	Page 28
Citizens Advice Basingstoke	Page 13	Over 55s Forum	Page 28

Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-9-19) editor@popleymatters.org.uk

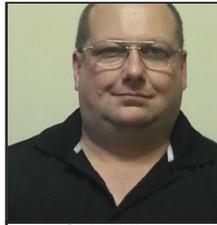


Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: There is a lot going on in Popley with the re-opening of Bermuda Hall. The report is on pages 14 and 15. The St Gabriels Summer Fair was in the lovely newly finished Community Church. More work is being done in the community garden and it is really taking shape nicely. During this month – on September 21st – Melrose Hall will fully open with its new extensions, (see page 1). I hope you come along to the re-opening party. There is a whole day of events going on plus a Race Night in the evening. The Popley Fields Community Centre’s upgrading and refurbishment is nearing completion too so wait to hear news on that soon. The Popley Community Park will be having a public consultation but it will be later this year or early next, so get ready with your ideas of how you would like the park to look for our growing community. On page 6 one of our new PCSO’s introduces himself (welcome PSCO Callum Holt). He has some good advice that sadly is very relevant as there have been too many burglaries in Basingstoke and as I write this two were in Abbey Road. Page 7 introduces the new local radio station “Helping Hands Community Radio”. At the helm is one of Popley’s residents David Chatten Smith. Good luck all of us in the Popley Matters team wish you success for the new on-line station. If you are into conservation, Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers are looking for enthusiastic volunteers on page 16. Volunteers are always needed. There are lots of opportunities inside your Popley Matters. You only need commit as little as an hour a month. It can make a huge difference to people’s lives.

I now get round a lot more as I have a mobility buggy. I am easily spotted with my two wing mirrors and L plates up that Paul made for me. If you see me and want to chat just stop me. The only negative I have in getting around is parked cars inappropriately, bins left out and overgrown hedges that block the pathway’s so it must be the same for others and people pushing pushchairs just a neighbourly and gentle request please think about others and their safety.

We welcome articles from groups and clubs, especially residents who might like to write about their hobbies or their history of living in Popley. Email the Editor at editor@popleymatters.org.uk. Deliverers are always needed and welcomed too please contact me at either 405 Abbey Road, phone me on 01256 819924, or e-mail me.



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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Advertising Index

Jonathan Williams Independent Funeral	Phillips Solicitors	Page 10	Ovenclean	Page 25
Directors	Linguatastic	Page 16	Unique Block Paving	Page 25
Peter’s Chinese Fish & Chips	Mickey’s Handyman Services	Page 16	Kids Nursery Popley	Page 25
Everest Health and Leisure Club	Your Local Locksmith	Page 19	Everest Community Academy	Page 27
Roller Garage Doors Centre	IPS Hair	Page 19	1st Response	InsideBP
Blue Angel Live-in Home Care	Niall Catlin Plumbing and Heating	Page 19	Piccolo Pre-school Nursery	InsideBP
JBDrive	Mark Smith Plumbing and Heating	Page 22	Lawrence Young Ltd	InsideBP
Roots	K.G.Matthews Carpentry	Page 22	Fastfare Store	Back Page
M H Autos	Spencer and Peyton Ltd	Page 22	Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
Rayner Appliance Care Ltd	Motor Parts Direct	Page 25		

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Chineham Library

We hope that you have had an enjoyable Summer. We are back into our regular routines at the library, and Summer Reading Challenge finishes on the 14th September. Please ensure that all children who are participating collect their medals and certificates by this date in order to avoid disappointment. Hopefully we can improve on our finishing rate from 2018. We will also be awarding the prizes for the space-themed colouring competition.

Several events for children have been enjoyed in the Summer, including Slime Lab and the Big Sculpture workshop. More exciting events are already planned for half term. These will include the Quirks Animal Roadshow on the 29th October at 4pm, with the opportunity to interact with various animals. Tickets costing £6 will be available from the usual sources.

Regular activities for children continue as usual, with rhymetimes on Tuesdays for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Storytimes take place every Saturday except the first in the month at 11am. Chatterbooks meets on 12th September from 3.45pm for crafts and fun.

Both reading groups meet again this month, with the crime reading group on the 14th and the general reading group on the 28th. Both run from 10.30–11.30am. Our creative writing group meets on the 19th September from 5.30–7pm. The Cuppa and Chat group meets for fellowship fortnightly on Wednesday mornings from 10am–12pm, please contact the library for the next dates. You are very welcome to join them for conversation and refreshments. Age Concern will return to the library for computer sessions for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings. Please contact their area office on: 01256 423874 to arrange your sessions, availability is good at present. Some future events for adults will be advertised shortly. Cathy Foster

Over 55s Forum

The Forum is continuing getting requests to join our Forum every week, because people are being told of all the good things that we are doing, we support all Over 55's in the Borough.

According to the Silver Sunday main organisation for the "International Day for Older People", they report there are over 500 organisations all over the country celebrating this special day, we are very proud to be involved with such a day.

The Basingstoke and Deane Over 55's Forum Variety Show to celebrate the "International Day for Older People" will be on Saturday 28th September 2019 at Queen Mary College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke, 2pm to 5pm - doors open at 1.30pm. We have Chris Gee a comedian/impressionist also acting as the compere. We are extremely lucky to also have Will Chandler a tribute act as Cliff Richards and the Boyle O'Dowda Academy of Irish Dancers. Enjoy our tea and cakes during the interval. Would you believe all this for only £6.00? We have priced the tickets at £6.00 so we can cater for everybody in and around Basingstoke. The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr. Diane Taylor has agreed to open and close the show. Tickets can be purchased from Newbury Building Society (Festival Place) - Shopmobility (Church Street) - Oakridge Hall 4 All and BDBC Parkland Reception. The raffle is legendary with a host of very good prizes.

Later in the year we have a trip to "Afternoon at the Pictures" 16th and 23rd October 2019 - Picture for the 16th will be "Breakfast at Tiffany's" for the 23rd "Singing in the Rain" both with 3 course meal - popcorn and prosecco price for members £38.00 - non-members £40.00. You will need to manage 25 steps to get to the auditorium. Tickets are selling fast so get yours booked to avoid disappointment! Gerald

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Upcoming Dates

First day of term—Wednesday 4th September
Year 7 Parents Evening—Thursday 26th September
Year 11 Parents Evening—Thursday 17th October



Welcome

A huge welcome to all our new year 7 students and their parents. We hope that you are all settling in well to your new school environment. If you do experience any issues please do not hesitate to contact your Tutor who will be able to assist you.

Year 11—2018/19

GCSE results day—Thursday 22nd August, at the time of writing we are still awaiting results day, but we hope that all the year 11 students from 2018/19 received the results they deserved from their hard work and determination. We wish them all the best for the future in the path they decide to follow.

Open Evening and Mornings for Year 5 & 6

Open Evening - Thursday 10th October 2019, 6.00pm till 8.30pm
Open Mornings - Wednesday 16th & Friday 18th October 2019, 9.15am till 10.15am



Lions Club of Basingstoke

Our main fundraiser for the month was the “**The Moscow Drug Club**” at QMC. They gave us a superb performance. As a group of talented musicians they are beyond reproach and the voice of their leader sends tingles down the spine. When the performance was over and we were clearing the tables I had the opportunity to talk to a few of the audience who were lingering over their drinks. They had clearly really enjoyed it and several groups were seeing them for the 2nd and 3rd times. So if the opportunity to see them comes around again, they are definitely good value.

Our next planned event was supposed to be Ali Mac’s Rhythm and Blues band on 21st September at the Royal British Legion Club in Old Basing. Unfortunately the group had to cancel due to the hospitalization one of its members. **We’ve rebooked them for 5th October.** Tickets are available from Tony Bamberger, tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk telephone 01256 850254, Maurice Hockley email: mauricehockley@hotmail.com or telephone 01256 421867, Toucan Travel at Chineham or direct from our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk.

On the assumption that I will not drop off my perch in the meantime, the fundraiser thereafter will be our notorious **Quiz Night at the Cliddesden Millenium Hall on 9th November.** If you fancy your chances email me philipjhwilson@btinternet.com You need a team of 3 or 4 and a short pithy team name. Visit our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk to see the full format of the evening. It’s the best £5 worth of fun and frustration you’ll have all year!

A week later, on **16th November, the Heritage Light Orchestra** will play a concert of music associated with places on the route of the Orient Express for us at QMC. These concerts are specially designed for us and feature local musicians and singers. They’re well worth supporting.

Another date for your diaries is **10th October** when we will again celebrate **World Sight Day** in the Malls. This is your annual opportunity to speak to someone who may be able to advise you or point you towards the right people to approach on sight related matters, and to donate your unwanted spectacles for recycling to the 3rd world. No doubt Lennie the Basingstoke Lion will be in attendance. He/she (never worked that one out) manages to appear pretty much everywhere, most recently at the Hook Fete.

On the Welfare front the demand for white goods for families without the means to replace broken appliances continues unabated. We normally obtain expertly recycled goods from the Community Furniture Project. But demand for cookers recently exceeded supply and we had to resort to a new purchase.

We have had a request to assist with equipment for a young girl suffering multiple disabilities. We will help, but cannot meet her needs on our own. We are currently trying to recruit other local Lions Clubs to her cause. We’ll let you know how we get on in due course.

We also had a very interesting talk from two members of the **Basingstoke Rape and Crisis team (BRASSAC)** and have set aside funds to assist them when needed.

Regrettably I have to end on a sad note. Our previous District Governor, **Ken Staniforth**, lost his battle with cancer. In my monthly report in December 2017 I wrote “VDG Ken Staniforth attended our last business meeting. He’s always a welcome guest” He was great company and continued his dedication and enthusiasm for helping others through Lionism to the end. His spirit lives on!

County Councillor Report: Back in 2009 Hampshire County Council, after a lot of pressure, conducted a feasibility study for accessibility of the roads and pathways resulting in the report “North Basingstoke and Popley Wards”. I was looking through it after I received the e-mail to say the current works in Shakespeare Road and end of Popley Way were completed. There have been many ups and downs and working together with the other Popley Councillors over the last ten years it is good to see the positive results so far. The next stage will be in the Popley Abbeys area. Even more good news to follow; hopefully the extension of the yellow lines report should be ready soon. There were a lot of comments returned from residents those will be taken into account. It has taken far longer than it should but with all the cutbacks it is hardly surprising.

Many residents have complained about the street lights being turned off at 1pm to 4pm every night. Their main concern is the apparent raising of the crime rates. This seems to be supported by the police and Neighbourhood Watch alerts. The advice is to take more care both of property and yourselves if out late at night, (see page 6). There is a special full County Council meeting on the future of the county later this month and I wonder what will come of that?

There is still work to be done on the entrances and paths in the Popley Community Park but it certainly is looking a lot better than it did. As reported in last month’s issue, there are also some really big exciting things in prospect with £406,134 available, for the park. It is lovely to see just how much the park is being used I often visit and see families together in the play areas and having picnics. The new paths make running and jogging a lot easier for the enthusiastic people keeping fit or training. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

Popley West: Great news with regard to the Post Office in Abbey Road. Thank you to everyone who signed the petition which we started just a few weeks ago. Nearly twelve hundred people signed it. The post office has now interviewed Dev who owns the Fastfare Shop. As we write they will hopefully be exchanging contracts. There are some legal things to go through and the shop fittings were all ripped out so it will have to be refurbished. Dev tells us he wants to get the newspaper shop open and trading very soon as the community needs the facilities.

September 21st will see the reopening event for Melrose Hall with two grants from the Local Infrastructure Fund making it possible. We were invited for a tour round the nearly finished extension and refurbishments. It will be a much better and bigger space that will enable facilities and groups to use the hall. All the community centres have been able to benefit from the LIF grants and St Gabriel’s Community Church did too. Paul and I were shocked at the state that some of the play areas are in and have now been promised that work will start to remedy this. A new team for all of Basingstoke and Deane will do a three-week check and maintenance for all the play areas.

We are still waiting for the planning officer’s report and their recommendations for the two applications for Houses of Multiple Occupation in Abbey Road and Barrington Drive before we can take the next step. Both have received a considerable number of objections from residents.

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

Popley East: We were pleased to show Cllr Ken Rhatigan, the new leader of the Borough Council around Popley East and pointing out the many good things which make Popley such a great place to live.

However we also showed him where neglect has led to a deterioration of the infrastructure and he was shocked by what he saw. He accepted that all these issues can be improved by more investment in areas such as Popley and he has undertaken to carry out a review about the way money is allocated to urban wards. We will hold him to this on your behalf.

Our first Surgery in Bermuda Hall was a great success and was well attended.

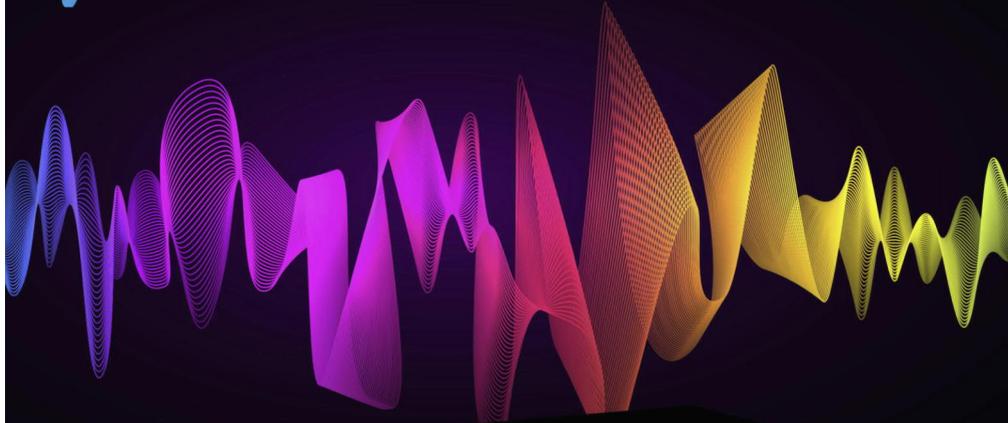
We will be holding Surgeries on the first Saturday in every month at the Hall from 10.00am to 11.30am and we look forward to seeing residents who may find this the most convenient way of talking to us as Councillors about their issues. Because of the (mainly) good weather the Splash Pad has proven once again to be a great success. So much so that we are looking at an extension to the overflow car park!

Together with the now completed Shakespeare Road highway improvements and the completion of parking at Chineham House we hope that parking generally in the area will be improved for local residents.

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



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Bermuda Hall is a charity that aims to offer activities and services that can help to make local resident's lives a little better. We are looking for people who have bit of time to help our team run the hall and reach out to residents in Popley to make sure we are providing what is needed. Any time spent supporting this centre and the local community would be so valuable to help the committee take their plans forward.

Trustees: Working as a team to develop plans to deliver activities and services based on the need of local residents. As a trustee you would be expected to attend monthly meetings and volunteer any extra time that you feel you can to help further the objectives of the Charity.

Volunteers: Help as little or as much as you can. Attend adhoc events once a year or serve drinks at weekly services such as the Toddler Group, support the youth club once or twice a week. Whatever you can offer will help the Community Association.

Fundraising: Working with the trustees to seek and apply for grants to fund initiatives and develop other ways to raise money for services. Will take around 3-4 hours per month at your convenience

Marketing: To help promote the centre through marketing and social media. 1 hour per week

For an informal chat please contact Bermuda Hall on 01256 363156, bermudahall@btinternet.com

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Hello my name is Callum Holt and I would like to introduce myself as one of the local Police Community Support Officers with Basingstoke Police now covering the

areas of Popley and Oakridge. I am still getting to know the areas and their residents by patrolling and showing my face as often as I can, and it is my aim to develop a good understanding of the communities, helping to reassure people and tackle local issues where I can. If you see myself or any other PCSO's about in the area feel free to come and say hello, we are always up for a chat and we are happy to assist you where we can. A part of my role involves educating people as to how they may better safeguard themselves, and I would like to leave you with some burglary crime prevention advice:

Remove temptation:

You are more likely to be burgled if your property is unoccupied, security is weak and the burglar thinks they will not be seen or get caught.

Keep valuable items out of view.

Do not leave keys under doormats, or in easily accessible places.

Keep any keys out of view and in a secure place.

Keep tools + ladders in a secure place. They may use your own equipment to brake in.

Do not obstruct visibility of your house, as it will be easier for burglars to work unobserved. Keep fences and plants no higher than waist height.

Use security equipment:

Can make a real difference in delaying or deterring burglars.

Take a look at your home, work out

your security weak points. Imagine how you might get in if you had lost your keys.

Fit window locks. Easily visible locks may deter burglars as they would then have to then smash the glass.

Remove window keys, keep out of sight.

Have an intruder alarm system installed by an approved contractor.

Ensure visible alarm box is visible on outside of home.

Use door chains and spyholes if someone comes to your front door.

Do not be afraid to turn people away. If anyone concerns you ring the police.

Look like you're always in:

A lot of burglars will target empty homes as they are easier targets.

Do not advertise your absence.

Use timer switches, available from DIY stores, to switch on lights and other appliances.

Get a friend or neighbour to collect your post, draw your curtains, park in your drive and make your home look lived in.

Secure doors + windows:

A lot of burglars get in through open doors or windows.

Every time you leave the house secure all doors and windows.

If you are upstairs or in the garden, ensure downstairs is secured.

Ensure doors + windows are locked at night.

Secure outbuildings:

Do not leave valuable property in a shed that is not well secured.

Fit good locks. Padlocks used externally should be no less than 6cm wide and made of hardened steel (closed shackle type is best).

Garages may also be vulnerable. Do not be lured into false sense of security.

Install a shed alarm if possible.

Basingstoke Air Scouts



Base 2000, Carpenters Down, Popley. RG24 9AE

Website, www.base2000.co.uk

Registered Charity, 267734

Group Scout Leader	Colin Karlake	07796772500
Assistant Group Scout Leader	Douglas Gowan	07733325498
Beaver Leader	Mandy Pain	07508204098
Cub Leader	Charlotte Bell	07919148376
Scout Leader	Kevin Pocock	07717108560

With all sections due to start back after the summer holiday break, we thought we would look back at one of highlights of the Cub Programme from July.

On Tuesday 9th July the Cubs had a chance to visit 2Excel Engineering at their base at Lasham Airfield.

During the visit they were shown around the different hangers and had a chance to look at several different aircraft that were in for repair. The Cubs were also told about the different types of tests they carry out on the aircraft when they come in for maintenance and were then shown around the parts department where they got a chance to see some of the 1000's of different parts that are used to keep the aircraft flying.



The highlight of the visit was the chance to look round the inside of a plane that used to belong to an Arab Sheik, which is currently stored at Lasham awaiting to be sold, The Cubs all decided that they wanted to buy it be it despite it costing around £2m. They weren't put off when informed that at least 1/2 of their parents would have to sell their homes to buy it and the other parents would have to sell their homes to keep it flying.

From the feedback from the parents the Cubs totally enjoyed this visit and couldn't stop talking about what they saw and what they told, and this is why we do it.

Group News

The Beaver & Cub sections currently have waiting lists for new members, but you are more than welcome to get in touch to be added to the waiting list There are still spaces in the Scout section, so why not get in touch, so your child, too can experience everything Scouting has to offer
More details can be found on our website at www.base2000.co.uk

To continue providing all the fun & exciting activities the sections take part in, we need more Adults help either as an Occasional Helper, Section Assistant or a Leader. 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, either the Group Scout Leader, Colin Karlake on 07796 772500 or the Assistant Group Scout Leader, Douglas Gowan on 07733 325498, or contact us through the group website, or via our Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts/>



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On Air Now, Your Local Radio Station



Helping Hands Community Radio (HHCR) based in Basingstoke went on Air in June 2019 to give a voice to local people, charities and organisations who provide much needed services, activities and support within our community.

HHCR is an online radio station with 2,500 listeners a month already, playing the best sounds of the 60's 70's 80's and more, all mixed in with some great information. We broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from our local studio in the heart of Basingstoke, situated at The Roger Morris Centre.

We're building a station to keep you company, boost local community pride, share local events, help charities, amplify local artists and celebrate the diverse communities of Basingstoke on-air.

Helping Hands Community Radio is a Non-Profit & Non-Commercial radio station. All of our staff volunteer their time, enthusiasm and skills to help us support charities throughout the local area. Join our team of volunteers and help spread the word, see our website for details.

If we can help support your charity or non-profit organisation please contact us today with details of your charity and any details of events you may want to publicise on HHCR.

For further information
www.hhcr.org.uk





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Probus Visits the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

What a day to remember! It had been over a year since booking our place but a party of 29 consisting of members and their wives/partners of the Probus Club had a wonderful experience as they were present at the Commandant's Parade at the world famous Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst.

The day was one to remember of history, pageantry and military precision. The proceedings took place in and around the Old College building and on the parade ground outside. Around 2,000 guests were housed in two large stands completely under canvas. Between them was the dias for the salute to be taken by the Commandant as he reviewed the parade of the Officer Cadets, some third of whom were at the end of 12 month's training before commissioning as an officer in today's army.

Since 1947, over 4,800 young people from 120 different countries have trained alongside British Officer Cadets, reinforcing the ties between the British Army and the Armies of our friends and allies. At this Parade, of four top awards two were for Overseas Officer Cadets – from Ukraine and USA.

Many of the tutors are NCOs who bring real army experience and were visible on parade in charge of the various sections as they marched past the saluting dias of the Reviewing Officer. The band of the Parachute Regiment provided a varied programme of music throughout the Parade.

The Commandant and his party inspected the Parade and the Sovereign's Platoon presented Arms following which they trooped the Sovereign's Banner. The Parade marched past in slow and quick time and then in review order.

At the end of the Parade the Adjutant who had been on horseback throughout the proceedings most impressively rode his horse across the parade ground and up the steps and through the large doorway of the Old College a tradition started in the nineteenth century.

This had been a full day revealing many aspects of the history and tradition that lies behind the training of an officer in today's army. The discipline and skill shown on the parade ground left an abiding memory.



CONTACTS

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

**YOUR LOCAL
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ROTARY CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Can you imagine Christmas with no presents?
 That's the reality for some children**

Each year Rotary in Basingstoke are able to send shoeboxes full of toys and exciting items to children who don't have a lot. To do this we need your help. It can be your workplace, church, club, your school, Scout, cub, Brownie and Guide groups, your children, grandchildren or just you. **Can you help?**

We need shoeboxes full of goodies such as things to play with - ball, skipping rope, small games, cards, dominoes, harmonicas/recorders, cars, small toys, Cuddly toy. Or useful things - soap, toothbrush pens, pencils, sharpener, notebook, colouring book, puzzle book, hat, gloves, scarf, socks, hair accessories, jewellery (Items need to be new or in good/as new condition)

Last year Rotary Wessex (Hampshire and east Dorset) distributed over 27,000 shoeboxes to children in Montenegro, Moldova Romania and Albania and to make sure they don't go astray Rotarians supervise the whole process including volunteers going to the countries to make sure the boxes get to the right children

To join in the fun and get more information about the shoebox scheme see our website or Facebook page (details below), and get an information leaflet with details, of age groups and contents and also importantly items NOT to include. We will ask you to attach £1 coin to each box to cover transportation costs

Deliver your completed box to one of our collection points by 21st October. Build A Bear Workshop, Festival Place. Oakley Carpets, Andover Rd Oakley. Parnell Jordy and Harvey, Estate Agents, Overton. Eden Mazda, London Rd, Old Basing
 If you are an organisation with a lot of shoeboxes please get in touch as we may be able to arrange collection if you give us some notice

**Look out for us in
 Festival Place on 28th September**
 when we will be publicising
 the Shoebox scheme

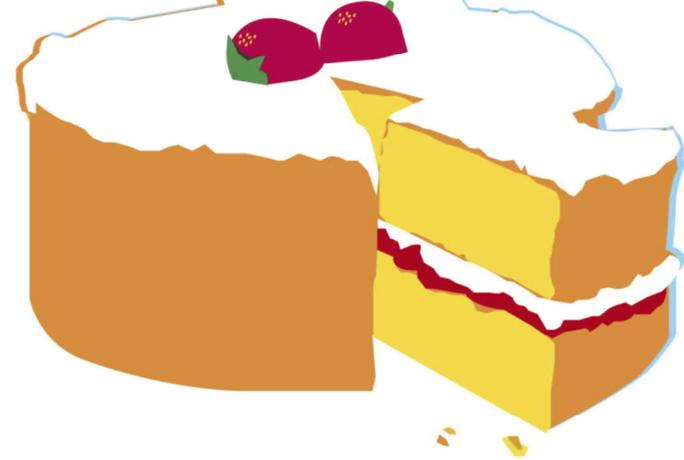
Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men and women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension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

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Greater Awareness Doubles the Number of Lasting Powers of Attorney

The number of Lasting Powers of Attorney registered in England and Wales has more than doubled in the last three years.

That is according to the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) which published its annual report in July.

Figures show that as at 31st March 2019, 3,847,008 LPAs had been recorded compared to 1,870,393 in March 2016.

Caroline Wallis, Head of the Wills and Probate team at Phillips Solicitors puts this down in part to a greater awareness of the importance of setting up LPAs.

She said: "This is a significant rise in the number of LPAs. With an aging population as people live longer, there also seems to be a greater awareness of conditions such as dementia."

"LPAs certainly have an important part to play in looking after vulnerable people, particularly with the elderly and those with medical conditions."

An LPA is a way of giving someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf should you lose mental capacity or if you are worried about managing your affairs in the future. This person is called an Attorney.

You can have more than one Attorney and these can be anyone you chose such as family members or close friends. Clearly, they should be people you trust explicitly.

There are two different types of LPA. One covers decisions about your property and finances and the other covers decisions about your health and welfare. You can choose to have one or both.

The LPA will only be valid if you have the mental capacity to set it up and have not been put under any pressure to create it.

Caroline said: "We recommend that everybody has an LPA in place as mental capacity can be lost or diminish suddenly, as a result of a serious accident or suffering an illness."

If you would like to discuss setting up an LPA, please contact Caroline Wallis by calling 01256 854637 or by emailing caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk

For information about our wide range of legal services please visit www.phillips-law.co.uk.



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Basingstoke NeighbourCare Needs You!

DRIVERS REQUIRED

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

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

BEFRIENDERS REQUIRED

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

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

If you are interested in either or better still both of the above opportunities please do contact us either by phone on 01256 423855 or email volunteering@neighbourcare.com



DBS Clinic Dates

Due to increased demand, Basingstoke Voluntary Action are pleased to announce that, **Disclosure and Barring Service** clinics will be held once a fortnight on Thursday's between 12:30 and 13:30 at The Orchard. These are for anyone volunteering for an organisation which requires this check undertaken.

For more information including booking an appointment visit BVA www.bvaction.org.uk.

If you are unable to make this day or your charity, community or voluntary group requires more than 10 DBS applications please contact us at 01256 423816 or email contact@bvaction.org.uk.

Volunteering Appointments Available

Wanting a volunteering role? Not sure what to choose? Like help looking for something suitable?

BVA offer one-to-one appointments, either in person or over the telephone, giving you the chance to tell us about your own interests, what you want to get out of volunteering, and the skills and commitment you can offer. We can then help you to identify which organisations can benefit most from your input and which opportunities you might enjoy.

To book an appointment on either Tuesday or Thursday at 10:30 or 11:30 go to <http://www.bvaction.org.uk/we-can-help-you-find-a-volunteer-role/>.

If you are unable to make these days or times but would like assistance please ring 01256 423816 or email contact@bvaction.org.uk.

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Email: vc@bvaction.org.uk

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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, then contact us: Allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

We are very pleased to announce we have filled all our spaces for the MFC Popley U7s 2019/2020 squad and are looking forward to the new season.

We are looking for new players to join next seasons Under 9 squad. If interested please contact the club at committee@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk.

We are looking for new players to join next seasons Under 12 squad. If interested please contact the club at committee@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk.

Our U15s coaches are delighted to announce that we have a full squad, including some new additions. ahead of the August Pre-season Training period.

You can get regular updates on Twitter, @MFC_PopleyYouth & 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

Interesting Facebook Groups

Popley Matters has its own Facebook page that was started when we reached the epic anniversary of the 200th issue of your community magazine. It is a closed group and you will be asked to say what your involvement in Popley Matters is. It could be as a resident, a contributor or deliverer in Popley. Popley people might also like to be aware of other local Facebook pages of interest to you. Some are: Pride of Popley, Marnel Merton and Speirs Meadow (who have a selling page too), Rooksdow Community, Everest and the Glaciers, Sherborne Fields and Marnel & Popley Conservation group. I am sure there are many more you could tell us all about so perhaps you can e-mail or contact us on Popley Matters 200 and we can let our other readers know?

Is there any information you would like to see in Popley Matters or maybe restart the letters page that was in for several years? Do you go to an activity or group in Popley which perhaps other people might like to know about? We also need more advertisers as we need to cover the cost of printing. This is your community magazine and we want it to be useful and enjoyable too.

Dear Friends,

MENTAL Health seems such an emotive issue these days. Ranging from stress related depression and anxiety thru to Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, ADHA to Alzheimer's and Dementia and a whole raft of issues in between. Mental illness has many forms and varieties. Rarely today do I meet someone that has not been touched in some way by some form of mental illness, whether that's self, in the immediate or wider family, a friend, neighbour or work colleague. Neither does mental illness know any age barrier – young or old, rich or poor, executive or labourer. The cost to our economy is enormous The NHS in England planned to spend £12.2 billion on mental health in 2018/19. That's roughly one in every ten pounds spent by the Department of Health and Social Care. Why is it such a powerful, costly and emotive subject these days?

You could argue I suppose that mental health has always been an issue, it's just that it has a much higher visibility and we are much more aware and informed than we ever have been before. That's indisputable! I would guess that process started with the shift to the 'care in the community' policies of recent governments and the pressures that has brought to individuals, families and communities and their resources. Mental hospitals are much fewer and far between these days and there is still a certain amount of stigma attached to them. The word bedlam came about as a contraction of the name of a hospital in London. This hospital started out in 1247 as a priory for the order of St. Mary of Bethlehem. This priory eventually became the Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem and was meant to serve sick poor and homeless people. However, by 1405, the hospital was under royal control and had begun to be partly used as an insane asylum, the first of its kind in England. The name of the hospital had already been slurred to Bedlam in popular speech, helped along by the variant spelling Bethlem and soon an inmate of the asylum started to be called a bedlam as well.

Bedlam was not always the most well run or inspected of establishments and there were periods of great brutality and there were descriptions of "miserable creatures in chains" in John Evelyns 1657 diary. The hospital became known as a place of noisy, raving lunatics and wealthy people even took to visiting it to be entertained by their antics. Thankfully care today is much more compassionate and caring and there are many healthcare professionals whose vocation is to administer that care and compassion. It still begs the question why are we seeing such a prevalence of mental health issues today?

Is it culture? Is it society? Is it that our lives are so pressured? Is it the overwhelming desire to conform to the model of the modern person that our media champions and the disappointment of the failure to meet that model. Is it the grand aspirations and high expectations we place on ourselves and our children that eats into the personality of the person we were meant to be? I'm sure it's these things and more that lead to the dysfunction we've become so familiar with and accustomed to that it almost seems the norm. As a Christian I believe there is an alternative.

The bible tells us The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18 NIV). How does he do that? He saves us by giving us a heart transplant. It's his specialty, in fact.

God says, "For the heart that's guilty, I'll give you a heart that's forgiven. For the heart that's resentful, I'll give you a heart that's full of peace. For the heart that's anxious, I'll give you heart that's confident. For the heart that's lonely, I'll give you a heart full of love. The heart that has been bitter and angry? I'll give you a heart that is forgiving and loving and generous instead. Let me do a heart transplant in you. I will set you free."

Worth thinking about on those difficult days. Why not explore the possibilities. ALPHA starts in St Gabriel's in September. Please feel free to come along and find out more. Details are on our website.

Your friend and Vicar

Rev. Arthur

St Gabriel's Church, Popley

www.stgabrielspopley.net

01256 324734



It's September!! We're about to be back in action!

We hope you all had a great Summer! Between us,

we've had plenty to keep us busy; holidays, kids off school, studying for professional qualifications, decorating,

helping out at community events, visiting our family and friends etc, you get it - After all of that though, we're raring to get back to our lovely ponds! Yayay!

Monthly conservation groups will begin meeting again on Saturday 1st September, 10am - 1pm, meeting at the entrance to Popley Ponds adjacent to Tobago Close. Sessions will be held on the first Saturday monthly, we may move some sessions to Sundays dependant on availability so please check our Facebook page for confirmation.

Fun facts and general instructions: No experience necessary, personal protection equipment (PPE) are provided, bring fluids to stay hydrated. Gill's famous Health and Safety talks come free always, Don't forget your wellies. Please appropriately supervise your under 18's, who are also very welcome to join us. Otherwise, be prepared to muck in and have some fun whilst helping out your local community.

As usual, any questions / queries, please don't hesitate to contact us by email to: popleyponds@gmail.com, or by searching us on Facebook - 'Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers'.



Check if you're eligible for PIP

If you need extra help because of an illness, disability or mental health condition you could get Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

You don't need to have worked or paid National Insurance to qualify for PIP, and it doesn't matter what your income is, if you have any savings or you're working.

The main eligibility rules

You won't be able to make a new claim for PIP once you reach State Pension age.

You'll continue to get PIP if you were getting it before you reached State Pension age, unless your circumstances change.

To be eligible for PIP you must be aged between 16 and your State Pension age. You can [check your State Pension age](#) on GOV.UK.

You must also:

- need supervision with everyday tasks or getting around
- have needed this help for 3 months and expect it to need it for another 9 months
- usually be living in England, Scotland or Wales when you apply
- have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 years - unless you're a refugee or an immediate family member of a refugee

There are exceptions to these rules if you're terminally ill or in the armed forces.

If you're already getting DLA and the DWP asks you to claim PIP [there are different rules](#).

If you have a terminal illness the rules about how long you need help for and living in England, Wales or Scotland for 2 years don't apply. If you're in the armed forces (or a close family member of someone who is) the rules on living and applying in England, Wales or Scotland don't apply.

Need further information or Help?

Citizens Advice Basingstoke, (located within Basingstoke Discovery Centre) can help you with queries you have on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10-3.30 Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is pre-booked appointments only) and Saturday mornings 10-12.

Wednesday evenings we are open until 6.30pm

The Advice Line telephone number is 03444 111 306

The Citizens Advice Basingstoke website can be found at www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

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Bermuda Community Association Hall

The origin of the Bermuda Community Association started way back in the early 1970's. It was started by local residents of the then named Popley Two housing estate, who wanted to form a local residents association. A group of residents approached the council to see if it possible to acquire the former Bovis builders wooden canteen facility in Madiera Close, after completion of the house building work, and allow them to use it as a local residents association building. This was approved by all parties concerned and the (P.T.R.A) Popley Two Residents Association was formed. The wooden building facility in Madiera Close was used regularly by the association for many years and used for many activities including a play group, operated by the residents, St. John's Ambulance training unit, youth club and a residents bingo club. It was also made available to be hired by local residents to use as an activity venue. During the summer month's they used the available outside space to organise fete's and activities. This also lead to the P.T.R.A entering into the local Basingstoke Carnival, in which they participated for many years with themed floats winning many prizes and honours. Unfortunately the carnival no longer takes place.

The venue was used extensively throughout the years until the government instructed the council to allocate land for building extra housing developments. Due to the hall at Madiera Close and the surroundings, its location would be a prime area to re-develop and to add extra housing.

The Council approved the Madiera Close area for redevelopment, so this meant to survive the association would have to find alternative accommodation

The council helped with this by offering the association two alternative local buildings. Both buildings on offer were former Doctors Surgeries, one at Marlow Close and the other at Bermuda Close. The Doctors had moved out of both in the 1990's. These were now both redundant buildings, as a new Doctors medical facility housing both former surgeries had been built in Shakespeare Road.

The long serving committee members of the P.T.R.A thought that due to its location the Bermuda Close site would be more acceptable as it was brick built and surrounded by houses, unlike the Marlowe Close site which was situated in a more open space. The P.T.R.A committee felt that the Marlowe Close site could eventually be earmarked the same as Madiera Close for redevelopment, so they opted to try and secure the Bermuda Close site for it's new home. After many meetings and discussions with help from local councillors, the council eventually approved the Bermuda Close site for use by P.T.R.A as a community centre. And in 2005 work began to revamp the inside to make it more user friendly as a community centre. P.T.R.A eventually moved out of the Madiera Close site in December 2005 and into the Bermuda Close building at the beginning of January 2006. The new venue was then renamed as The Bermuda Community Association (B.C.A).

After we moved in we were faced with several upgrades needed within the hall, the main ones being replacing the warm air heating with a modern boiler and radiators. We then set about replacing the internal lighting from fluorescent tubes to L.E.D energy saving lights. In 2016 we applied to the council for a grant to apply Solar Panels to the south facing roof of the building as an environmental and energy saving project. The council agreed a grant for the project and thirty three solar panels were fitted during the summer of 2016. Apart from the environmental issues this also helped reduce our electricity costs.

In 2015 prior to fitting solar panels, we were discussing ways to improve the hall generally. The layout and issues raised about the hall was discussed at length and suggestions were made after taking on board issues raised by association members. The main one being the toilets location in the main hall. We spoke with our community development officers at the council

about the issues and they suggested we could apply for a grant under the L.I.F (Local Infrastructure Fund) program. We agreed to apply and started the process in the summer of 2015 with a feasibility study. Again with the help from all the local Councillors and Community Development Officers the L.I.F Grant application was approved by the council. Plans were drawn up by All Design Matters and building companies were offered to tender for the work. After our original project manager passed away we sourced B.S.P.M to project manage the work on our behalf.

Quotes to carry out the work were received from companies and with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (L.I.F department) approval, the refurbishment contract was officially awarded to R.V.Dart and Son Builders.

The refurbishment work started in November 2018 and went on until June 2019. The transformation from the original old doctors surgery to a purpose refurbished community centre is truly amazing.

We hope all our clients approve and enjoy the halls transformation.

The committee's grateful thanks goes out to all those who supported and helped us make this project a success.

**Thanks for your
patience.
Kindest Regards from
the Committee.**



What's on at Bermuda Community Centre

Monday CMA kick boxing from 6.30-8pm



**Tuesday bingo night doors open 7pm
eyes down 8pm. finishes around 9:45pm,
light refreshments available at half time.**

**Wednesday 6:15pm-7:15pm Lou Bedford Yoga classes
for details ring Lou on 07753109222 or go on line at
www.loubedfordyoga.co.uk.**



**Thursday 4.30-6.30pm Street Dance and ballet classes two
and a half to adults, (term time). For details contact Samantha
Pike on 07811299484.**

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

Contact Janet on 01256 363156