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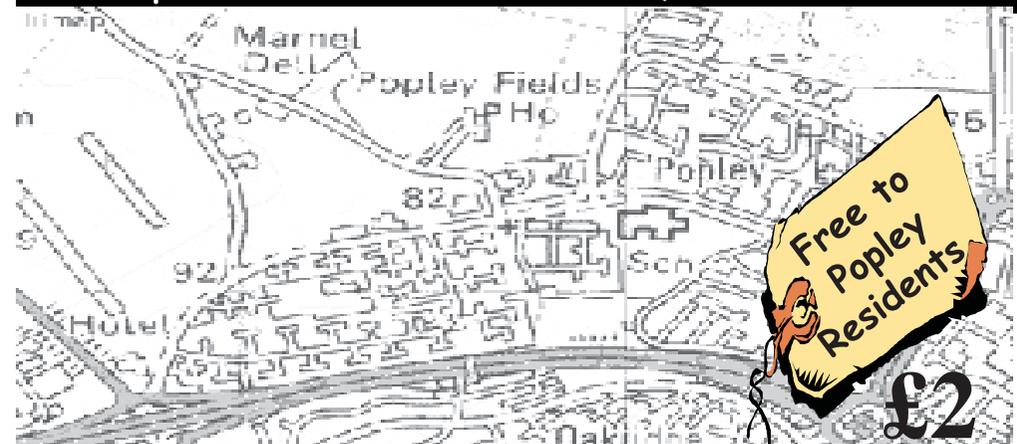
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POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

September 2014 Distribution of 5,100

Issue 151



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-9-14) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-September, and a month of big changes in many households in Popley as the new school year begins; new teachers and, for the students moving up to new schools. Everest Community Academy has a new Head Teacher - we wish him well and hope he helps to lead our young residents into great futures.

Perhaps you might like to start anew with a new hobby or perhaps volunteer. On page 27, Age Concern are asking for computer whizzes to help others to understand and use modern technology. Melrose Hall committee want people to get involved and help to run and expand the community facilities in Popley. The notice of the Annual General Meeting is on page 7. The Workers Educational Association have some interesting courses; read about them on page 23. On page 11 there is information on careers advice with a chance to meet some local employers and maybe have a new beginning in your life. Basingstoke Neighbourcare need drivers and befrienders. They are a great organisation; read about it on page 13. Congratulations Harry on winning a prize in The Sun. The hours of work in his small garden certainly was worth it. Read about it on page 1. Popley has some very talented people. We are hoping to have a regular letters page but we need you to write to us. Contact us on editor@popleymatters.org.uk

If you want to contact Popley Matters you can write to Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9EL or email editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Matters.

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Dear Readers,

Sorry for not writing last month, I was revising for my end of year tests and rehearsing like mad for the Music Festival with the Steel Pan Band (we came 4th). I'd also been on my end of year treat to Thorpe Park as I finished in the top 10 (1st) for my Year group in the points and had also been getting ready for my next dance competition. I qualified for Blackpool in Ballroom and Latin coming 2nd and 1st. I was really really happy as it was only my second Junior Competition.

As I write, I am halfway through the summer holidays and have done lots of fun things that I have really enjoyed doing. One of my favourites was our trip to London.

We travelled up to Paddington on the train and walked from there to the museums. We walked to Kensington Gardens where we found a nice spot under the shade of a tree as it was a boiling hot day and we had our lunch looking at the fountains. We then carried on our walk to Exhibition Road where all the museums are. First stop was the Science Museum. My favourite part was the Medical Science Level as I'd like to be a children's nurse. It showed us what hospitals and medical scenes from earlier periods from the Romans and Celts to now looked like. Me and my dad found it really fascinating.

When we'd finished, we went next door to the Natural History museum. The first thing you come to is the volcano section where you go up a big escalator up into a big replica of the earth. There was lots of information about volcanoes from how and where they form and the different types. There was also a shop where you could experience what it was like when there was an earthquake.

We wandered all around the museum and saw lots of fossils and the statue of Charles Darwin. My brother's favourite bit was of course the T-Rex. Unfortunately I didn't see it as there was a massively long queue (I'm not a very patient person).

We have also been to The Living Rain Forest which is not far from here. It was amazing! There were two sections inside, one part had all the tropical plants and flowers and the other part (and my favourite) had a lot of animals as well as plants. There were lots of different animals. The toucan made me laugh, as the keeper went in the enclosure to wipe down the branches and the male toucan jumped onto the bucket and wouldn't let the keeper have the bucket back. It sounded like the toucan was laughing. There were turtles and one of them had managed to climb up on a rock and tucked it's legs inside and then slid down the rock. They had some water dragons that just wander around and we spotted one by the big pond. Every time my little sister stuck her tongue out at it like she was catching flies, it kept running away from her. We saw a sloth, well a little bit of him as he was so high up and tucked away in the leaves. I'd definitely recommend it especially when you can go back as many times as you like as your ticket lasts a year.

I hope you all have had a great holiday and that the good weather carries on when we go back to school.

Until next month

Ellie
X

Popley Garden Wins Gardening Award from Sun Newspaper

What a surprise when I saw in a national newspaper a photo with my neighbour in his back garden. Harry won first prize for his vegetable "patch" in his small 10ft by 16ft Abbey Road garden. I lost count of the many varieties of vegetables from tomatoes, runner beans, spinach, onion, French beans and more!

There are vegetables in half hanging baskets, in raised beds and even on the roof of his garden shed. Harry has been cultivating it for 7 years, he has not had to buy vegetables for years and he and the family enjoy eating the fresh produce that is picked, cooked and on the table in minutes.

Harry won £150 voucher for seeds so next year's crop looks like being even better with even more varieties to grow and enjoy.



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Diaries from the Old Codger.

Well September has come around so fast this year, mind you every year you get older so does time. To think that we are in the second month of WW1 and as they all said on both sides the war would end that Christmas. Boy, were they wrong on that. The Old Basing British Legion put on a very good display and I was pleased to see that Dr Cllr Paul Harvey attended. Well done to the British Legion for all the hard work they put in to this commemoration. I am telling people that it was Her Indoors that kicked my walker away from me and it ended up with two bones chipped in my foot. It would have been better for a break as they tell me it is going to take six weeks to start to feel better. Her Indoors is loving seeing the pain as she slaps the ice packs on. Why is it you always feel you need a wee when it happens but can't move? It's my good leg so can't rest it as I should and I can't use crutches either.

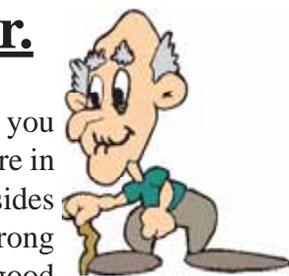
We have just had a Facebook message as I write this to say my brother in Australia has gone into hospital after a heart attack and needs open-heart surgery. All our family in the UK are thinking of him and his family. They told him he would be six hours under the knife.

More sad news for us was that our young grandson is moving away and I think, due to the distance, I will not be able to see him unless he visits me. Thank goodness for Facetime and Skype. We will miss him charging through the door with yet another school project he wants help with.

Last month I told you I wanted to raise money for the Royal British Legion. My poem "Just One Seed" is now on display at Milestone's Museum so please go along and see how it all looks.

Back to Her Indoors, I am trying to keep out of her way at the moment, that is why I am at the computer doing Popley Matters. As soon as I go back to the lounge I know the ice is on it's way. Finally back to the poem, I would like to thank Jane as I needed a title for it. She was of great help. Well, Her Indoors did as well but I won't mention that. I hope you enjoy the rest of the holidays, and kids, do your best when you go back to school and no one can ask for anything more.

The Old Codger



Councillors Page: There is a public consultation on improvements to the A340. To take part in the survey, visit hants.gov.uk/transport-schemes-index, by 26 September. Comments that are received during the consultation period will be used as part of a planning application for the scheme and, if approved, work on the project could begin in autumn 2015.

We continue to press for the areas where broadband is slow. Cabinet 92 is due to be connected by December. Your Labour team are also pushing for cabinet 102 for Everest and The Glaciers. The more people ask for the upgrade the more likely it is that it will be progressed.

I was very disappointed to hear that the County Council Cabinet approved the massive cuts to so many services. It will affect residents from the homeless to the alarms that vulnerable adults wear to call for help if they are in difficulties or a fall. They will now have to pay and, with other cuts many people with only a small budget, will be having to decide which bill to pay. It could be heating or eating.

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Popley West: I met with the residents of Sommerville Gardens in the newest of the developments as their borough councillor. The MP and their County Councillor also attended to hear of their very real and many complaints with the developer. We are setting up a meeting in September with the developer to hopefully get some fast actions and explanations.

The expansion to Merton Schools is well under way and we hope that the new facilities for the pupils will help them with their future lives.

We were also approached with regard to Sentinel's massive up to 23% rise in garage rents, this despite the need for the overdue repairs. Cllr Paul Harvey has taken this up with us for Norden and other wards too.

There is some grant money available to the borough and Popley is due a large part of this to help compensate for all the developments. We are working with residents and officers to improve the community facilities. We will let you know how things progress' it is early stages as yet.

If you have concerns or issues you want to talk to us about please contact us on

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: After a few false starts due to leaks, the paddling pool at Chineham Park was finally opened in time for the summer holidays. The park has always been popular with young families and especially so this year due to the great weather. We hope by using S106 play and open space contributions the park can be further improved. We are currently talking with officers at B&DBC and hope to have a public consultation later this year. The council is now running an evening bus service into Popley East as part of a pilot, following feedback from residents about the lack of this type of service. The nine month pilot will run from Friday 1 August until Saturday 25 April 2015. Services will operate from approximately 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays to and from the bus and rail stations.

The success of the pilot will then determine whether it is possible to continue this service in the future.

After struggling with slow and at times unusable broadband, residents in Everest Park are campaigning for a faster broadband service. More information can be found on the website fibre.everestpark.org.uk.

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088.

Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801.

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Popley Explorers Pre-school meet Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 3pm. They also do a breakfast club, for full details ring Elaine on 363156.

We also have lots of exciting things going on in the evenings!

Monday night is keep fit and kick boxing from 6.30 until 8pm and kick boxing again on a Thursday night from 7 until 8.30pm. Come along and join in the fun.

Tuesday night is BINGO NIGHT! Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm. New members are welcome. Come along, meet and make new friends. Refreshments are also available and it finishes around about 10pm.

Wednesday evening is Dance to the Beat 5.30-7pm, for details ring Miss Lackey on 321160. 6 Step is a new dance class that is on from 7.15 -8pm.

If you like to dance we have Street dance and ballet classes on Thursdays, for ages ranging from two and a half year olds to adults, 4.30 until 5.30pm. For full details contact Samantha on 07811299484.

On a **Friday** night come along and join the Friday Club (children). From 5-6.30pm.

The hall is also available to hire for parties at reasonable rates for details ring Janet on 363156.

WE HOPE EVERY ONES HAVING A GREAT BREAK
 SEE YOU ALL BACK IN SEPTEMBER.

South Ham Library

South Ham Library now has a Learning Suite available for hire. We have a new collection of Adult Playaways – these are all-in-one audiobooks – no tapes or CDs required. Listen with earphones or plug straight into your home or car audio system.

To commemorate 100 years of the First World War we are holding an event “Great War Fashion”. What ordinary women wore in extraordinary times. Join Lucy Adlington for a moving and amusing in context presentation on 13th October, 2pm, Admission is £3 and includes light refreshment.

South Ham Library, Paddock Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6QB. Booking Line 01256 336047

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And on the evening of 20th September we are celebrating European Day of Languages at Christ Church, Chineham. There will be international food and entertainment (incl. a quiz, dancing and a raffle). Tickets cost £25 per family, £10 per adult, £5 per child and must be purchased in advance.

For further information e-mail:
info@linguatastic.com or tel: **811100**

Naomi House Event

We're also delighted to announce another Charity Quiz Night, kindly hosted by The Hampshire Court Hotel, on Thursday 30th October 2014

Entry is £10 per head for teams of up to 6 people, and includes a hot supper. The evening also includes a raffle and spot prize round. Booking forms available from Tina.Starbuck@naomihouse.org.uk

For more information about this and other Naomi House events, please visit our website: www.naomihouse.org.uk or call on 01962 843513

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NORMAN EMBERSON (UK) *drums*

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Helping the Basingstoke Stroke Support Group



THERE are still a few places left for the coming season at MFC Popley Youth, FA Charter Standard Club Of The Year for Hampshire.

If your child is going to be Year R or Year 1 in September, contact Sophie Yadegar, All Stars Coach, on 07896 708 252. If your child is going into Year 2, Warwick Sear Jarvis (07501 079 595) is the main to talk to, for Year 3 and Year 4 it is Ian Davies (07884 185 693), and for Year 8 it is Glenn Taylor on (07775 870 929).

The Club is holding free training sessions until the end of August.

MFC staged two highly successful open sessions at Everest last month with almost 100 children attending and recently sent its goal keepers on a two-day intensive training course with Matthew Winter, specialist goal keeping coach.

In October the Club has been selected to host a CPD event for Hampshire FA - the Club simply goes from strength to strength.

Volunteer enquiries: volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Allstars Recruitment: Allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

You can also get regular updates from the club by following our twitter account, @MFC_PopleyYouth. Also, each MFC Popley Youth age group has a dedicated page on Facebook.

Club Chairman & Secretary:

Ian Davies

Mob: 07884 185693

Email: ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk

Vice Chairman & Treasurer:

Glenn Taylor

Mob: 07775 870929

Email: g.taylor29@hotmail.co.uk

Club Welfare Officer & Minutes

Secretary:

Nicci Gambrell

Mob: 07990 520956

Email: mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk

Are You a Computer Whiz?

Age Concern Hampshire is appealing for volunteer tutors and coordinators to deliver basic computer skills training to people aged 50 and over in the local area.

Lifelong Learning Courses take place at local libraries and community centres and are tailored to individual needs and focus on making technology easier to understand, providing valuable experience of computer applications that are becoming essential to everyday life.

They include the use of laptop, desktop, iPad and tablet computers, as well as popular social applications such as Skype, Facebook, email, online banking and internet shopping.

Volunteers support clients with their learning on a 1-1 basis, giving them an hour's tuition per week for up to eight weeks and should ideally be prepared to make an ongoing commitment.

For more information and to apply, please email andrea.saunders@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk or call Freephone 0800 328 7154.



Is Your Business Protected?

As the UK economy is recovering, many business owners may now be thinking about securing premises to run their business from but there are many things to consider when leasing a commercial property; amongst them is the issue of insurance.

It is common practise for a landlord under the terms of a lease to take on responsibility for insuring a building or an estate as a whole, leaving the tenant to insure their own contents and fixtures and fittings. However, there are a number of points to consider that will ensure your business premises are adequately covered;

- Is the building or estate to be insured for its full reinstatement value? If the insured sum is to be set at the landlord’s discretion, there is the possibility of a landlord ‘under insuring’ which means there would not be enough funds available to reinstate the building or estate in the event of damage.
- What risks are covered? Are you as a tenant able to ask for additional risks to be covered which specifically relate to your business operations?
- Does the lease provide for damage for an uninsured risk, such as flooding or terrorism? Look for a suspension of your repairing obligation and early termination provisions in these circumstances.
- Will annual rent and service charge be suspended in the event of damage by an uninsured risk?
- Will your repairing obligation be suspended in the event of damage by an insured risk?
- Can the insurer set specific requirements linked to your business use, such as the storage of controlled drugs for a veterinary clinic?

At Phillips we understand that your focus needs to remain on the growth and success of your business, which is why we work with you to understand your business needs and provide quality legal advice to protect your interests, while you work to achieve your business goals. For more information on how we can help contact Kathryn Johns, Commercial Property Solicitor, at Phillips on 01256 460830 or email kjohns@phillips-law.co.uk.



We will be holding our annual Annual General Meeting on Monday 15th September at 7.00pm. So if you are interested in becoming part of our committee or have a few hours a month to spare to help in the garden or with our groups do come along and find out more.

WHATS ON IN September:

- MONDAY:** 10.00am-12.00pm Popley NCT Bumps and Babies – NEW!!!
AFTERNOON AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
 5.30-6.45pm NHS Quit smoking
 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 9.30-11.00am Popley Little People (closed for summer, back in Sept)
 4.00-6.00pm BVS Youth hub 11-13years
 6.30-8.00pm BVS Youth Hub 13+
AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
- WEDNESDAY:** 9.30am Slimming World
 12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
 5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** **AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**
- FRIDAY:** **DAYTIME HIRE AVAILABLE**
 6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
 8.00- 9.15pm age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9.00-4.00 7TH Day Adventist Church
 10am Sabath School – Bible Study
 11.30am Divine Worship
 1pm Free Community Lunch
 Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details
EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
- SUNDAY:** Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, conferences and regular groups. **Please ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@btconnect.com**

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Dear Friends

So, here I am sitting under canvas in a field on the outskirts of Swanage with a beautiful blue sky and a gentle, cooling breeze. Just a tad different from a couple of days ago when the tail end of Hurricane Bertha was passing over; then the the wind howled like a banshee and the tents look set fair to take to the skies! What am I doing here? Well, it's the annual Boys Brigade Camp, a no frills affair filled with activities and outings in and around The Jurassic Coast. Yesterday it was 'wet and wacky' at a huge swimming pool followed by an ad hoc game of football then a climb to the top of a local hill with spectacular views over the coastline. The food is excellent considering it's prepared and cooked in a field kitchen, three square a day and more!

It's my privilege to be padre to the Boys Brigade in Popley, who meet weekly on a Monday in St Gabriel's Church Hall from 6.15pm onwards. If you have a boy in the family aged from 6 - 16 and they love fun activities, sport, and friendship then may I encourage you to get them to come along and see for themselves just what being part of the BB means and how it can boost confidence and worth.

The boys also actively support St Gabriel's and are regulars at our monthly All Age Worship where they parade their standards. It's always good to flourishing community groups that encourage and grow our young people.

The Bible often highlights how much we are to value young people and to encourage them to grow to be good citizens and parents this what makes for good community. So we value groups like the Boys Brigade and the time, energy and creativity the leaders put in to make them a success, especially on ventures such as the annual camp.

Community is what the Christian faith is about too. Sharing a common belief in the death and resurrection of the man called Jesus Christ and his promise to renew all creation and bring it back into community with the creator God. In St Gabriel's we pray each day for our community through our daily prayer cycle, praying for two or three of the roads in and around the parish and praying for those who live in the homes on those roads. Just one of the things we do to support our wider community.

I'm really enjoying the camp again this year, there's lots of laughter, lots of games and lots of food. And it is so good to see everyone sharing the workload and caring for each other. What better way to spend a week! Praise God.

**Every blessing
Revd Arthur**

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Workers Educational Association

The WEA is the largest adult education provider in the United Kingdom but surprisingly many people living in North Hampshire have never heard of the organisation.

Both Basingstoke and Tadley branches have been running educational courses very successfully for many years. Those planned for the Autumn term are:

Basingstoke courses are held at the United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke

Shakespeare: Genius or Plagiarist? Using the texts of Richard III and Twelfth Night.

Tutor: Suzi Turner from Friday 3rd October for 9 weeks 10.30am – 12.00pm £54

The Arts and Crafts Movement – this course introduces the origins and practice of a nineteenth century movement founded on nature, morality and idealism.

Tutor: Janet Sinclair from Monday 20th October for 7 weeks 2 – 4pm £56

Tadley courses are held at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley

Literary London – exploring the works of such writers as Chaucer, Donne, Pepys,

Dickens, Betjeman, Eliot and others, we will study the London of their day.

Tutor: Val Pretlove from Friday 3rd October for 7 weeks 9.45 – 11.45am £56

For further information please contact Jan Smith 01189 832251 jancsmith@bopenworld.com or have a look at the WEA website www.wea.org.uk/southern Freephone 0800 328 1060

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Headquarters:
Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake 01256 410559

Scout section: Jean-Paul Keetch 07899 087 275

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 07790 018 171

The scouts had a night-hike followed by a 'sleepover' to end the summer session in July but the past few weeks have largely been ones of relaxation and refreshment for leaders as they take time-out to enjoy their own families and other interests before returning with renewed vigour for another term of fun-filled activities.



The Cub Pack will be taking part in District Camp at Downe Scout Activity Centre near Orpington in Kent in September.

Activities include abseiling, crate stacking, climbing, aerial trek runways, grass sledging and go carting.

New badges were introduced for all sections earlier in the year and it is expected that some will feature in programmes for the autumn session. They include Space Activity (finding out about solar activity and space missions), Disability Awareness, Photography, Gardening and a Fundraising badge when members are challenged to persuade people to donate a support a cause outside of Scouting. Chief Scout, Bear Grylls says: 'Throughout its 107-year history Scouting has continued to evolve: new badges make sure we are able to keep offering activities that educate and enthuse young people in equal measure.' We look forward to our members being amongst the first to wear these new badges.



Basingstoke East District Scouts has arranged to erect a climbing wall in Castle Square (by Primark and Wilkinsons) in the town centre on 18th October. Members of the public will be invited to take part and 'Climb-the-Wall'. Expert instruction and all equipment is provided. Cost is £4 for two climbs. 25% discount for Scouts, Beavers, Cubs and members of Scouting wearing a scout neckerchief on the day.

Weekly meetings start from 2nd September as the young people return to school. New recruits welcome – contact the leaders listed above or <http://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts>

Base 2000 is available for use by any community group at special rates for both 'one-off' and regular bookings. Childrens' parties and family gatherings welcomed. Hiring rates range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall to up to £12 per hour for the larger hall. Enquiries to bookings@base2000.co.uk or call Colin on 07796 772 500 / 01256 410559.

Charity number 267734

Headquarters registration number 42755



Do you remember a stand at Popley Festival 2013 with possible designs for the Dryden play area? People were asked to use coloured sticky spots to indicate ideas they liked and did not like. We are now pleased to see that the play area in the middle of the Poets

is open for use. This was another project showing what can be achieved when people get involved in their local community. Previous projects we were involved in includes the sculpture in the 'Dip', and the garden areas between the houses all over the estate.

Due to illness we were unable to organise any events for the summer break, but we will be involved with the Christmas event at Popley Fields Community Centre as we have for the last 2 years. If anyone would like to join us to help with organising events or even coming up with ideas we would be very happy to meet you. We can be found at Popley Fields Community Centre every Thursday from 11am to around 1.30pm with home-made cakes and plenty of chat. Even if you don't want to get involved with the group, do come to the centre and meet other local people over a coffee.

Julie Johnson, jjohn957@aol.com, 01256 816101

Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke & Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum is celebrating the "International Day for Older People" again this year, due to the resounding success of last years show.

We have employed the same theatre company, who will be staging the Lyric's & Laughter Show on Saturday 4th October 2014 at Aldworth School, Western Way, Basingstoke, 2 - 5pm. Tickets only £6 which includes tea and cakes. The Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane will open and close the show. Tickets can be purchased from BDBC Offices, Newbury Building Society (Festival Place). Age Concern, Oakridge Hall for All and myself on 07792535116 - e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com. Tickets have just gone on sale and there has been a good early response.

Free Careers Advice

On Wednesday 8 October, pop into the Discovery Centre, Festival Place and visit the Basingstoke Careers Fair for free information and advice. Drop in anytime from 12 - 2pm for a chance to:

- meet local employers and find out what they look for when they recruit
- get free 1-1 careers advice and discover the best places to look for local jobs
- ask an expert to show you how to make more successful job applications or review your CV
- attend a free workshop on making the right impression with potential employers

For more information visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/careersfair

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A parent said "The playgroup does well at meeting my child's needs and fully understands my child's own personality plus helps with issues as and when."
(Questionnaire, June 2014)
OFSTED said that "Children take part in a wide range of challenging activities supported by skilled staff and stimulating resources." (Sept, 2013)

Contact Carey West on 07935267232
Email: 511077@childcare.hants.org.uk

Come along to have a look around, we are attached to Merton Infants School. Come anytime between 9am-11.30am or make an appointment.

Sentinel

Don't be caught out by catalogue debt

According to Citizens Advice 62,000 people asked for help about catalogue and mail order debt in 2013, compared with 61,000 with debts from payday lenders.

Using a catalogue at home makes shopping easy – you can choose exactly what you want over a cup of tea, then it's delivered to your door in next to no time.

Many catalogues also offer you flexible payments – allowing you to spread the cost of your purchases over many weeks and sometimes years. But while this may sound appealing, especially when money is tight, the end result can mean you pay back much more money than the things you bought originally cost.

Here's how the costs can mount up:

A catalogue advertises a TV for £1049. Buy it outright and there's no extra cost. But if you haven't got enough money saved to pay all in one go, you might choose to make more affordable weekly payments of £10.51 (36.9% APR) over 156 weeks (3 years). Sounds great, but you'll actually end up paying over £1639.

And if you take out the service guarantee, the catalogue also recommends, you'll pay extra weekly instalments of £3.94 for 52 weeks, totalling almost £205. That makes a grand total of £1844 - £795 (over one and three quarter times) more than the original price!

Another mistake catalogue shoppers can make is that the debts they run up aren't important. WRONG. The penalties for missing payments can be just as heavy as the ones imposed for defaulting on other types of credit.

So the message is – think before you buy. Don't be sucked in by the offer of cheap weekly or monthly payments. Work out what the true cost of what you want to buy will be and make sure you read the small print.

My Home Finance may be able to help you if you're having money difficulties. Find out more about loans, bank accounts and budgeting at www.sentinelha.org.uk/mhf or call **0121 212 9568**.

You can also get help from:

- Citizens Advice - www.adviceguide.org.uk
- StepChange - www.stepchange.org
- Debt Advice Foundation - www.debtadvicefoundation.org
- National Debtline - www.nationaldebtline.org
- The Money Advice Service - www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

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

BEFRIENDERS REQUIRED

Many elderly people do not have people who have time to spend with them just having a cup of tea and a chat. You could be the first person that week that they have seen that has time just for them. We need caring people who can spend at least one hour per week visiting one of our clients in their own home to help relieve their loneliness. We try to find you someone who lives near to you so that if you do not have your own transport you can walk to them. But if you have to use your car or public transport we will reimburse your costs.

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

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

September 2014 at Basingstoke Discovery Centre

To book a place, you can order online from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php>, or visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

To find out more about Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Hampshire Libraries visit www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc

Portrait Photography for Beginners

10:00am Saturday 06 Sep Cost: £35

Have fun whilst getting your family, friends and pets looking their best. This one-day workshop will cover all the basics behind successful portrait photography including lighting, camera settings, poses and setting. All makes of Bridge/DSLR cameras can be used but the workshop is not suitable for compact camera users. Please bring your camera with a fully charged battery and a memory card.

Birthdays Cupcake Decorating

11:30am Sunday 14 Sep Cost: £12

The four designs you will learn will make a birthday party, picnic, dinner, night out or afternoon tea a thoughtful one to remember. Please bring four undecorated cupcakes and a case/box to transport them in. All other materials are provided.

Everyday First Aid

11:15am Sunday 21 Sep Cost: £3

Suitable for ages 18+. Using relevant, real-life scenarios and everyday household objects, this informal session will help you to help others suffering from: a heart attack, choking, unconsciousness, bleeding, burns, a stroke or a broken bone.

300 Years of Weather in the South

2:00pm Monday 22 Sep Cost: £3

In this illustrated talk weatherman Iain Currie will highlight some of the extreme weather experienced in the South of England over the last 300 years.

Landscape Photography

2:00pm Thursday 25 Sep Cost: FREE

In association with Basingstoke Camera Club, Nigel Norris will show some of his favourite landscape images he has taken from different parts of the country, and will offer some tips on how to take better landscape photographs. This is a free event and there is no need to book in advance. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tracing Army Ancestors

10:00am Saturday 27 Sep 2014 to Saturday 27 Dec 2014 Cost: £10

Want to find out more about a soldier in your family? This workshop will reveal the many types of record which throw light on the careers of soldier ancestors, including those at the National Archives in Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, and in regimental archives.

Grease is the Word for the Limelighters!

It is the ultimate High School story of teenage love lost and found and it has kept audiences tapping their feet and singing along throughout the Seventies, Eighties, Nineties and into the 21st Century. Yes, indeed – Grease is the word!

Now the youngsters of Limelight, the youth arm of BAOS (Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society), are all set to bring the cool and confident Danny, sweet Sandy and the rest of the pupils of Rydell High School to life on stage at Queen Mary's College. Performances are on Friday 31st October (7.30pm), Saturday 1st November (2.30pm and 7.30pm) and Sunday 2nd November (2.30pm)

Since their last production of Fame Jr in April this year, the Limelight Group has grown and now numbers 30 members all aged between 13 and 17. Among them is Ryan Hawkes from the Popley area.

Experienced Director, Richard Cox, will inspire an electrifying performance for this, his first Limelight production. Simon Eastwood retains the baton as Musical Director while fifteen year old Limelighter, Zoë Blackall, takes on the considerable challenge of Choreographer. A talented dancer, Zoë has previously choreographed individual dances for several Limelight shows but this is the first time she has taken the overall role for an entire production.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/baos.limelight or find us on Twitter @baoslimelight.

Tickets priced at £12.50 for adults and £10 for children/OAPs, are available from www.baoslimelight.ticketsource.co.uk or by calling (01256) 763127. Family tickets cost £40 and there is a discount of £1 per ticket for groups of ten and over. For more information and group bookings please contact baoslimelight@yahoo.co.uk



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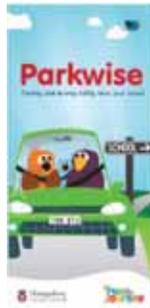
Fit and Fun on the Merton Schools' Run

This summer marks the start of a new era for Merton Infant and Junior Schools. Works have begun on our exciting new extension and facilities and will continue until the official opening in September 2015. Whilst we are pleased to be welcoming new families to our schools, we also recognise the concerns of our community that this development can bring.

Understandably the key worries are around the disruption during the works and the longer term impact on the surrounding roads, particularly regarding parking.

As a responsible neighbour, we have already been working with other organisations to look at the ways in which we can encourage fewer journeys by car, and create a greater awareness around where and how parents should and shouldn't park. Both of our schools already have achieved **high levels of walking at approx. 77%**, but there's still room to improve this. Therefore, to-date we have:

- introduced **Walk once a Week** (or WoW) to encourage those who come by car to use Abbey Road shops as a 'Park and Stride' site. Children who walk regularly over the course of each month are rewarded with a badge. Within the first two months, walking had increased by 6% on average;
- trained Year 3 pupils on how to scoot safely and sensibly, and Year 5 pupils on the Bikeability **cycle training** programme;
- given every parent a **Parkwise leaflet**, reminding those who drive to park considerately. We will continue to distribute this to all new intakes, and provide reminders in our parent newsletters and
- worked with Hampshire County Council to write a joint **travel plan** to outline our action plan moving forward to enable and encourage more children to walk, cycle and scoot to school. Champions have been identified from both schools to work with the Council to begin implementing some of these actions.



There is no simple, quick fix solution to travel and parking issues, so we're looking at what else we can do moving forward, and what will be introduced to help:

- install additional cycle and scooter **storage for staff and pupils;**

- put in a **new gate** off Tintern Close to encourage more children to walk, cycle or scoot, as we don't currently have any gate to the west of our site;
- provide **maps to parents** to show walking routes and park and stride sites;
- introducing **scooter training** to younger age groups;
- working with our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and other community reps, we will look at the possible ways that we can all work together to respond to residents concerns about parking and driving behaviour. Residents and parents can already use the Police non emergency number, 101, to report these instances.
- providing children with **hi viz** accessories and clothing to make them safer on their journey to and from school, and much more.



We'll continue to update Popley Matters on the progress we make, and if you have any suggestions for us to consider, please email us at:

Merton Infant School - adminoffice@merton-inf.hants.sch.uk

Merton Junior School – adminoffice@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk

If you have any comments in relation to the construction work, please contact Osborne. Osborne is the principle contractor who will be undertaking the majority of the works on-site, and will be keeping residents up-to-date on the schedule of works and anything that you need to know. The main contract will be site managed from Mid-August by Site Managers;

Jeremy Smith:	M: 07976 337 863	E: Jeremy.Smith@osborne.co.uk
Darren Humphrey:	M: 07736 597 231	E: Darren.Humphrey@osborne.co.uk

Parking Controls in Marnel Park?

It is now confirmed that the proposed parking controls for Marnel Park are to be publicly advertised in the local press on 4th September 2014. At that time details of the proposals will be posted on site and on the borough council's website. All representations that are received during the public advertisement period (4th to 26th September 2014) will be summarised for the benefit of local ward councillors and, in accordance with the statutory order making procedure will be reported to the council's Cabinet Member for Partnerships who will make a decision on the way forward. The possible options to be considered by the Portfolio Holder may range from making the Order as advertised, amending it or abandoning it in the light of the representations received but, the outcome will be made public.