

POPLEY MATTERS

200

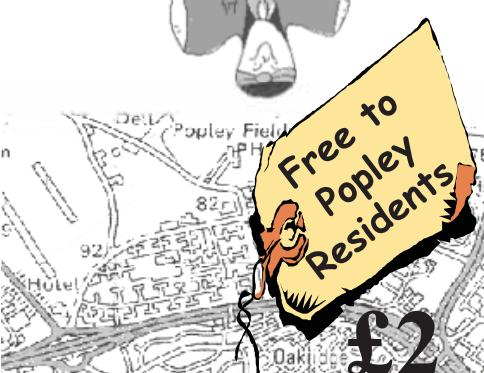
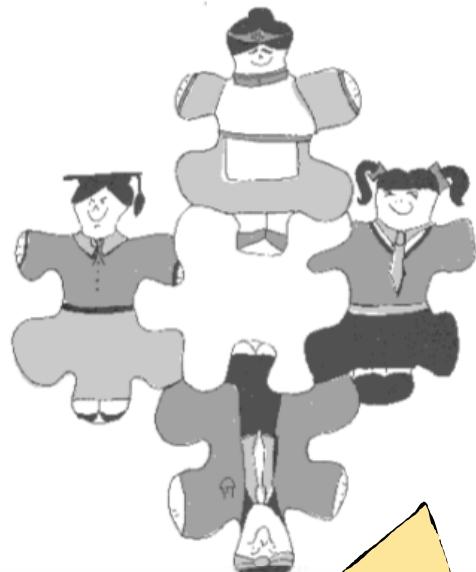
Proudly serving the Popley community since May 1992

October 2018

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 200

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS



Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover
Popley Matters Reaches 200th Issue	Page 1
Councillors' Page	Page 3
Melrose Hall News	Page 4
Harry, A Cat's Tale	Page 4
Tales of the Marnell Woods	Page 6
Pride of Popley	Page 6
Thoughts From Ruby J	Page 7
Memories from a Popley Resident	Page 7
Avoid Rogue Traders	Page 9
Boys Brigade News	Page 11
Probus News	Page 12
Bonfire Advice	Page 12
Everest Community Academy News	Page 13
Samaritans Volunteering	Page 14
Basingstoke Air Scouts	Page 15
MFC Popley Quiz Night	Page 17
Over 55s Forum	Page 17
Basingstoke NeighbourCare needs you!	Page 18
Arthur Botham	Page 19
Basingstoke Lions News	Page 21
Phillips Solicitors Advice	Page 22
Basingstoke Ladies Choir Concert	Page 23
What's on at Popley Fields Community Centre	Page 24
Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers	Page 26
Chineham Library	Page 28
Bermuda Community Centre	Page 28

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-10-18) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: The 200th; issue I can't believe it has come round so fast! I tried to calculate the many hours that have been put in by so many people over the years. I wonder how many people do read the Popley Matters? I have been trying to trace people who have been involved in the last 26+ years and it has been a mammoth task and I expect I have only been able to communicate with just a portion of the very wonderful volunteers. Memories of some of the volunteers came flooding back: Jean, David, Ron, Hilary, John, and Iris who were some of the people involved in starting the idea of a community magazine. Some have passed on or moved but I have spoken too some very recently. I

can't count the numbers of wonderful people of all ages who have delivered Popley Matters through all sorts of conditions but I know its in the hundreds. Advertisers have come and gone but Fastfare is still supporting Popley Matters and I can't thank all of you enough.

Rebecca Dobbie designed the first cover and there is an update as to how she is now on page 1. We try to keep you as informed and do interesting and different articles. This month: advice from Trading Standards on page 9; articles from the Boys Brigade on page 11; Air Scouts on page 15; football from MFC page 17; for us more older folks the Over 55s Forum page 17; Conservation Group page 26; Bermuda Hall (with us from the very first copy but then it was in a wooden hall and called Popley Two Residents Association) page 28; and St Gabriel's Church was a caravan and situated in the Poets Rev Arthur Botham is on page 19.

We hope you continue to read and support the local community magazine and, hopefully, read it! If you want to be involved, details of how to contact us is as usual below. We welcome articles from groups and clubs, also residents who might like to write about their hobbies or maybe the history of Popley? Email the Editor at editor@popleymatters.org.uk. Contact me at either 405 Abbey Road, phone me, on 01256 819924 or email me at editor@popleymatters.org.uk.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the editorial team, the members of the committee, or the Popley Matters magazine.

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Advertising Index

Jonathan Williams Independent Funeral		Sherborne St. John Chute Sports & Recreation	Steve Rayner Accountancy	Page 27
Directors	Page 2	Centre	Ovenclean	Page 27
AAA Clearance House and Garden	Page 2	Bramley Church of England Primary School	Unique Block Paving	Page 27
Everest Health and Leisure Club	Page 2		Horizon Sound and Vision	Page 27
Apollo Hotel	Page 5	Your Local Locksmith	Page 20	1st Response
JBDrive	Page 8	IPS Hair	Page 20	Piccolo Pre-school Nursery
Roots	Page 8	MMC Electrical	Page 20	Lawrence Young Ltd
Petra Jewellery	Page 8	Mickey's Handyman Services	Page 20	Fastfare Store
Popley Explorers	Page 10	Phillips Solicitors	Page 22	Fastfare Pharmacy
M H Autos	Page 10	Mark Smith Plumbing and Heating	Page 25	Back Page
Rayner Appliance Care Ltd	Page 10	BodybyLekan	Page 25	Back Page
Everest Community Academy	Page 13	Spencer and Peyton Ltd	Page 25	Thank you for your support.

Popley Matters Reaches 200th Issue.

In 1996, a group of local people met in Popley Fields Community Centre. We were sitting talking about the negative press, there had been a critical report in the Basingstoke Gazette and we were all saying how much we all loved living in Popley and loved our community. We wondered what we could do to change what we all felt was the wrong attitude to Popley. We also wanted let Popley residents know how much was available in Popley and what great people lived in our estate. Someone mentioned that there was a magazine called Popley Matters that used to be delivered and how good it would be if we could revive it. Paul Frankum said, “I will do an initial copy, but just the one to show how it could be done”. Famous last words! Paul has guided us from an A4 one sheet fold over, to the booklet that was quarterly and then he carried on doing the monthly issues that we produce today.

We are here now at the 200th issue (196 that Paul has laid out). The magazine is self-funding, advertisements cover the cost so that we can pay the printer. There was also a Popley Forum for a number of years that had meetings around the estate on many subjects. We had from just a few and as many as 120 people, on many varied different issues. Your Councillors, agencies and residents worked together on many issues over the years and we had many successes. The main one was the regeneration of Popley but, sadly, because residents didn't attend or want to campaign, it ceased. The first four Popley Matters were in the early 1990s and were mainly advertising. We wanted to make it informative, interesting and to promote our clubs and local businesses. We hope we continue to keep you informed and give a chance to communicate with all our neighbours and read some interesting articles too. We try to promote what groups are available, where and when they meet. We are having a get together for anyone who has worked in anyway on or for Popley Matters in the long history of your community magazine. We know at least two who are coming who were involved in the original first copy. We have had messages from Rebecca Dobbie who won the competition to design the first cover, Jean, Hilary and David who were at the 1991/2 meeting in the old John Hunt School when the first Popley Matters was planned who are all going to try to be there at St Gabriel's on Church 6th October from 4 till 6pm for a real community “Bring a Plate and Share” get together.

We are also always looking for more volunteers and advertisers and people to write articles so we can continue into the future so contact me editor@popleymatters.org.uk.

You can read almost all of the old copies of Popley Matters and right up to date on www.popleymatters.org.uk. The copies of Popley Matters up to issue 117 are in the order that we have to send them to the printers so it appears that the pages are mixed up, but all the content is there and ready if you want to print off a copy for yourself.

An update on Rebecca Dobbie who designed the front cover for the first edition: “I did indeed design the cover of the first Popley Matters magazine. It was while I attended John Hunt of Everest school and the Art department ran a competition and it was open to all students. I still have a copy somewhere. I no longer live in Basingstoke and now am married with three children. After leaving school I went on to Queen Mary’s College to do my A levels and then onto university. I had a wonderful career at Mars Drinks and then Regus before taking a career break to bring up my wonderful children - who are my world. Some of my family still live in Popley so we visit often”.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS

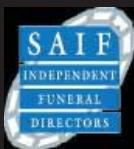
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Gym Team: 01245 337576 Main Reception 01256 337573

Councillors County: The overgrown hedges in Don Allen drive will be cut back by Basinsgtoke and Deane Borough Council but some of it is HCC Highways some the developer Persimmons and some BDBC I thought it was supposed to have been sorted last time and on a regular maintenance round so another battle for this month. I have noticed more potholes and path repairs that need attention and reported them for repair. If you see any, please contact me so I can report them or you can report them yourselves at roads@hants.gov.uk. For parking across the pathway or on dropped kerbs its engineering@hants.gov.uk.

By the time you read this I will have met with the Rights of Way officer to see if we can get the route signposted and the hedges cutback. It is not an adopted path so can't be tarmacked but I will asking if it can within the Countryside Act be made more accessible instead of a slippery mud bath when it rains? **Cllr Jane Frankum**
01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: It has been a busy month again for Paul and me as the hedges seem to have grown much faster than I can remember before so we have been out checking where we can and asking they be cut. We have got over 20 street signs to be replaced but we don't have a timescale as yet because they have to be ordered and made. We have asked for bins and we were told we have to have the area monitored for three months to see if we qualify! You can guess we said this is unacceptable. The square bin in Popley Community Park is being held together by plastic ties and we have said we want a replacement bin that is fit for purpose. The notice boards were cleaned of graffiti but wrong chemicals used so they are now blank. At least the sign for Popley Community Park was done by a different team and is clean with writing still on it. We have also asked for a no dogs sign in the play area in Tintern Close. No dogs should go into play areas for the safety of the children and the dogs whether there is a sign or not. The long awaited barrier from DWH in Carter Drive has now been erected and in the place approved by the council.

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cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: We couldn't let the milestone of the 200th edition pass without comment on the success of Popley Matters and how valued it is by the community.

For many years, the Popley Matters Councillors page has enabled the Councillors to provide regular monthly updates on some of the current issues in Popley. We hope that you continue to find these articles informative.

The popularity of the magazine appears undiminished as, when we visit residents in their homes, it's noticeable that there is often an edition, and in some cases several, somewhere to be seen. Credit has to be paid to the founder members for their hard work and determination and to all who have helped over the years to make it the success that it is today.

We have been working with officers at the Borough Council on proposals for some landscaping improvements in the Poets area.

By the time you read this, the residents living in the area will have received information on the plans and had the opportunity to submit their views. We will be meeting the Officers again to discuss any changes proposed as a result of the responses. We are expecting the works to be carried out in early 2019.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk

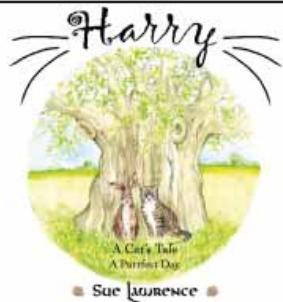


Hopefully by the time you read this we will have started work on our new extension!! Please go to our Facebook page and website for regular updates and photos. Drawings of the project can be viewed on request, just come and see Vicki in the office.

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

WHATS ON IN AUGUST:

MONDAY:	10.00-11.00am	4 Fits Sake Pound Fit
	12.30-2.30pm	Bingo!!
	7.00-800pm	Yoga with Tory
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Popley Little People
	5.00-7.00pm	Sama Karate
WEDNESDAY:	9.00am and 11.00am	Slimming World with Jo
	11.45am-1.30pm	Oasis Lunch Club
	5.30pm and 7.30pm	Slimming World with Julia
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Community Café
	7.00-9.00pm	4 Fits Sake
FRIDAY:	10.00am-1.30pm	Melrose Tots
	6.15-9.15pm	Friday Youth Club
SATURDAY:	9.15am-4.00pm	7 TH Day Adventist Church
	10am	Sabbath School - Bible Study
	11.30am	Divine Worship
	1pm	Free Community Lunch
		Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812
SUNDAY:		Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.



Harry; A Cats Tale, A Purrfect Day

Local children's author Sue Lawrence has just released her second book in the series of Harry, A Cats Tale, A Purrfect day. Sue's children's books are based on her own seventeen year old tabby cat called Harry, and are available to buy in Waterstones, WHSmiths and Amazon priced at £6.99 if you would like to follow Sue and Harry you can do so on her

Facebook/ Twitter page at [Harryacatstaleofficialpage](https://www.facebook.com/Harryacatstaleofficialpage) and @Harryacatstale. So why not step back into the garden of number eighty nine and join Harry on his next adventure.....

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Tales of The Marnell Woods

It's been a glorious summer, very Enid Blyton'ish . Did the " Famous Five" ever suffer a bad summer ? Wasn't it all trips to the seaside, sandwiches, followed by loads of pops? Sadly this modern summer is steadily drawing to a close and by the time you read this there will probably be a slight nip in the air of a morning and the curtains closed a little earlier each evening. On the bright side however this seasonal change heralds the beginning of a brand new season of short mat. What mat ? --short mat! For any of you who don't fancy the continual traipse from end to end on the outside green, consider short mat as an alternative. You don't have to walk so far, you don't need muscles like a wrestler to launch the bowl from one end to the other and it's played indoors and out of the weather, in the warm, and - the bars open! How much closer can you get to utopia than that? If you know nothing about short mat bowls, it is virtually outdoor bowls but played indoors on a mat 45ft long by 6ft wide. It means that if you are a bit older than you care to admit to, or still so young that rolling a heavy wood from one end of a lawn to the other with any accuracy is a step too far, then this could be for you. Unlike a sport such as darts where ladies have a closer throwing line because " they're ladies", in bowls you are thought of and treated as equals. If the joints are creaking a bit nowadays, this is an ideal form of exercise due to the confined playing area, you don't need to be as supple as some other sports demand, and is suitable to younger children to learn about competitive spirit and behaviour. If not convinced, then from early September the club is open 6-8pm Monday and Wednesday evenings and 2-4pm Wednesday afternoons when you will be welcome to drop in, see for yourself and give it a try. If you are intrigued by the idea but prefer a more competitive edge to your sport, no matter, we have leagues, club competitions, open competitions and possible selection to play for your county which is probably enough to cater for the most competitive spirits. You know where we are, just behind the community centre in Carpenters Down. Look forward to seeing you there. **Ray**

Pride of Popley



After last months article we have had over 20 new members to the Facebook based group. The group which is shaped by the members continues to develop as a community to share experiences, events and advice about our local area. Welcome to all the new members.

There has been talk about the creation of a residents group. Like the Facebook based group this would be shaped by the residents involved. If you are interested in being a part of this and would like to be a key part in promoting the Pride of Popley, please either get in touch with Jane Frankum or through the Facebook group.

Book exchange points have seen more activity over September and we would like to start mapping locations. Again please get in touch through the group if you would like to set up your own.

Members are currently being asked to submit pictures, stories and memories of what makes them proud of Popley, lots of reasons to check it out!-**All the members of The Pride Of Popley**

New Beginnings

As the leaves start to brown and they fall from the trees, it's easy to feel disappointed that summer has ended. Often, we focus on the negatives in life but in this case let's try and focus on the good! Before the leaves are brown, they are golden. Shining brightly as the wind pushes them along into their next adventure. Red, orange, bronze. The wonders of nature. They do eventually brown and crisp, falling down only to be trodden in. However eventually they will grow again. Rise from little seedlings, that blossom and flower. We are much like leaves. We have high points and we have low points. It's all part of being a human being! I totally understand the misfortune of no longer having lie-ins or sleepovers all summer long but summer will return again. Before it returns, we are faced with new challenges. For many of us Autumn is a new beginning. New school, colleges, universities and jobs! It can be daunting and scary. But it can be thrilling and exciting. It is up to us how we start our adventure. We too can blossom and grow into something new and fresh. I often think how lucky we are to have opportunities to broaden our horizons and here are some ways to make new beginnings a little easier for us all...

1. Get a good nights sleep! Sleep is vital for the replenishment of our body. We need rest and down time. We need to grow and we need to sleep.

2. Eat healthily! A well balanced diet does us the world of good! Going into the groggy winter it is easier to be tempted by sweet treats in cosy evenings! We can enjoy those luxuries in life along nutritional good foods!

3. Exercise! Run, skip, hop! Get out in the fresh air and just breathe!

4. Write down your worries! Contain your worries by writing them down on a piece of paper and through it away! Your fears are in the bin so you can move on!

5. Finally, seize every opportunity! We only get one life so live it well!

Remember, don't party too hard! Look after yourself and enjoy! Life is exciting!

Ruby J xoxo

Memories from a Popley Resident

Carole and I were talking via Facebook Messenger and she was telling me about some of her memories of when she was a young girl and was at Saint Thomas's Boarding School for Deaf Children, and the places and events she remembers from 1953 to 1957 while there. Good memories of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation, the firework display in the Memorial Park Gardens and watching the Coronation on a small black and white television. Carole also remembers the street party they had somewhere in Brookvale near the Trinity Church.

Carole remembered long walks with her teachers and her Housemother, a favourite being to Sherborne St John where they often picked blackberries. There were memories of the old railway lines near what was Park Prewett Hospital where her father was in charge of the woodwork class some forty years ago.

Carole has said if the readers are interested she will write some stories for us. I was fascinated and I think you would be too? I have asked her to write a story for next month.

Popley Matters would love to hear about your memories too and especially about Popley's history before they get forgotten. **Jane**

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Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards Service operates Buy With Confidence, an independent and not-for-profit 'approved trader' scheme. The initiative began in Hampshire nearly 20 years ago and is now a national scheme supported by over 50 local authorities.

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- ✓ There are hundreds of businesses to choose from

Visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Residents can now also pop into their local library to pick up a copy of the lastest version of the **free** Hampshire Buy With Confidence directory or call Trading Standards on 01962 833620 to request a copy.

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6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter



Our annual camping trip set off at 7am from St. Gabriel's Church with a group of bleary-eyed youths ready for a week of fun and friendship.

We arrived at our site, set up and cracked on with the first activities, no real problems so it was a good start to the week. The second day was much different. Gale force winds and torrential rain battered Swanage. Lucky for us our tents and marquee are sturdy and take a beating, our new gazebo on the other hand, can't. Despite the bad weather we still got on with lots inside the marquee; games, team building and the back-up quiz.

The rest of the week the weather got better and better with every day. We managed to squeeze in all the activities we wanted to do even with Sunday's weather: a biking trip out to Old Harry's Rock; a session of kayaking involving a couple of the lad's "voluntarily" showing everyone else how to safely fall out of a kayak; we jumped on an open top bus to Bournemouth for the day; and had several trips to the beach plus a peek at the Bournemouth airshow. Most evenings were lit with a fire and everyone sat around playing games. Really great week for all.

Probus Hears About the Architects of Remembrance



November sees the centenary of the end of the Great War, the war to end all wars. In the last four years many have travelled to see the battlefields to gain a sense of what our forefathers endured during this appalling period in our history which cost the lives of so many.

As well as seeing evidence of the trench warfare, they have seen the War graves, those silent battalions who lie in such tranquillity.

Fewer people realise how these outstanding scenes came about and who were responsible for those temples of serenity we so admire today.

Rhydian Vaughan, who is Vice President of the Bramley Royal British Legion, has been Battlefield Guiding since 2000 with eclectic groups, large and small, old and young. Passion is his driving force and bringing history to life: his strap line is “Without a passionate Guide a battlefield is just a field.”

The Probus Club of Basingstoke was enlightened to hear about how the War Graves and Memorials to the fallen of WW1 were designed and laid out by the three great architects of the time, Lutyens, Blomfield and Baker. Despite the fact that they all clashed with mighty egos, their legacy and architectural genius is responsible for the impressive array of headstones and memorials to be seen across this part of northern France and Flanders.

The Imperial War Graves Commission was set up in 1917 and is today called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission whose headquarters are in Maidenhead. Regional offices are France, Belgium, Cyprus, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The fallen with no known grave are listed on the Memorials to the Missing including the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme and the Menin Gate, Ypres, where buglers play Last Post every day.

See: www.cwgc.org
www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com

Bonfire Night Advice

With Bonfire Night so close here are some basic advice and tips.

- 1 Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- 2 Never give sparklers to a child under 5
- 3 Buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- 4 Keep fireworks in a closed box
- 5 Follow the instructions on each firework
- 6 Light them at arm's length using a taper
- 7 Stand well back
- 8 Never go back to a lit firework
- 9 Never put fireworks in your pocket
- 10 Never throw fireworks
- 11 Keep pets indoors

Setting fireworks off

One person should be in charge of the fireworks. If that's you, ensure you read the instructions in daylight and don't drink any alcohol until your fireworks set is over. On the night you will need...

- a torch
- a bucket of water
- eye protection and gloves
- a bucket of soft earth to put the fireworks in
- suitable supports and launchers if you're setting off Catherine wheels or rockets



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GCSE Results

Our Year 11 students achieved some fantastic results in their GCSEs this summer. The cohort has significantly improved on every progress and attainment measure from last year and deserved it after working so hard. Congratulations to all the students and staff; the school is on an rapid upward trajectory and this year group have set the standard.

Alex Russell



Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 2 & Friday 5 October

09.15am-10.45am Open Morning

Year 11 Parent's Evening—18 October

Half Term Break

Monday 22 October—Friday 2 November

Our 2018-2019 Head Boy and Head Girl will be leading a team of Deputies and Ambassador's during the next academic year, supporting other student's, school and community events.

Both will be writing articles for Popley Matters during the upcoming year.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

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🌐 samaritans.org/basingstoke

*Local call charges apply. A charity registered in England and Wales no. 500316 (Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley).

SAMARITANS

BASINGSTOKE

Basingstoke Air Scouts



Base 2000, Carpenters Down, Popley, RG24 9AE

Website, www.base2000.co.uk

Registered Charity, 267734

Group Scout Leader	Colin Karslake	07796 772500
Beaver Leader	Katie Alexander	07969 804859
Cub Leader	Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Scout Leader	Kevin Pocock	07717 108560

Hello! Welcome to the Cub Section Report. With it being the start of the term not much to report as to the fun activities we have been doing, so I will take this opportunity to let you all know some of the activities the Cubs have got to look forward to this term.

But first, the event I can report on is the District Cub Skills Day some of the Cubs attended. This was held at Pinsent Scout Camp near Winchester. The day enabled the Cubs to have fun as well as learn some new Scouting Skills. Once everyone had arrived the Cubs were split into groups and spent an hour on each of the following activity bases:

- Archery – a chance for the Cubs to try to hit the centre of the target!
- Backwoods Cooking – toasted marshmallows and a toasted marmalade and raisin sandwich cooked in the hot embers of the fire, eaten by all, including those who thought they wouldn't like it.
- Soap Carving – allowed the Cubs to let their creative mind run wild while teaching them some basic carving skills, while using a plastic knife and lolly pop stick.
- Shelter Building – enabled the Cubs to learn how to build a shelter using a tarpaulin and paracord that could keep them dry in an emergency.
- Fire lighting – a chance to learn and practice how to safely light a camp fire using several different methods.
- Team Building Challenge – the Cubs had to work together as a team to complete an obstacle course.



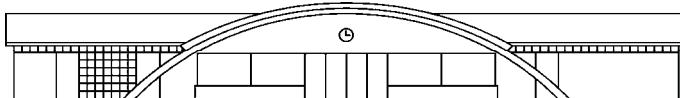
So as promised, here is a look at some of the activities the Cub section have got planned for the coming term.

- Making survival bracelets using paracord – It's surprising how little space 2.4m of paracord will take up.
- Halloween Party.
- Escape Room themed night – Cubs must solve a series of puzzles to escape from Base 2000.
- Science themed night.
- Christmas Party.
- Plus, much much more.

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 it can be done online. The only qualification needed you like working with kids and like having a bit of fun. If you are interested please contact the Group Scout Leader, Colin Karslake on 07796772500 or contact us through the group website base2000.co.uk

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN CHUTE SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE

Sherborne St. John Parish Council
The Chute Sports and Recreation Centre



The newly refurbished Sports Pavilion in Sherborne St John is a great place for sports groups and anyone wanting a venue for parties.

Groups at present using the Pavilion include football, judo, indoor short-mat bowls, martial arts, triathlon and a nursery but there is always room for more!!

The tennis courts have also been totally renovated and are ready for use.

It is also a great venue for children's parties and wedding receptions – we have hosted 3 wedding receptions this year with great success!!!

So if you want information about joining one of these clubs or hiring the Pavilion please contact **Penny Mayo, SSJ Parish Clerk, o clerk@sherbornejohn-pc.gov.uk**



Bramley Church of England Primary School

Year R Open Mornings

Is your child turning 4 before 1st September 2019? If so, you have reached that time of looking at schools which can be both exciting and daunting!

To help you make the all-important decision as to where to send your child, schools host open mornings. This will allow you to make an informed choice.

At Bramley C of E Primary School, our open mornings are:

Thursday 11th October

Thursday 18th October

Thursday 1st November

Thursday 15th November

All of these sessions start at 9am and finish approximately at 10am.



This is an opportunity for you to see the school in action, meet the staff, talk to some of our Year 6 pupils, pick up a prospectus and ask as many questions as you like to the Headteacher and Early Years Leader.



We appreciate that this is a huge decision for you so, if you would prefer, you can make an individual appointment to view the school and have a tour with the Head.

Please phone the school on 01256 881339 to book your place on one of our open days or book an individual viewing.

[The application deadline is 15th January 2019.](#)



As Chairman of MFC Popley Youth, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new, and existing club members, for the forthcoming season.

With so many teams playing across different leagues, such as North East Hants, Reading and West Berkshire, East Berkshire, Berkshire County Girls and Peter Houseman, it promises to be an exciting season.

Our Club Committee, Managers and Coaches have been working so hard over the summer to recruit players for their teams and it is with immense pride we are able to have an All Stars programme bursting at the seams with players, teams at every age group from U7s to U18s and even our Veterans have been able to put two teams into the Farnham District Vets League.

I would like to wish every member of MFC Popley Youth, the very best of luck for the season ahead.

#AlwaysProud #RedAndBlackArmy

In addition, I would also like to congratulate Popley Matters, and the hard working team behind the scenes for reaching a huge milestone publication of its 200th issue! Well done to all involved!

*Andy Williams
Chairman
MFC Popley Youth*

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

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

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

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

Zak Collingwood

Over 55s Forum

Our next 2 'Open' Forum dates are 10th October and 12th December 2018.

Our future coach trips;

I have seats available for the Cockney Christmas Special on the "Tereza-Joanne" boat in the King George V Docks in the East End of London on the 26th November 2018 - 12.30pm to 4pm Starring Gordon Bennett - (Chas and Dave meets Max Bygraves with a dash of Max Miller). keyboard, ukulele and the Cockney spoons with a sing-a-long, comedy and dancing. It's a Right old Cockney Knees Up to send you home with a smile. There will also be a comedian and impressionist Chris Wheeler. It includes chicken and chips or fish goujons and chips in a basket, also dessert and tea/coffee. There will be a cash bar. Including the show, meal and coach £54.00 for members and £56.00 for non members.

Why miss a brilliant show before Christmas, book with Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com



Basingstoke NeighbourCare needs you!

DRIVERS REQUIRED

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

We need drivers who can spare a few hours a week during the 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 driver currently work shifts and can only offer 1 or part of a day per week but even this amount of time can help us. You can choose what hours/days you are available and what duties you undertake.

BEFRIENDERS REQUIRED

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

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

If you are interested in either or both of the above opportunities please contact us by phone on 01256 423855 or email volunteer@neighbourcare.com. See also our website www.neighbourcare.com for further information about our service.

Dear Friends,

Well, my heartiest congratulations to the Popley Matters team and especially to Jane and Paul for reaching the fantastic number of 200 editions. It's an amazing achievement achieved through dedication and belief in their task, hard work and the persistence to continue to deliver such a great service to our whole community. Long may it continue. In fact, I just worked out the 400th edition will be due out around 33 years from now, that's 2051 – wow!

It's been a year of important anniversaries for our country as well! This year the Royal Air Force celebrated its centenary and it is also the centenary anniversary of the end of the 1st World War. Both have been commemorated at events near and far. Marilyn and I travelled to London in July for the RAF Celebrations and flypast, had the privilege of serving at the RAF Odiham Families Day and last weekend we hosted the annual Battle of Britain Service at St Gabriel's attended by members of the Royal Air Forces Association and 443 Squadron ATC. Also in attendance were the Mayor and Mayoress and a representative from RAF Odiham.

It's important that we recognise the bravery and sacrifice of our heroes past and present in these events and the few are getting fewer. I read this year that there are only eight remaining pilots alive that fought in the Battle of Britain. We should continue to remember them as they gave of their all in the cause of justice and freedom.

So, we're over summer, marked for me by Last Night at the Proms, the Battle of Britain and it will soon be Remembrance Sunday – sure to be a special event this year. Then it will be Christmas!!

Christmas! Another opportunity to celebrate and remember the one who came to this earth to be our Saviour. Who died in the cause of freedom – our freedom! Freedom from sin, freedom from death. It was Jesus who said that "I have come that they may have life and life to the full!"

As we enter that period of frenzied buying, partying, resting and holidaying my prayer for our community is that we will remember just what it is and why it is that we have the freedom to celebrate.

Here's to that and to Popley Matters.

Every blessing

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Lions Club of Basingstoke

This month we celebrated the lazy, hazy days of summer with a finger food dinner in one of the member's garden. The weather was obligingly balmy and it provided a great opportunity for us to meet and mingle. It wasn't a BBQ, but you can understand the attractions of the BBQ as a form of socialising with its casual atmosphere in which everyone can relax and interact. And the great news is that we'll be doing the same sort thing again very shortly in aid of the **MacMillan Nurses Coffee Morning**. I hope you are all going to join in.

Welfare: We spent £854. This covered 4 cases of breakdowns of family equipment and a long winded tarradiddle about swapping beds which I couldn't follow and in any case cost us nothing. We also funded medals for disability footballers and donated £200 towards the hire of a sign language interpreter by St John's Ambulance for a candidate on a First Aid course. The largest commitment was the purchase of a mobility aid for a 2 year old Downs Syndrome child – money well spent!

Fundraising: The Hampshire Police Band play for us at QMC on **13th October** and The Caerphilly Male Voice Choir sing for us on **17th November**. These are both exceptionally high quality performances. Our ticket prices are very low, you get free parking, you get to sit at tables with your friends enjoying a drink from our modestly priced bar – what's not to like? Give yourself a treat, get in touch with us via the website www.basingstokelions.org.uk/ or by contacting one of the organisers – tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk - mauricehockley@hotmail.com – or jomolincoln@btinternet.com

Quiz Night at the Cliddesden Millennium Hall is on **3rd November**. Invitations have already been issued to our regulars. So if you want to join in the fun, apply direct to – philipjhwilson@btinternet.com . I'm expecting some really high scoring this time. Even I knew some of the answers!

Thursday 11th October - World Sight Day: This year we are celebrating this UN sponsored day at Old Basing Mall, Basingstoke RG21 7LW. We'll be situated between Boots and Blue Inc. This is your chance for an informal chat about any sight concerns and the help available locally. And please don't forget to **bring your redundant spectacles** for recycling to the developing countries.

Membership: We are rapidly becoming a Club of GOPs (make up your own interpretation!). Our business meetings are usually good for a laugh or two, so do send us a message via our website and you'll get an invitation to come along and see what we're like – no pressure, it's all up to you.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you.

Later Life Financial Crisis



Thousands of people who manage their retirement savings risk facing a financial crisis in the future.

That is according to a report from insurance group Zurich who warn that four in five retired people who are using a drawdown scheme to manage their pension fund have not set up a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA).

LPAs are legal documents that allow you to appoint one or more people, known as Attorneys, to make certain decisions on your behalf. There are two types of LPA, one for property and financial affairs and another covering personal health and welfare.

The issue highlighted by Zurich's report, in part stems from when in 2015 the Government scrapped rules requiring people to buy an annuity at retirement.

Now those retiring can choose a drawdown scheme which gives them the responsibility of managing their own income when they retire, rather than automatically receiving a set amount each month.

The concern is that if you do not set up a LPA, your next of kin or if you prefer, close friends, will not be able to take charge of your finances should you be incapacitated later in life with illnesses such as dementia.

They would not be able to manage your pension, access your bank account to pay bills or allocate money for your care without applying to the Court of Protection, which can be a long and costly process.

The time to set up a LPA is well before you need it and all reputable pension providers and Independent Financial Advisors (IFAs) should be emphasising this to their clients.

By setting up a LPA you will be protecting yourself and the management of your finances if the worst should happen to you.

If you would like to discuss LPAs with Caroline Wallis, Head of the Wills & Probate team at Phillips, contact her by emailing caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk or call her on 01256 854637.

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Well for the 200th issue, what can we say!?

I couldn't find 200 people with something to say about MPCV which would have been very fitting but I've found four, so we'll go with that!!

Bryan says "I started going to the conservation group because my girlfriend told me to as a long term resident of Popley, I grew up playing around the ponds and wanted to return them as they should be. I get a great sense of giving back to the community and like seeing the wildlife in the area."

Gill says "Originally, I joined MPCV because I am interested in nature and thought it was a great chance to spend time outside doing something interesting. I had never actually seen a newt before and did not realise how small they are! Since I joined, I have met lots of different people and I have to say that the Work Parties are good fun, with plenty of humour and something to show for it at the end."

Liz says "I joined MPCV to help out wildlife in my local area, as well as get some fresh air and make new friends! It's a rewarding experience (and free exercise!) that keeps me coming back."

I joined the group because I was struggling to maintain a work/life balance and really felt that without a reason to be outside it's too easy to sit around watching the telly - the group gave me the reason I was looking for. I get to use a load of really big tools which is really good fun, found I have a passion for writing and it's a great feeling to know you're doing something for the greater community and to meet other people who feel the same.

If you'd like to get involved, please don't leave it till the 300th issue... the new season begins 29th September and we'd love to see you, hear from you and help you get the best from your nature reserve.

I'm sure some of you get really bored of reading it but we can still and always be contacted via our Facebook page: Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers, or by emailing Popleyponds@gmail.com

Congratulations to the team at Popley Matters from all of us!!

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Chineham Library

The Summer Reading Challenge finally finished on 15th September. It was a great success at Chineham with over 800 children taking part, assisted by a lovely large team of volunteers.

Everything is now back into its normal pattern at the library, so for children this includes rhymetimes on Tuesday mornings, for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Crafts resume on the first Saturday of every month, between 10am–12pm, and storytimes at 10am on the other weeks. Construction Club with Lego to play with meets 2–3.30pm. Then in the week, the Chatterbooks group meets on 18th October from 3.45–4.45pm, and there are now two coding clubs with places bookable through the library.

Age Concern are back here on Wednesday mornings providing computer training for the over 50s between 10am and 1pm. Places are bookable through their office on: 01256 423874. The Crime Reading Group are meeting on 13th October from 10.30–11.30am and the general reading group at these hours on 27th October. The CHIPPS group for parents and pre-schoolers meets on 10th October from 10–11am. The writing group is trialling meeting on a Saturday this month, the 6th, from 10–11.30am, so if Thursdays have not been possible please do come and support this meeting. Future dates will then be arranged.

There is also an event coming up in November, to commemorate the centenary of the First World War finishing. ‘Lest We Forget’ takes place on 15th November at 7.30pm, with tickets costing £5 bookable through the library or online. It features Jonathan Jones presenting relevant readings and poetry, including works by the war poets. This performance was a sell-out at Newbury Festival this year!

For the most up-to-date information please check social media.

Cathy Foster

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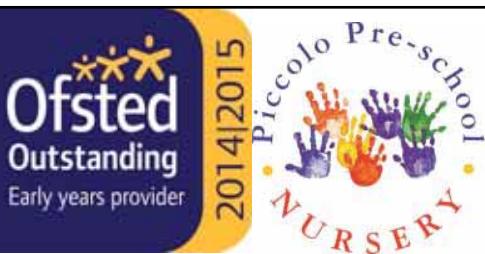
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