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Monday-Friday 9am-7pm; Sat 9am-5pm



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# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

November 2019 Distribution of 5,400 Issue 213



## Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Community Christmas Dinner Melrose Hall	
Everest Health and Leisure Centre Open Day	Page 1	Nursery School Opening in Kempshott	Page 14
Councillors' Page	Page 3	Arthur Botham	Page 17
Bermuda Community Hall	Page 4	6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade	Page 19
News from Police	Page 6	Marie Curie Collection	Page 19
Popley Fields Christmas Party	Page 7	Vina's Views	Page 20
Merton Junior School News	Page 9	Old Basing Infants	Page 21
Phillips Solicitors Advice	Page 10	Spaces at Beavers	Page 21
Chineham Library	Page 11	Air Scouts Report	Page 23
Appeal for Volunteers for Memory Club		MHA	Page 24
	Page 12	MFC Popley	Page 24
Improvements to Popley Community Park	Page 12	Rotary Basingstoke Deane	Page 26
		Everest Community Academy News	Page 27
		Citizens Advice Basingstoke	Page 28

Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-11-19) editor@poppleymatters.org.UK



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:** November and a few short weeks to Christmas! The weather “experts” predict a very cold winter the coldest for many years; however I seem to remember them saying the same for last year? It probably is as well to prepare for it though so I have got the grit/salt in to keep the path clear and of course the driveway in front of the garage. A gentle reminder that the salt bins provided and refilled by Hampshire County Council are not there for use on your property, they are to keep the roads and highways clear.

Paul and I are really excited that after forty five years since our family’s vision, Popley Community Park will be a wonderful family leisure park that residents of all ages will be able to enjoy all year round. Developer money towards play facilities has now been released and how the 406K is spent is up to you. There will

be a public consultation so watch out in the next couple of weeks; it will be advertised on the council website and in the Gazette. We will put the information on our Popley Matters 200 page, Pride of Popley and any other page we can so hopefully you can share it. If you have any difficulties email us. More about Popley Community Park on page 12.

We are working with Jean Homes-Morris and Melrose Hall to set up a Memory Club to be held weekly in Melrose Hall but we need help before we can start as we need volunteers (training will be given). When Paul and I were Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane we were lucky enough to visit some Memory Clubs for people with all levels of dementia. A great time is had by all and the carers get a break knowing their loved ones are safe and being looked after. Read about the appeal on page 12. It would be great if we can get it set up over the next few weeks.

**HELP:-** Popley Matters needs some more deliverers for Abbey Road from 426 to 611, all the John Hunt and Glaziers area as our deliverer will be moving away. If you can do just the road you live in it all helps. Chaucer Close is also a permanent round needed but we also need volunteers to cover for three months for Burns, Marlowe and Wordsworth. All help would be gratefully received!

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 it can be half an hour a month or more if you can? 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				
Everest Health and Leisure Centre Open Day	Phillips Solicitors	Page 10	K.G.Matthews Carpentry	Page 23
Page 1	Mitosu	Page 11	Spencer and Peyton Ltd	Page 23
Jonathan Williams Independent Funeral	Aurbi Custom Printing and Emboidery	Page 11	Motor Parts Direct	Page 25
Directors	St Gabriel's Christmas Fair	Page 13	Ovenclean	Page 25
Peter's Chinese Fish & Chips	Genevieve Moody Dance	Page 16	Unique Block Paving	Page 25
Everest Health and Leisure Club	Prudence Online Tuitions	Page 16	Everest Community Academy	Page 27
Roller Garage Doors Centre	Shirley Sweets Treats	Page 16	1st Response	InsideBP
Blue Angel Live-in Home Care	Mickey's Handyman Services	Page 16	Piccolo Pre-school Nursery	InsideBP
JBDrive	Your Local Locksmith	Page 18	Lawrence Young Ltd	InsideBP
Roots	IPS Hair	Page 18	Fastfare Store	Back Page
M H Autos	Niall Catlin Plumbing and Heating	Page 18	Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
Rayner Appliance Care Ltd	Mark Smith Plumbing and Heating	Page 23		

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## Problems Getting Paid

If you think your pay is wrong or you haven't been paid, the best thing you can do is talk to your employer to find out why.



If you and your employer can't agree on how much you should have been paid, you can [challenge them](#).

You should act quickly - it'll be much harder to get your money back after 3 months from the date the problem arose.

## Check your payslip

You should start by checking your payslip, if you've got one. This will help you see how your pay's been worked out. Check things like:

- whether you've been paid for the number of hours you've actually worked
- if you've been paid at the correct rate
- if you've been paid for overtime, commission or bonus
- whether you've been paid any sick pay, holiday pay or maternity pay that you were expecting
- if your employer has deducted any money that you weren't expecting

If you're an employee or a worker, you have the legal right to a payslip which shows how your pay has been worked out. If you get paid per hour, your payslip has to show how many hours you've worked.

If you don't have a payslip or your payslip doesn't show how your pay has been worked out, ask your employer to put this right. You can [check if you're an employee](#) or [check if you're a worker](#) on GOV.UK.

You can [show your employer this guidance from Acas](#) - it explains why they have to give you a payslip. If they won't agree, you'll need to [raise a grievance with them](#).

## Speak to your employer

Try speaking informally to your employer if you're having problems with your pay. You could also try speaking to your human resources or payroll department, if there is one.

Ask them to explain anything you don't understand on your payslip or why you haven't been paid. If you disagree with anything, explain why.

If your employer has made a genuine mistake, ask them to pay you the money you're owed straight away. You shouldn't have to wait until your next pay day.

## 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 10am-3.30pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is pre-booked appointments only) and Saturday mornings 10am-12pm.

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](http://www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk)

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



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## Upcoming Dates

- Start of Year 11 Mocks—Monday 11th November
- GCSE 2018/19 Yr 11 students Awards Evening—Thursday 21st November
- Annual OAPs' Christmas Lunch—Friday 6th December
- Term Ends—Friday 13th December

### Open Evening/Mornings

We have recently held our open evening and mornings at the school; we hope that next year's potential students and parents liked what they saw.

### Year 11 Students from academic year 2018/19

We are holding our annual GCSE awards evening on Thursday 21st November when awards and certificates will be handed out to our past year students.

### OAPs' Christmas Lunch—6th December

We are again holding our annual OAPs' Christmas Lunch on Friday 6th December here at the school between noon and 2.00pm. We look forward to welcoming all those in the Community who consider themselves to be an OAP; just ring the school on 01256 465547 to book your place.



### CONTACTS

Helen Ricketts: -  
[helen@highpathway.co.uk](mailto:helen@highpathway.co.uk)  
or  
Paul Temple:-  
[tempaul@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:tempaul@dsl.pipex.com)

## YOUR LOCAL ROTARY ROUNDUP

### 'Service above self' our motto

Our main fundraising events are The Anvil Royal Marines Band concert, The International Black Tie Boxing event and The Basingstoke Festival of Transport. The income for these events goes to support local causes and a few carefully chosen international ones

One of the other things we do is to honour our Motto 'Service above Self' and serve our community by assisting other charities in their activities.

We've supported **The Ark Cancer Centre Charity** since its inception not only financially but also by providing man (woman) power: we've bucket collected at the Star Wars event and for Ark Day last June as well as having fun with the wonderful Jane Austen benches. You can see our Jane Rotary bench in the entrance to the Radiotherapy department at Basingstoke hospital.

We also help **St Michael's Hospice** with their events: The 'Moonlight Walk', providing refreshments, and some members took part. We car park for the important 'Light up a Life' and the 'Farleigh Wallop Woodland Walk'. We run water stations for 'The Big Wheel' and also for the Half Marathon.

Our **'Stroke Awareness' Day** will see us taking blood pressure in Waitrose allowing peace of mind for most people but an important warning for those people who are not aware they have high blood pressure, they are given the appropriate advice and that may be go straight to hospital (do not Pass Go and do not collect £200!). For those few people it may have been life saving. Look out next April for Stroke Awareness Day 2020 and come and get your blood pressure taken

On Saturday 30th November 2019 at you'll see us being Elves and helping at **Overton Christmas Fair**, 1-6pm. You'll be able to book to see Santa. Recently we've helped run the Pop-up shop in Overton to raise funds for **Lordsfield Swimming Pool**, an important community asset

In the run up to Christmas we provide, cook and serve Christmas lunch to the people who attend **The Camrose Centre** and the helpers. The Camrose Centre is a drop-in service providing support and assistance to the homeless, vulnerably housed in Basingstoke.

Service above Self is fun and we get a lot of enjoyment doing all these varied events.

### Save the Date

Sunday 26th January 2020, **The Royal Marines**

**Concert** at the Anvil:3 - 7pm

3rd May 2020 **Basingstoke Festival of Transport**,

War Memorial Park, Basingstoke: 11am-4pm:



*Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 man 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 those less fortunate and find it adds an extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.*

*If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to [www.rcbd.org.uk](http://www.rcbd.org.uk) to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. You might be pleasantly surprised!*

Facebook: [@RotaryBasingstokeDeane](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryBasingstokeDeane)

Twitter: [@RBstokeDeane](https://twitter.com/RBstokeDeane)

10/19

### County Councillor Report:

I met five Mums by the traffic lights for the crossing from Tintern Close up to Don Allen Drive as the timings were completely out. It is impossible to cross the road as they only allowed 6 seconds to cross. The residents told me that cars were rolling forward and sometimes honking their horns. I was horrified as to how many people just took a chance and crossed. I saw parents with children not using the traffic light system. I know there is a subway and I saw no one use it at all. The underpass is steep and has often been flooded. The crossings were put there for the safe crossing for residents going to schools and to allow for all the development and when the shops are completed and open. I contacted Hampshire County Council with my grave concerns and they are going to monitor and adjust them. I impressed on them how urgent and serious I felt this issue was. Thank you Emma who came all the way from Ringwood and met us at 8.15am 21st and agreed. The timings have now been doubled before the red man comes on and, because of the sensors, traffic will not be held up any longer.

I was also contacted about the "20 is Plenty" notices along Popley Way near schools. These signs were put up a few years ago as a safety measure in conjunction with the schools. Some have slipped down or been vandalised so I have contacted the Schools Safety Team and asked that they be put back to the proper height. Thank you to the residents that brought this to my attention. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk)**

### Popley West:

Great news-the section 106 money of 406K has been officially released to be spent on play facilities and improvement to the area in Popley Community Park. At our meeting with the officers of the council we said that we wanted residents to have the choices and options to help design and improve the facilities, to make this a real family friendly park that can be enjoyed by everyone no matter what ability or age they are. We think that one of the big issues is the broken, rusty and torn fencing around the whole site. The entrance is ugly and boring so ideas there please? 45 years ago my late husband Ken and I said what a waste of the area it was as it was being used as a dumping ground. We didn't know how we would do it but every chance we had over the years when any grants were available we pushed to improve the facilities, With the help of residents, friends and family, we campaigned and got it slowly into the park it is today. Now Paul and I are delighted to be able to ask you to join us to develop it into an even better facility for us all to enjoy, a place where friends and families can meet and enjoy the outdoors.

**Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924**

[cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk)

**Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924**

[cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk)

### Popley East:

The improvement works to Shakespeare Road have now been completed and have generally been well received. As part of the works a bus shelter was installed at the stop close to Keats Close. However, although some improvements were made to the stop near to Marlowe Close, HCC's plans didn't include a shelter there. We listened to local residents and managed to negotiate the provision of a shelter which has now been put in place.

So many residents have contacted us regarding the problems with the waste collection service. These have included the failure to collect the waste from communal bin stores (in some cases for weeks on end), missed assisted collections and many other missed collections of both general waste, recycling and garden waste following the change of collection date. Concerns have also been raised about the use of resident's bins as 'slave' bins where one resident's bin is used to collect the waste from others. David chaired the Scrutiny Committee where these problems were discussed and Janet led the representations on behalf of Popley East residents. In the face of all the criticism the Council Leader admitted how the service had failed residents and assured us that the use of 'slave bins' will cease. Let us know if you continue to have problems.

**Cllr David Potter 07941507801**

[cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk)

**Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200**

[cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk)

# Bermuda Community Hall

Tiny steps pre-school starting soon, for further details ring Helen or Connie on 07907815270

There are lots of activities going on at Bermuda hall, come along and join in!

Monday from 6:30pm to 8pm we have kick boxing.



Tuesday night is bingo night New members are welcome! Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm and finishes around 10pm. Refreshments are available.

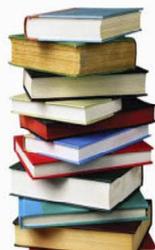


Wednesday is yoga night with Lou Bedford. It starts at 6:15pm and finishes at 7:15pm, for more details ring Lou Bedford on 07753109222 or at [www.loubedfordyoga.co.uk](http://www.loubedfordyoga.co.uk)



Come along on a Thursday night for street dance and ballet 4:30pm to 6:30pm for details ring Samantha Pike on 07811299484

Friday Club is available to infants/juniors Yr R to Yr 6 at 6pm to 7:15pm. There are many activities for the children to get involved in: singing, super book animated Bible stories, games, tuck shop and more. Friday Club is now free.



The hall is also available to hire for parties at reasonable rates. Ring 01256 363156 for details

Annual General Meeting is on the 5th November at 7pm

Family Prize Bingo is on the 6th December at Popley Fields Community Centre, doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 7pm. Refreshments will be available, come along for a great night and bring your friends and family.

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Hello everyone. Well Christmas is now approaching very fast and myself and the team have been busy working out all the activities for December. So here it is hot off the press:- White Christmas Show in London; United Reform Church for our Christmas meal in London Street, Old Basing Christmas Lunch Club followed by an auction and Christmas songs; pub lunch; and of course the St Andrew's Christmas Carol's afternoon with mince pies. Myself, members and volunteers will all be sick and tired of all the Christmas food come Christmas Day.

If you know of anyone aged over 60 that has become isolated within their own homes or may need a befriending service then please get in touch with myself via my email francesca.wildash@mha.org.uk. I hope to be speaking to some of the Popley residents in the near future and helping to stop the feeling of isolation within our local community.

**Many thanks**

**Francesca Wildash**

**Community programme coordinator for MHA "Live at Home"**



The U8s have had a great start to the season and are playing very well, remembering what they have learnt and showing the progress they have made from last season. Coach Darryl Bradbury has said that he couldn't be any happier with their progress.

Our U15s good form continues with four wins from our last four games, with results against Fleet Spurs (4-1), Manor Colts (7-2 and 5-0) and most recently Farnham

Town (16-0). Some great performances during these games which will hopefully continue in the busy schedule up to Christmas.

You can get regular updates on Twitter, @MFC\_PopleyYouth and by using the hashtags #MFPCPY #REDandBLACKARMY.

MFC Popley Youth, FA Charter Standard Development Club and Nike Partner Club, has a dedicated club page on Facebook (as well as individual team pages), and you can also find us on Instagram.

We also have a dedicated club shop website where you can purchase kit and accessories - [www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/mfcpopley/](http://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>.

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As part of on-going efforts to tackle crime (across Basingstoke) in the area, we would like to keep residents up to date with relevant crime prevention advice, so that you have a better awareness of how you may protect yourself and your belongings.

Due to a recent spate of theft from vehicle offences in the area, we would like to offer some simple but crucial advice, and seeing as Christmas will soon be upon us, we would also like to offer some advice that is particularly important at this time of year.

Remember – most of these offences are opportunist in nature – by taking even simple precautions you can greatly reduce your likelihood of becoming a victim.

**Theft from vehicle:**

- Most offences of theft from vehicle are opportunist. When leaving your car, close all windows and lock your car. This is the best way to protect your belongings.
- Upon locking your vehicle try your car door to ensure it is actually locked!
- Take all your personal possessions with you and do not leave items on display.
- Even items of little value, such as shopping bags and clothing, may tempt a potential thief to break into the vehicle to see whether they contain anything worth stealing. They may even be tempted by such things as coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash.
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser to your car.
- Register your possessions for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) – in doing so you will assist the police in returning your property should it be lost or stolen.
- Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws. The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.
- Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels. Stolen wheels are valuable, either as parts or for their scrap value. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.
- Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle. Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it.
- Report all suspicious activity or offences to the police. Even if we cannot take immediate action it will help us build a better picture of the issue which will help us combat it more effectively in the long-run.

**Advice for the Festive Period:**

- Do not advertise your absence.
- When you go out at night make it appear that someone is home. Draw the curtains, and leave a light on. You could always put a lamp or radio on a timer switch.
- Use timer switches, available from DIY stores, to switch on lights and other appliances.
- Don't leave Christmas presents in view of a window.
- If you are buying or receiving valuable gifts such as bikes, mobiles or electrical items register them for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) in doing so you will assist the police in returning your property should it be lost or stolen.
- Dispose of present packaging carefully as empty boxes left outside can advertise that you have goods inside.
- Refrain from keeping large amounts of cash at home.
- A secure home will reduce the chance of a burglary. Make sure windows and doors are locked every time you leave the house.
- Avoid leaving tools and ladders lying around that could assist someone get into your home.
- Never allow people into your home unless you are expecting them or have made arrangements with the company beforehand.
- Never buy goods and services at the door or give away personal information.
- If you are going away don't advertise this fact on social networking sites such as Facebook.



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



**We NEED You.**  
**Can You HELP?**

Recent figures from The Scout Association show that across the country there are now over 60,000 young people aged 6 – 18 years, wanting to join Scouting but, are unable to do so, due to a lack of adult volunteers. That is roughly 6x the population of Popley, can you imagine that?

**BEAVERS**

There are so many young people are already enjoying Scouting in Popley every week, and we do have a number of places available in some sections but there are also dozens of young people who want to join who cannot because we are bursting at the seams. The age ranges are Beavers (6-8) Cubs (8-10.5) and Scouts (10.5-14).

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

**CUBS**

**SCOUTS**

So why not put a spring in your step, start a new hobby, and put something back into your local community? You will find the time you give really rewarding and Scouting actively promotes flexible volunteering, we will find you a role that matches the time you want to give. You will be surprised how rewarding and fun your time spent volunteering with us can be, so please contact us today to start your Scouting adventure and help us to change lives by giving young people skills for life and may be learn something new yourself

To find out more please contact....  
 Colin, on 07796 772500, email [colink@base2000.co.uk](mailto:colink@base2000.co.uk)  
 Douglas, on 07733 325498, email [nikau@thescoutingpages.org.uk](mailto:nikau@thescoutingpages.org.uk)



# Mother and Daughter Time Christmas Crafts & Cake

**Saturday 9th November**



Come and take some time out together, making seasonal crafts, enjoying a cup of tea and maybe a cake or two...

Drop in anytime between 1 and 3pm for this free event!

Popleyfields Community Centre  
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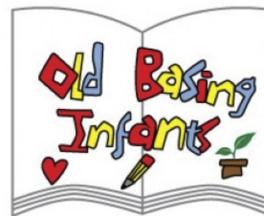


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Autumn is always an exciting time in our school; new classes, new uniforms and a whole new Year R intake to warmly welcome to the school. Everyone has settled in wonderfully and we can now look forward to the upcoming academic year.

Year R have been making themselves at home in our school. They've had great fun exploring the outdoor area, making new friends and learning the new routines. In Year 1 we have begun to introduce our new topic - 'If you go down to the woods today' and have been developing a new style of outdoor provision throughout all our learning. Year 2 have hit the ground running with their yearly campaign (every year group run a campaign each year which aims to highlight an issue important to them) and are looking at the damaging effects single use plastic has on the environment and what impact this will have on their lifetime. Year 2 parents have been nagged by their children and have been tallying their plastic use at home!

Our governing body is looking for a new co-opted governor to assist the governing body. Their main aim is to maintain and improve the standard of education for all pupils, of all abilities. Their role is to oversee the development of the school and work alongside the Head Teacher providing support. Should you wish to be considered for this role please contact the Chair of Governors - Johnathan Richards on [Johnathan.Richards@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk](mailto:Johnathan.Richards@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk) for more information. If your child is starting school next September we have an Open Morning on 29th November for prospective parents for the 2020/2021 cohort. Please call our school office on 01256325704 to make appointment.

### Spaces at Beavers



Good evening everyone, we're in need of some new Beavers! If you have a child aged 5.75 (almost 6) to age 7, please could you let them know that 1st Popley are looking for new recruits? We meet Tuesdays 5-6pm, St Gabriel's Church, Popley Way. Many thanks!

Hello dear Readers,

I hope you have had a wonderful and spooky Halloween and the sugar-rush from all the sweets have now worn off.

I am looking forward to the many fireworks displays for Guy Fawkes Night taking place in and around Basingstoke. Every year, I have to remind myself why we celebrate Bonfire night. It marks the anniversary of the discovery of an attempt, by a man called Guy Fawkes, to blow up the houses of Parliament in 1605. Whatever his motives might have been, I believe the fireworks display to be a great way to spend quality time with family and friends and look forward to Christmas. It also means that I can now openly relish the mulled wine and mince pies.

The national news has been awash with Brexit recently but the 16 year old Greta Thunberg shone a renewed bright light on the fragility of Earth. Her message about climate change was nothing new to any of us. However, seeing a passionate speech from a teenager did make me sit back and listen. The Swede even took the boat to America to attend the UN and reportedly mainly travelled by train to keep her carbon footprint low. It made me think; maybe I could do my part in saving the planet, however small my contribution. I will not be able to walk from Popley to my place of work every day or cancel the summer holidays, but there are other things that I can do.

I am aware of the benefits of recycling and I will now be more diligent in sorting out the rubbish. I do sometimes feel that I need a degree to demystify the various logos on the innumerable amount of packaging we receive but I could take a couple of seconds to make sure everything recyclable is recycled. Social media and various TV programmes have pointed out the perils of single-use plastics. We all know about the effect of plastic bags, but all the drinks and household cleaning products are packaged in what is called single-use plastics. Most of these items are not recyclable and they do not biodegrade, hence filling up landfills and ending up in the oceans. Therefore, I think I will follow the fashionable trend and buy a reusable coffee cup, snazzy reusable water bottle and say no to plastic straws when I am out. I have also thought about the countless number of shampoo and shower gel bottles sitting around the edge of my bath. Maybe, I might go back to the good old-fashioned soap bar; instead of the single-use, plastic bottled shower gel. I have also seen eco cotton buds on the shelves of a beauty store; which is a very easy swap to make. And I won't be haunted by the photo of a seahorse holding a plastic cotton bud! Face wipes and baby wipes have also been in the news recently. We have seen reports and accounts of flushable wipes being un-flushable and fatbergs blocking our sewage system. Although it would be extremely difficult to give up on baby wipes altogether, face wipes, and other types, are easier to substitute. I have to admit that I have given up on face wipes a few months ago and I have not looked back. A simple face wash and hot water takes away even the hard wearing of waterproof make up. One small act, one small change to our habits could help towards saving the planet. What would your act be? After all, we need to preserve this beautiful Earth for our children and grandchildren.

**Until next month,  
Vina R  
Resident of Marnel Park**



**Thank you to everyone who made it to our Summer Fun Day to celebrate the schools' 50<sup>th</sup> birthday—the weather held out for us and it was a brilliant day. A special thank you to all of our stallholders, staff, volunteers and members of our community for stepping in and making sure that the event was a success. Thank you as well to Miss Youngs for making the amazing cake for The Worshipful the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr Diane Taylor to cut and open the event.**



**Merton raised an amazing £264 for Macmillan at our recent coffee morning - it was a great success - with lots of tea, coffee and, of course, cake.**



**It was great to meet so many of you at our recent Open Evening for new Year 3 parents (for September 2020) – if you missed it, please give us a call on the below number to book a visit to see us in action.**



**Romsey Close, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9HB**

**admin.office@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk**

**(01256) 326573**



## Christmas Arrangements for Separated Parents

Now is the time for separated parents to start thinking about making Christmas arrangements.

While for many parents the festive season is a special time of year, it can be a trying time after a divorce or separation.

From a family law perspective, it is very important that you plan your contact and visiting arrangements in a timely manner before the hectic Christmas period.

Ideally, start discussing the situation with your children's other parent as early as possible, to give yourself plenty of time to come to an arrangement about times and days to see the children.

If you are on amicable terms with your former partner, sit down together with your diaries to record what is agreed to avoid future disputes.

If not, use an impartial third party or solicitor to liaise over access and put it in writing.

Think about how to divide your children's time over the festive period, maybe having the children on Christmas Day every other year and then making Boxing Day a second Christmas Day.

Remember Christmas is only a few days out of the whole year. It can be a time of great joy and happiness for your family, so be prepared to be flexible and try to remember to put the children first.

A little planning well before the holiday season starts can avoid a lot of unnecessary stress and arguments.

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To find out more about Phillips and our services visit [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk).



## 6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter



October 4th saw Boys' Brigade reach it's 136th birthday; it started back in 1883 and is still going strong. Here are some facts about the Boys' Brigade you might not know; there are nearly 1,300 BB communities across the country driven by around 12,000 adult volunteers. Not only do we have national BB communities but Boys' Brigade is a global community with groups in Australia, Malaysia and the United States to name a few.

All the young people are now back at school and that means one thing, parents and guardians are no longer pulling their hair out to find something to do with the kids and we've started our new class programme. As part of our 2 hour session we do on a Monday night we run a 30 minute class, don't worry it's not like school, no equations or fractions here. Our classes aim to teach our young people new skills and educate them so they can go out and be better people.

Great news! Boys' Brigade has become an official partner with EasyFundraising, a free fundraising site that donates every time you buy through their website. Don't worry, it's completely free and easy to do. Search our name on the website ([www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)), click Support This Cause and then sign up. Shop with the same companies and do your bit for our group, simple.

You can use the easyfundraising website to shop online with 4,000 retailers such as Amazon, eBay, trainline, Just Eat, Argos, Next, Halfords and Sports Direct.

### Marie Curie Collection

**Friday 6th December 2019**



Thank you very much for your generosity at Chineham Shopping Centre back in March this year; we raised an incredible £823.75

Marie Curie Care provides nursing for seriously ill people in their home (although they are unable to provide nurses in the Basingstoke area at this time they do have nurses in other parts of Hampshire). There is a 24/7 pilot being run in the Fareham and Eastleigh areas which hopefully will be rolled out to Basingstoke in the future.

The money is also used to pay for research into Palliative Care which is shared with other organisations.

Tesco at the Chineham Shopping Centre have kindly invited Marie Curie Care to collect on Friday 6 December 2019 so if you have an hour or more to spare please call Sally or Sophie on 023 8026 3123 or register for a collection near you.

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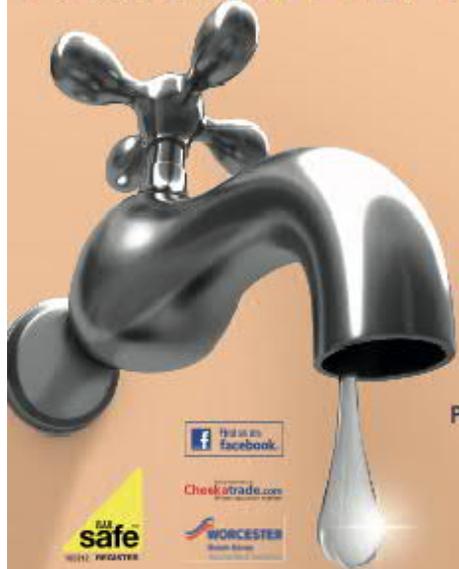
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## Chineham Library

Now we've had half term and Halloween we are entering the run-up to Christmas. Christmas stock is already available to borrow, and Christmas-themed activities will be scheduled for December. In conjunction with an event at the Chineham Centre, we are holding an extra festive storytime followed by crafts on Saturday 14th December at 10am. Further details will be available nearer the time.

Regular children's activities follow their usual pattern, with rhymetimes for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am on Tuesday mornings. There are drop-in craft sessions every first Saturday of the month from 10am to midday, and storytimes at 11am on all other Saturdays. Construction Club takes place on all Saturday afternoons from 2 – 3.30pm. The Chatterbooks group for primary school age children meets on 7th November from 3.45 – 4.45pm.

Our general reading group meets at 10.30-11.30 on 24th November, and new members would be welcome. Our friendly drop-in 'Cuppa and Chat' group now welcomes all ages and meets weekly between 10.30 and midday on Wednesday. Why not try coming for a social drink one week? There is a trio of crime talks given by Paul Stickler, with dates arranged for 5th December, 9th January and 27th February starting at 6pm. Tickets costing £15 are obtainable subject to availability from the library or the on-line shop. Paul Stickler is a retired police commander, now working as a criminologist/crime historian so should be interesting and knowledgeable.

Chineham Library now has a small room available for hire, so if you are looking for a venue for meetings or other events, which can be outside of opening hours, do get in touch. Further details, including charges, are available from the library. **Cathy Foster**

# Appeal for Volunteers for Memory Club

We are looking to open a much-needed Memory Club in Melrose Hall, but before we can we need volunteers to help us run it. There will be four sessions of training to help you to work competently and successfully and fulfil this vital role. This will be a fun and fulfilling role and you will be helping members to have fun and keep healthy and happy. It also gives the carers a few hours once a week to rejuvenate and have a little time to themselves to relax. We hope to be able to start the club by the end of this month.

If you are interested or want to learn more please contact Jean at [jeanholmes12@gmail.com](mailto:jeanholmes12@gmail.com) or text 07877538428 or [jane@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:jane@popleymatters.org.uk) or text 07974098131.

## Improvements to Popley Community Park

Unfortunately the council could not supply all the information we had hoped for in time for Popley Matters, and what they sent was a short message: "Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has exciting plans to provide improvements to play and recreational facilities within Popley Community Park. Funded through developer contributions, the project will provide additional play and open space facilities for the park. The council would like to hear from residents about what they would like to see and will be asking for views soon. Look out for posters in the park, local shops and community venues or follow the council @BasingstokeGov on Facebook or Twitter. We will be in touch again soon with updates on the consultation and when it will go live etc."

Over forty five years ago when my sons were very young we could not afford to go on holidays and there was little then locally to go to that was free. The huge field that is now Popley Community Park was a dumping ground for fly tipping and the council brought all the hedges and tree branches to burn. Smoke billowed across the roads. Ken and I dreamed of a wonderful park and said what a waste it was then, what a wonderful space to have a family park. We didn't know how we could achieve it but fate stepped in and I became a Councillor and my son Paul followed a year later. The site was cleared, a few years later a BMX track was built there, but it never really got used that much. Fate knocked at the door again and Popley got lots of regeneration so that meant developer money. We negotiated with the Council officers that money should be spent on really good leisure facilities and a family park that everyone could enjoy and should be able to be enjoyed by all residents. As money became available the park started to grow, all the time waiting till the biggest chunk of money would be released. Well now it has 406K and you, the residents, will be consulted. Over many years we have spoken to people about what they would like and a rough outline was drawn up that will include replacing the ugly rusty and broken fencing, the concrete mound flattened to make more playable space, more equipment for play, outdoor gym equipment, disabled friendly equipment, a running/walking track and a wildlife area for schools to bring the children to learn about our ecology. You will decide; we might be lucky enough to get it all. When my dear Ken was dying his final words were "look after Popley and our park" and of course "I love you", and we can now keep that promise. It has been an uphill climb for Paul and Me but Kenny, it is going to happen. Hope he smiles down from heaven.

Dear Friends,

There's an old joke that goes something like this: Three ministers are discussing how they got rid of mice in their churches. The Pentecostal minister says "We prayed against their presence, and then they all left." The Baptist minister says "We preached against their presence, and then they all left". And the Church of England minister says "We baptised them all, and we haven't seen them in church since." If I'm honest it feels a bit like that at times in St Gabriel's!

It is one of the greatest privileges of my ministry to conduct Christenings and they are always cause for great celebration. It is always so lovely to meet parents, Godparents, family and friends and afterwards there is usually a party somewhere with most probably, jelly and ice cream, where everyone can have a great time.

Many of the parents say that they always mean to keep the promises they've made and bring their children to church but once they stop coming as part of the preparation it becomes harder and harder to start again – mostly through a sense of embarrassment at not coming and what people might say or think about them.

This isn't uncommon! How many times do we make promises to family, friends, and neighbours, or people we meet on holiday and get on well with? We promise to keep in touch with them "I'll give you a call" we say, and we always mean to, but the daily pressures of life seem to pile in and time goes by so quick that before you know it months have slipped by and we feel so embarrassed about not keeping in touch that we're afraid to pick up the phone or stick our heads around the door for fear of rejection. I know because I've been there, done that and got the T-shirt!

It's been my experience that this is most usually an irrational fear! People are always glad to hear from old friends or family that they haven't seen or spoken to for a while – some folk are just glad to hear from someone - anyone!

If you haven't been to church for a while and you've been meaning to come but just feel too shy or that it might be too embarrassing then may I invite you, personally, to come along one Sunday morning to St Gabriel's - no questions asked, no judgements passed, believe me when I say, it would be a pleasure to see you and to remake old acquaintance,

Jesus told the parable of the shepherd who lost one of his hundred sheep and left the other ninety-nine to go in search of that one that was lost. He is still searching today for those that have wandered away, longing to find them and to bring them home to great rejoicing. In these uncertain times we could all do with the holding on to someone as changeless as the Son of God who promises a welcome to any who would come to Him.

I continue to look forward to seeing many of you soon and catching up on all your news. With every blessing in Christ.

**Your friend and Vicar  
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# St Gabriel's CHRISTMAS FAIR

## Saturday December 7th

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## Christmas Crafts & Games

## Christmas Café & Food Stalls

## Christmas Tombola

## Santa's Grotto

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## Nursery School Opening in Kempshott



We are excited to be opening in January 2020, 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday at Old Down Hall. Children aged 2-5 years are welcome to join our nursery, we have free places available for 15 and 30 hours funded sessions. We offer a range of sessions; mornings, afternoons (with or without lunch) or all day. Please see our website below for more information. Hot meals will be served daily at lunchtime.

We are a teacher led setting and our Director/Manager Clare Wilkins has over twenty years' experience working with children ages 3-11 in a variety of settings. She has been an Assistant Headteacher for ten years. Marika Groce our Deputy Manager has over fifteen years' experience managing early years settings and has a BA in Childhood Studies.

Our Ethos - To us, children are unique individuals rather than names on registers. We know that learning can only take place for children when they feel secure, valued and understood. Working in partnership with parents is vital to achieve the best for each child and we do this through daily feedback which can be in person, written down or online. We plan 'in the moment' so that your child is learning based on whatever they've chosen to interact with. This involves our skilled staff playing alongside your child and making the most of their natural curiosity.

There is an opportunity to meet us and see our setting in action on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 2-4pm when we will be holding a free Christmas craft afternoon.

Contact us for more information and a free home visit to meet our staff and hear more about our exciting new setting.

07900600243

[shootingstarsnurseryschool.co.uk](http://shootingstarsnurseryschool.co.uk)

[shootingstarsnurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:shootingstarsnurseryschool@gmail.com)

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