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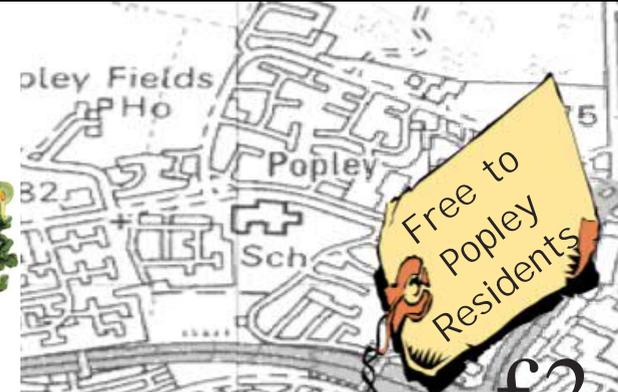


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POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

December 2019 Distribution of 5,400 Issue 214



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-12-19) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: The Popley Matters team wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I used to love Christmas including all the planning, buying Christmas presents, wrapping them up and hiding them (some were hidden so well I forgot where I had put them so it was a manic search to find them in time). But now all it seems is stress as I so want everything to be perfect, and now cooking a full Christmas dinner is a chore so I am breaking with tradition and having Christmas dinner across the road at The Apollo with my family. Just removing all that preparing, cooking and worst of all clearing away and washing up has gone and I am looking forward to Christmas day. Before that is it is some festive visits to

Melrose Hall for a Christmas dinner, page 14, and Christmas Family Party at Popley Fields page 6 and of course Everest OAPs' Christmas Lunch on the 6th from noon till 2pm and Christmas Fayre at St Gabriel's next day on 7th December. Page one is about the Popley Community Park consultation and a campaign our family fought for 45+ plus years. It was a waste dumping ground back then and used as a tip by residents and council landscape workers thick acrid smoke billowed across the roads. My late husband and I said "What a waste it, would make a great family park". We didn't know how we would manage it but we declared we would work till it was a good place for families to play and socialise together. My husband is last wishes were to look after Popley and get the park. Well this is the last stage; there is £406K to make it a great area for everyone so please respond and say what you would like to see in the park.

A new Memory club has started in Melrose Hall every Wednesday with two sessions or stay for the day, details on page 15. The club also needs some volunteers to help and there will be dementia training provided.

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.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Area Distribution Manager Jeremy Jackman Martin Biermann; Treasurer Christopher Martin; Proof Reader Lorraine Beaney.

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You should report a company to Trading Standards if, for example:

- they misled you into buying their products or services
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- they didn't carry out the work properly, for example, their work left your home in a dangerous state
- they sold you fake or counterfeit items
- they pressured you to buy something you didn't want to buy
- they sold you a car that wasn't 'roadworthy' (it would cause danger if it was on the road)

How to report a trader to Trading Standards

Call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline and tell them you want to report a trader to Trading Standards. The consumer helpline will assess your problem and pass it on to Trading Standards if it's appropriate.

Citizens Advice consumer helpline

Telephone: 03454 04 05 06
Textphone: 18001 03454 04 05 06
Telephone a Welsh-speaking adviser: 03454 04 05 05
Textphone a Welsh-speaking adviser: 18001 03454 04 05 05
Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Closed on bank holidays.

An adviser will answer your call as soon as possible, usually within a few minutes. Once you're speaking to an adviser your call should take an average of 8 to 10 minutes.

Be prepared to tell the adviser details of the problem and the company's name and address.

Call charges

We don't charge for calls to the consumer helpline. Your service provider could charge you for your call, but it should be free if either:

- your contract includes all calls to landlines
- you're within your free minutes allowance for calls to landlines

You might be charged if your contract doesn't include all calls to landlines or you've used all your free minutes. For example, a 10 minute call could cost:

- £1.73 from a BT landline - [find out more about BT call charges](#)
- £4.40 if you're an EE pay as you go customer - [find out more about EE call charges](#)

Check your supplier's website to find out what you'll be charged.

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

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



Basingstoke
and Deane

Help Shape Improvements to Popley Community Park

Residents and users of Popley Community Park are being asked to have their say on plans to improve the play equipment and park features at the popular open space.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is set to make £400,000 worth of improvements to the park in Popley Way thanks to funding from developers' contributions.

The community park was first developed around 10 years ago. The additional funding provides an exciting opportunity to upgrade the facilities again and people are being asked to give their views on what new play equipment they'd like to see in the park and what features could be improved.

The responses received from the consultation will help shape the final design and work is expected to start on site early 2020.

Popley Community Park is a great neighbourhood facility and this S106 funding is a fantastic opportunity to expand the play facilities and make further improvements. It's really important that local people help to shape these improvements to ensure it continues to be a well-used and much loved local park.

Give your views online at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/popley-park> or by filling in a form available from Melrose Community Hall by Sunday 15 December 2019.



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Upcoming Dates

Annual OAPs' Christmas Lunch—Friday 6th December

Term Ends—Friday 13th December

Start of Term after Christmas—Monday 6th January

Year 9 Parents Evening—Thursday 30th January



We would like to wish all the readers of Popley Matters a very happy Christmas.

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.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 10th of November our deputy Head Boy (Renars) and Head Girl (Bethany) attended the Remembrance Day service held at the War Memorial Park in Basingstoke, where they laid a wreath on behalf of the whole academy.

As well as the Remembrance Day service, Everest also held a two minutes silence in honour of the fallen in World War I and World War II and more recent conflicts. No matter where we were in the school we all stopped to think about the brave men and women whose lives were taken during these awful times of war.



CONTACTS

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

**YOUR LOCAL
 ROTARY
 ROUNDUP**

Rotary Shoebox Thank you

A huge thanks to all who contributed shoeboxes for our annual appeal. More than 500 shoeboxes full of toys and warm gloves and hats etc. are on their way to under privileged children abroad

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER 2019

Teams from our club will be in action prior to Christmas providing hands-on support to:

St Michael's Hospice Light up a Life event on December 1st 6.00pm This event gives individuals and families the opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one or someone special. The special commemorative service offers time to reflect and share memories with those closest to us. See the Hospice website for further info.

And on 18th December just to get you in the Christmas spirit, **Basingstoke Samaritans** will hold their fundraising Carol Concert at the United Reform Church, London Street, Basingstoke RG21 7NU 7.30pm, (until about 9.00pm) £7 per ticket includes mulled wine and mince pie. A great festive evening with lots of chance to join in the singing

A date for your diary

HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES ARE IN TOWN

**ANVIL 26th January
 2020, 3.00pm**



It is a real privilege to welcome the 48 strong full concert band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines for their annual visit to Basingstoke.

The RM band of HMS Collingwood will be accompanied by the Royal Corps of Drums and everyone's favourite - The Chelsea Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea. In recent years we have been entertained with themes from the movies, including Star Wars and James Bond, as well as Big Band music, popular music and good old fashioned patriotic tunes known by all generations. Unashamedly patriotic, a fabulous concert!

Tickets available from The Anvil Box Office.

A great Christmas present for that hard to buy for person

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35men & 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. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

County Councillor Report: I wish everyone a very happy Christmas time and a Happy New Year.

I reported that the manhole covers in front of Abbey Road shops were raised and a serious trip hazard. After some considerable time it has been established they are SSE responsibility and have been reported to them for repair.

With the onset of the cold weather and predictions that it will be one of the coldest winters can I remind residents that the salt bins are not for personal use on your own property and are to there to keep roads. If your nearest grit bin is empty you can report it online on the Hampshire County Council website or phone them.

At the last Hampshire County Council meeting was the mid-term financial report and proposed yet further cuts to just about every department, with adult and children's services taking the biggest blow. Myself and Cllr Michael Westbrook voted against this and you can see Mike's speech via the HCC website. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: seasons greetings to you all. As you can see on page 1, after more than 45 years of campaigning, the Popley Community Park will be a great place for families to use please read it and pass on your ideas and comments so the £406K of developer grant can be spent giving everyone a park to enjoy. There is a link on Basingstoke and Deane Council website that will give you details and the chance to respond to the consultation, or you can contact Paul or me (details at the end of this report).

We should be hearing from the officer soon about the report for extending parking provisions in part of Marnel Park.

The service from Serco continues to miss bins, put bins in the middle of paths and across dropped kerbs. The administration maintain the service is improving and I have strongly refuted this. Please use the website, phone or email to complain if you have a problem.

We have had some hatch markings put in areas where drivers repeatedly park across dropped kerbs.

The post office for Abbey Road has been held up by the Post Office and not be opened till January. We are all very disappointed about this as many of us send cards and parcels and it means journeys probably into town now.

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

Popley East: First, can we offer all residents in Popley East and throughout Popley generally our seasonal greetings and hope that 2020 turns out to be a happy and healthy year for everyone. It's been a very busy year for us as local Councillors for Popley East and it's fair to say that our casework has increased throughout the year. We aren't able, for obvious reasons, to say too much about the personal problems we try to assist with on a regular basis during the year and generally we are only able to highlight the main issues we deal with.

A couple of updates for information:

Chineham House should be completed and ready for occupation during December 2019 providing ten units for rent. The local lettings policy, we have agreed should operate, will see priority given to local Popley people living in the area and working in key public services.

Work has started on the Special Education Needs school in Shakespeare Road.

It has been recognised that the demand for special education provision exists and is growing and this school will assist with this and hopefully support other education establishments in the area.

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



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.

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.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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RG24 9BP

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert - in Aid of Parkinson's UK – Basingstoke Group

The annual concert of BMVC will take place on 14th December. This year the programme features an eclectic selection of songs from our 2019 repertoire with some Christmas numbers thrown in to celebrate the festive season. The choir will be supported by 'TAKE NOTE' - an acappella group formed in 2018 by Carolyn Robson and based in Farnham. We shall also have soloist Hannah Melrose featuring in the programme. Audience participation is also catered for – come and join us to celebrate the festive season.

The concert will take place at the **United Reformed Church, London Street on Saturday, 24th December at 7:30PM.**

This is a great opportunity to see the Basingstoke Male Voice Choir in action and also to support a great charity locally.

Santa is Coming to Town

A brand new Santa float, built by the Rotary Club of Basingstoke will be coming to a street near you in the first two weeks of December.

On weekdays with effect from Monday 9th and Monday 16th December the Santa float will be visiting the Basingstoke area as shown below. Raising monies for local charities and giving children a thrill as well as giving all the family a Christmas sight and entertaining them with traditional carols, the Basingstoke Rotary Santa float will be out and about between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm.

Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th in Oakley.

Thursday 12th Oakridge.

Monday 16th Hatch Warren.

Wednesday 18th Popley.

Friday 20th Chineham.

Wednesday 11th Hatch Warren.

Friday 13th Chineham.

Tuesday 17th Lychpit.

Thursday 19th Lychpit.



Make a note – don't miss this Christmas cheer.

See our website at www.basingstoke.rotary1110.org

Josh's Halloween Foodbank Collection

I just want to say a huge thank-you to every single person that donated to my Halloween food bank collection this year and all previous years. This year was my third year running, I had a great time and was so happy to see the community come together to donate!

Overall the donations weighed up to 143kg! That is beyond incredible. I'm so happy to be in a neighbourhood where everyone is so helpful and supportive. Again, a massive thank-you to all of you, give yourself a pat on the back.

I'm already planning on continuing this event next year! Same location (Appleton Drive park) and the time (5:30-7:30pm). If this does change I'll let you all know closer to the time, I mean there is a whole year to go, lol.

Thank-you everyone for the support! I couldn't have done this without you. 😊❤️

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Christmas Family Party

**Saturday 14th December
2-4pm**

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£2 per adult, £1 per child**

**Fun filled afternoon of crafts, games, carols
and a visit from someone special!
Also Face painting, Tombola, Raffle and
Refreshments**

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e: office@popleyfields.org.uk
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Local Dance Teacher Wins British Title

Local Professional Dance Teacher and Examiner, David Smith, who runs his own local dance School 'David Smith Dance' in Chineham and Monk Sherborne Village Halls, has won the Blackpool British Title for Best Original Inventive Dance in Classical Sequence (Old Time). The competition was held on Monday 21st October in the famous Empress Ballroom in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

Along with his dance partner, Danielle Wallis, they called their winning dance which he choreographed the 'Grand Floridian Gavotte'.

This Gavotte has now been published and will now be danced all over the World in Sequence Clubs and Dance Schools.

If you would like to learn this beautiful Gavotte, contact David 07791 749163 or david@davidsmithdance.com.



Chineham Library

With Christmas fast approaching, the library is looking increasingly seasonal, and our activities will be reflecting the festive season. In addition, there will be a few extra Christmas activities. These include some activities and crafts to tie-in with the events being hosted by the Chineham Centre on Saturday 14th December, beginning at 10am. There are two bookable slime sessions costing £3 per child. Also, there will be the usual Christmas storytime, with the date still to be confirmed. For both adults and children there are displays to admire and Christmas books to borrow, so do come and appreciate these.

Our regular activities for children continue for most of the month, with rhymetimes taking place on Tuesdays for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. However, these will finish for the month on 17th December and then resume on the 7th January. Saturday crafts will take place on 7th December and 4th January, when you are invited to drop-in with your primary school age children between 10am and midday. Construction Club will continue every Saturday from 2 – 3.30pm, and also during the school holidays. Storytimes will take place on all other Saturdays at 11am. Chatterbooks will meet on Thursday 12th December from 3.45 – 4.45pm for their Christmas session. Code Club will resume on Tuesday afternoons in January to enquire about places please contact the library.

Age Concern will continue to offer tuition for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings in term time, from 10am. For further information contact their area office on 01256 423874. Additionally, on Wednesday mornings we host our drop-in social Cuppa and Chat sessions, which you are warmly invited to attend. These take place at 10.30am in the Acorn Room. Our general reading group has places available and meets on the last Saturday of the month at 10.30am. Further information is available from library staff.

Remember that if you are looking for a room to hire in Chineham the Acorn Room at the library has availability, including outside of opening hours. There is a reasonable hire charge starting at £7 per hour. For more information please contact us at Chineham.library@hants.gov.uk.

Chineham Library team wish you a very Happy Christmas. Cathy



What a fantastic year 2019 has been for Melrose Community Association. After 5 years of planning, fundraising, more fundraising, some more planning, building work and disruption, our extension and refurbishment project is finally complete! And what a difference it has made to our fantastic facility. Since our relaunch and celebration day in September we have been inundated with new hires, events and community groups!

September saw the launch of Isis out of school club. November was the launch of Pamela's Memory Club. Throughout November and December, Home Start hosted family cooking sessions. In January we have new puppy training classes, boxercise classes and a new community lunch club starting. Along with 4 fits sake adding extra classes on a Monday evening!

Melrose Community Association would like thank everyone who has played a part in our improvements this year, all our clients that continued to hold and attend groups, and all our neighbours, that have put up with the upheaval and disruption, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Office telephone 01256 420676

www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk

Over 55s Forum

This year is creeping up on us so quickly and it will soon be Christmas. I would like to say that the Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum have again had another very successful year with our maximum number of members (650) and a reserve list that seems to be growing each year. Our Celebration of the "International Day for Older People" Variety Show at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke on 28th September was our best ever show, with some 325 members and the general public attending. Not surprising as it is very good value just £6.00 per ticket which included tea and cakes, a record taking on the Grand Draw, it will be an hard act to follow for 2020.

We are now planning for 2020 to arrange guest speakers for our bi-monthly Open Forum meetings. Coach trips have been planned for most of 2020, it is exciting time ahead.

Our December Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke from 9.15am to 1.30pm.

That is all for now

Thanks,
Gerald.

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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

BEAVERS



Since the start of our new term in September, the Beaver Group has undertaken, coding, fishing at Eastrop Park, had a paramedic visit, where the Beavers were allowed on the ambulance, got their blood pressure taken and got to see what a paramedic does day to day.

We had a visit to the Police Investigation Centre at Viables, where we got to understand what police work is all about and what all the equipment is they carry with them. The Beavers were allowed to be locked in the police van, which they all loved of course. We got to see a police dog and have the lights and sirens going.

On a very wet Saturday in October we paid a visit to Paultons Park for the annual Hampshire County Beaver outing, despite the wet conditions the Beavers had fun going on all the rides and visiting the Halloween themed areas of the park.



We had an amazing Halloween Party with the Cubs where we had a Room of Doom which had potions to drink, Trick or Treat lucky dip and collect the blood veins with only your teeth.



Leading up to the Christmas break, we have Slimy Science, tie dye T-shirts, school visit and Knots, along with Christmas Crafts and finishing with a Christmas party all to look forward to.

We currently have spaces for new members in all sections, so if any of that takes your fancy, you are more than welcome to get in touch. More details can be found on our website at www.base2000.co.uk

To continue providing all these and more activities for all three of our sections we are in need of more adults to help out or even maybe to become Leaders. Full training is available for new Leaders, much of which can be done online in your own time. The only qualification needed, you must like working with kids and like having a bit of fun.

To find out more please contact...

Colin, on 07796 772500, email colink@base2000.co.uk

Douglas, on 07733 325498, email nikau@thescoutingpages.org.uk

Dear Readers,

Welcome to festive December. Within a few rushed weekends, the big day will finally be upon us.

For this merry season, I would like to share with you two short, free-verse poems:

<p>Christmas</p> <p>It comes and goes every year It's personal for all those dear The haters, the lovers and the tolerant The sparkly warm chaos of gifts, wreathes, baubles, and candles Ornate the house and gardens Around the tallest of evergreens or the littlest of Christmas trees Embrace the spirit of kindness and forgiveness Denounce the meaningless and the extravagance For the reason of this season is to cherish those near and dear.</p> <p>~ vina r</p>	<p>Shining Star</p> <p>Raise a glass to the heavenly untimely taken and unjustly snatched To those who took a thousand breaths To those who never birthed For they were loved, they are loved and forever loved We will rise, raise & rejoice with you in our thoughts We will cherish the good memories and make new stories gathered around the Christmas tree.</p> <p>~ vina r</p>
---	--

Vina R

Resident of Marnel Park



Well December is now upon us and we at the MHA office have been very busy organising all the activities and trips for over the Christmas period and the planning for events and activities for next year are now in full swing. We are planning lots of exciting new adventures for our ever growing groups. But just a few hints that I will reveal: the group will have some great day trips, including a Weymouth beach trip, Longleat, D Day Museum, and even a canal boat trip with cream tea. On top of this myself and my manager will be braving the 15,000 feet tandem skydive. I certainly know the skydive buzz, I can't wait to do my second jump raising funds for our own Live at Home group. This goes to reducing the cost of the day trips and activities.

We are always looking out for members of the public to help with our growing activities and befriending service. If you have a few hours spare a week or month and would like to give something back to our community than please think about becoming a volunteer with us.

Loneliness and isolation is sadly increasing within our community. Many reasons cause this from someone retiring, loss of family or friends though illness. I have witnessed many of our members thrive within our group and making new friends and joining in and helping others.

If you know of a family member or friend or even neighbour that could benefit from our activities or befriending service please get in contact with myself at or contact me on my work mobile on 07720680403.

If you have an elderly neighbour please check in on them over the Christmas period.

One last word from the team at MHA for this year Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Maybe we will see you at some time as you come to join in our activities or volunteering for

Dear Friends

As you're wandering around the shops, listening to the radio or watching TV this month no doubt at some point the lyrics of those all too familiar Christmas songs will worm their way so deeply into your mind until you wake up humming or singing at least one of them over and over again! For example: "It's Christmas time; there's no need to be afraid. At Christmastime, we let in light and we banish shade. And in our world of plenty we can spread a smile of joy. Throw your arms around the world at Christmas time." "A very Merry Christmas, and a happy new year. Let's hope it's a good one, without any fear.!" or "So here it is merry Christmas, everybody's having fun, look to the future now, It's only just begun!"

Set alongside the traditional Christmas carols that we'll also be singing there is clearly an overriding theme in all these songs that speaks of a hope for the future; for ourselves, our families and for the world in which we live.

Where does this hope come from? Is it just rooted in this season of peace on earth, goodwill towards men, something to be put away once January arrives and things get back to 'normal' whatever that is or means! The past year has seen some seismic political upheaval through the continuing saga of Brexit and the election of a new government and prime minister (whoever that may turn out to be!). Images of the plight of refugees striving to find a better life only to lose it in the back of refrigerated lorry have brought home the terrible anguish and suffering of other human beings and for so many there is still the stress and anxiety of daily living highlighted recently in the Children in Need campaign which last year raised an astonishing £50.6m!

Sadly history is littered with the human debris of conflict, division, war, poverty and disease so it is no wonder that we long to hear a message of hope. Hope for the future, hope for humankind and when we do hear it, doesn't it bring a good, good feeling with it?

I believe that as humankind we lack the capacity for permanent change. It seems to me that there is an essential need in the human spirit to fill a gap, to search out something that's gone missing! A gap we try to fill with all sorts of harmful things! I know of only one way ~~for~~ that gap! A message is broadcast throughout the year, but especially so now, at this time! It is the message of a Saviour, born in a stable 2,000 years ago, born for you and for me, born the Son of God! Our God is not a God who stands far off watching us wallow in ~~st~~ suffering and pain, He is a God of compassion and care who took the only course of action he could – He rolled up His sleeves and got stuck in with us to show us how that hope we all sense can become a reality. If you have young children why not check out this link on YouTube. A wonderful retelling of God's story.

When you're singing those Christmas songs or carols, listen to the words! What are they saying to you? May God richly bless you and yours this Christmas time and throughout the coming year and may you know the peace of the Christ-child.

Your friend and vicar
Arthur
St Gabriel's, December 2019
www.stgabrielspopley.net
01256 324734



Leave a Gift to Charity in Your Will

Whilst many Christmas presents will be forgotten as soon as they have been unwrapped, there is a festive gift that can make a big difference – leaving a legacy to a charity.

Recent newspaper reports show that in Britain we are certainly a nation of generous givers with £2.85 billion being left to charity last year.

Among the top beneficiaries are Cancer Research UK, the British Heart Foundation and the RNLI.

Caroline Wallis, who heads the Wills and Probate team at Phillips said: “Legacies in Wills can make an enormous difference in helping charities to continue their good work and what a wonderful way to ensure that your legacy lives on after you’ve gone.”

“Donations can be as small or as large as you wish, as every gift makes a difference. In fact, a gift made to a UK charity is inheritance tax free.”

“An important benefit to consider is that this can reduce the amount of tax paid by the rest of your estate, resulting in your family getting the most of their inheritance.”

Caroline added: “If you are looking to leave money to a charity you may well consider one or more of our many local charities such as such as Pelican Cancer Foundation, which happens to be Phillips Solicitors’ current chosen charity, or the Ark Cancer Centre Charity and St Michael’s Hospice.”

For help in leaving a charitable legacy, or for any other Wills and Probate issues, please contact Caroline Wallis on 01256 854637 or email her at caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk

Information about the wide range of legal services offered by Phillips can be found at www.phillips-law.co.uk.



6th Basingstoke Boys’ Brigade Newsletter



During November we held our annual badge presentation night; an evening filled with games, food and finished with awarding the young people their achievements. The great thing about the night was that everyone had badges presented to them, congratulations to all our young people.

Ho, ho, ho. It’s that time of year again, the Christmassy-ist Christmas Quiz to hit Basingstoke is here, the 6th Basingstoke Boys’ Brigade “**Merry Quizmas**” is being held on the 9th December. Come and enjoy a fun night of challenging Christmas trivia and a slap up Christmas roast with all the trimmings. Whether you’re coming solo or in a team, all are welcome. Entry to the quiz and dinner are included in the small fee of £5 each. Tea, coffee and juice will be supplied. **To help us make enough food for everyone, please let us know your numbers in advance of the night.**

Another thing we do for the Christmas Quiz is a raffle but we need your help. We need donations/prizes to raffle off, can you help? Please give Mark a call or email him on the details below. Thanks!!!

We’re recruiting?

We are looking for new members to join both our age groups, 5-10 and 10-18yo. If you’d like to see what we are about come for a taster session on a Monday evening, 6:15 - 7:15pm (5-10yo) and 7:00-9:00pm (10-18yo). Contact us on **07775 535434** or drop us an email at **6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com**.

Basingstoke Ladies’ Choir (BLC) Christmas Concert 2019

Please come and join us for our Christmas Concert where we will perform a variety of festive songs as well as enjoying some traditional carol singing. We will also share our concert with “A Splash of Red” - a wonderful Choir from Fairford, Gloucestershire. We shared a concert with them earlier in 2019 and could not wait to invite them to Basingstoke. The concert is on Saturday 14th December All Saints Church, Southern Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DX, at 7 pm. Tickets are £5 each and are available from Margaret Allen on 01256 325457 or email (some on the door). The concert will raise funds for BLC’s chosen charity, Home Start North West Hampshire who provide support to families of Basingstoke.

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Our MFC Popley Youth U9s Jaguars are doing really well, playing with determination and grit. As a development team that started from scratch this season they are holding their own and doing well. Pete, their coach, would like to express how pleased he is with the boys' progress.

The Committee would like to thank everyone involved with MFC Popley Youth for all their hard work throughout the year and would also like to thank volunteers, players, parents, spectators and wider community too.

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



With the festive period in full swing there are, I hope, plenty of opportunities for celebration. Unfortunately this time of year also presents opportunities for criminal activity. As a result I would like to leave residents with some basic crime prevention advice. Basingstoke police wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

When Shopping:

- Make sure your handbag is closed so a pickpocket would find it difficult to get into without you knowing.
- Never leave a bag unattended in a trolley, even if for a couple of seconds.
- Try to keep wallets in an inside pocket and out of sight from a potential pickpocket.
- When entering your PIN number at a terminal ensure no one can see you enter it.
- Try to pay for items on a debit card rather than carrying large amounts of cash. If

this is not possible keep cash to a minimum.

- Before you leave your car, ensure all windows and doors are closed and locked.
- Avoid leaving your purchases and presents in your vehicle. If you must make sure they are not on display, store in the boot, and make sure the car is locked.
- Think about the item you are buying someone - are there any security products you could purchase to help them keep it safe? I.e. if buying a bike think about also giving an accredited D lock.

At Cashpoints:

- If you see someone suspicious hanging around, cancel the transaction and use another cashpoint.
- Before inserting your card have a look at the machine to check it looks normal.
- When entering your PIN number, make sure others around cannot see.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Only withdraw what you reasonably need.
- Put your money and your cards away safely before leaving the machine.

At Home:

- 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. 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- Signs of occupation help deter intruders.
- Check you have locked all doors, windows and skylights. If you have an alarm, ensure it is activated.
- Inform trusted neighbours and ask if they will keep an eye on your property for you and collect your post.
- Use timer switches on lamps and radios so it looks as though you are home.
- Remember to cancel any deliveries such as milk and newspapers.

If you are out for the evening:

- Drink sensibly and stay with your friends.
- Plan in advance how you will get home.
- Save the number of a licensed taxi firm in your mobile phone. Always check the driver's identification and never get into an unlicensed taxi. Text the licence plate number to a friend.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers or leave your drink unattended.
- Whether you are male or female, avoid walking alone, and never take short cuts through dark alleys or large open spaces.
- Keep your belongings with you, and your valuables out of sight.
- Never leave your bag hanging over a chair or personal items left unattended.
- Don't drink or drug drive, remember you may still be over the limit the morning after a big night out.



We were incredibly proud to have been part of the Remembrance Day Service held on Sunday 10th November in the War Memorial Park in Basingstoke. Our Head Boys and Head Girls had the great honour of laying our school's wreath and paying our respects to those who have fought for our country.

As part of our work in school, every child created a small piece of artwork and these have all been put together to form a memorial plaque (below).



School continues to be busy in the run up to Christmas and we will continue to share our adventures and work with you all.



Our new website is now up and running and is regularly updated with news, events and photos of our successes and achievements – please do take a look.

Romsey Close, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9HB
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"I just love the feeling I got on Xmas Day when my Homestart family texted me, knowing that I am making a difference to them".... HSNWH Volunteer

"I was looking forward to the course but it was even better than I'd expected. Interesting views, lovely people and new friendships".... HSNWH Volunteer

We need volunteers to support families in the Community- YOU can make a difference to someone's life

This voluntary work is unpaid but is highly rewarding and out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. Volunteers are required to attend a 40 hour preparation course spread over 7 weeks starting January 2020 dates TBC

INTERESTED? Contact us

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Email: info@homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk
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Basingstoke and Deane

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council would like to hear your views on its draft Council Plan to ensure the borough continues to be a great place to live over the next four years and budget proposals to support this.

The draft Council Plan for 2020 to 2024 sets the key priorities for the council over the next four years and into the future.

With a focus on putting residents at the heart of everything the council does, four priorities have been developed – strengthening communities, protecting and enhancing our environment, improving safety and planning for the future.

Supporting the Council Plan, proposals for a balanced budget for 2020 to 2021 aim to protect services that residents value.

To do this, proposals include a £5 average increase for the borough's part of the Council Tax and a 3% average increase in fees and charges to help pay for the cost of optional services the council offers.

Over the last 11 years £13.7 million in savings have been made without cutting services, with the borough council continuing to look at how it can run more efficiently.

Further savings of £1.42 million have been identified in 2020/21, increasing to £1.82 million by 2023/24.

Executive Director of Finance and Resources said: "Residents give the area a 94% satisfaction rating however the council is not complacent. Based on what people and businesses have said matters to them, this draft plan sets priorities that put residents at the heart of the council's future plans.

"This is supported by the council's proposals to deliver a balanced budget for 2020 to 2021.

"As residents, businesses and partner organisations are key to the success of these plans, the council would like to hear from a range of people to help shape its proposals."

To give your views on our Council Plan and budget proposals, please go to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/priorities. Feedback from the consultation, which runs until Wednesday 1 January at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/priorities, will be considered before final decisions on the Council Plan and budget are taken at a meeting of council in February 2020.

If you require information in an alternative format, such as paper, please contact the council by emailing customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk or by calling 01256 844844.

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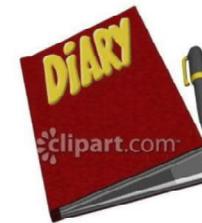
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Pamela's Memory Club

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contact Jean Holmes-Morris at
jeanholmes12@gmail.com or text 07877538426.