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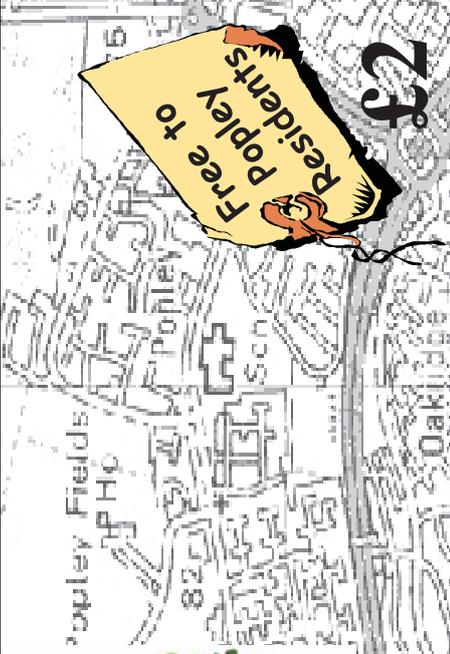


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POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

December 2018 Distribution of 5,400 Issue 202



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Contents

Message from the Editor	Arthur Botham	Page 17
Samaritans	Melrose Christmas Party	Page 18
Councillors' Page	Joshua Dempsey	Page 18
Thoughts From Ruby J	Lions Club of Basingstoke	Page 19
Everest Health and Leisure Club	Phillips Solicitors Advice	Page 21
Walk for Health in Borough's Winter Wonderland	Hampshire Fire and Rescue Christmas Safety Advice	Page 23
Popley Fields Community Centre	Boys Brigade News	Page 25
Christmas Rubbish and Recycling	Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers	Page 25
Everest Community Academy News	Quick News	Page 26
Probus	St Michael's Hospice New CEO	Page 27
Burns Night	Hampshire Police Vehicle Crime	Page 28
MFC Popley Quiz Night		
Basingstoke Air Scouts		

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-12-18) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: The Popley Matters team wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The weather really has taken a turn for the worse and it is cold, so the night shelter is now open and, at least for a few months, those that want to can at least have a proper and warm bed. You never know what tragedies may have caused these men and women to come to these circumstances. It is not up to us to judge as we never know what can lie around the corner. We can look out for our neighbours and keep an eye on people we may know who are on their own. Sometimes just a smile can make a difference to their and your day. There are exceptional people everywhere that show they care you can read about our Popley youth with Joshua on page 18. I have been privileged along with my son Paul to have met

hundreds if not thousands of wonderful people who give their time to help others. Sadly it is also the time when thieves target cars and homes often because presents are on display around the Christmas tree and can be seen. The same goes for in cars, the police every year give warnings about these types of thefts. Neighbourhood Watch have sent a warning too on page 28. There is advice on opening times and other very useful information from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council what to do if you have a real Christmas tree and about rubbish collections, well at least when we hope they should be collected, on Page 10.

Experts say we will have a harsh winter so be prepared and look after yourselves and keep warm. There will be black ice and winter conditions so please slow down and drive carefully. This is something that drivers should do all the year round. There have been a lot of parents worried about the traffic and driving around the schools, and impatient drivers speeding or overtaking. It only adds a minute or so but it could save your life and others too.

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 iare 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. Better still if you could help with delivering Popley Matters.



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
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Advertising Index

Jonathan Williams Independent Funeral Directors	Page 2	Everest Community Academy	Page 11	Ovendean	Page 24
Peter's Chinese & Fish & Chips	Page 2	NITCOG	Page 13	Unique Block Paving	Page 24
Everest Health and Leisure Club	Page 2	Your Local Locksmith	Page 20	Horizon Sound and Vision	Page 24
Apollo Hotel	Page 4	IPS Hair	Page 20	JBDrive	Page 26
Sherborne St John Short Mat Bowls Club	Page 4	M/Mc Electrical	Page 20	Roots	Page 26
Petra Jewellery	Page 6	Mickey's Handyman Services	Page 20	1st Response	InsideBP
Popley Explorers	Page 9	Phillips Solicitors	Page 21	Piccolo Pre-school Nursery	InsideBP
M H Autos	Page 9	Mark Smith Plumbing and Heating	Page 22	Lawrence Young Ltd	InsideBP
Rayner Appliance Care Ltd	Page 9	Acasa Care and Support	Page 22	Fastfare Store	Back Page
		Spencer and Peyton Ltd	Page 22	Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
		Astral TV Repair	Page 24		

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Vehicle Crime



We have had reported incidents where persons have been seen trying door handles of vehicles in your area overnight. It is likely that the intention is to find insecure vehicles in order to enter and steal items within.

May we please request that you:

- You lock your vehicles;
- Preferably remove any items, or position them out of sight;
- Report any incidents or crimes;
- Secure / check any overnight home CCTV; and
- Do not share pictures or footage with others or social media as this may negatively impact any subsequent investigation or identification. Share them with the police.

This list is not exhaustive, but the main points learned from recent similar investigations.

If a crime is in action call 999.

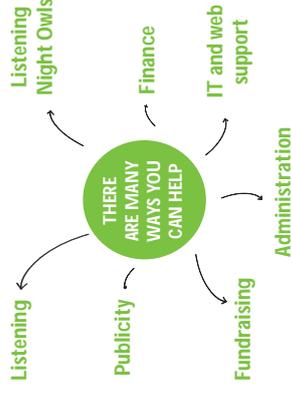
Following a crime - to report it - either online www.hampshire.police.uk or by calling 101.

Please remember if you don't tell us we will not know.

Thank you.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

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Who we are, what we do

We're just ordinary people, who give up our time to listen. Anyone can talk to Samaritans, at any time, about whatever's getting to them. They do not have to be suicidal.

What we need

To find the right role for you, we ask all our potential volunteers to fill out an application form and attend a selection event. All volunteers attend induction training, and listening volunteers complete full Samaritans training. This training takes place over several months and is a great chance to meet other Samaritans volunteers and develop a good understanding of what your branch does.

What you get

Each Samaritans volunteer gets something different from their time with us, whether it be developing a new skill or just the feeling of knowing you're there for someone when they need it most. We operate a supportive and unique environment where you will receive full training and ongoing support from a network of volunteers.

Why we want you

There are many ways to get involved as a Samaritans volunteer, whether it be as a listening or fundraising volunteer, or to help with publicity, there will be a place at Samaritans for you. We also reach out to the community by working with schools, colleges and universities, prisons, hospitals, and major music festivals.

Find out more about volunteer roles at Basingstoke Samaritans using the details opposite.

Find out about volunteering with Basingstoke Samaritans

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St. Michael's Hospice appoints new CEO: Iain Cameron

St. Michael's Hospice in Basingstoke is delighted to announce that Acting Chief Executive, Iain Cameron, has been appointed as Chief Executive of the Hospice, replacing retiring Chief Executive Dave Monkman, as of 5th November, 2018.

Iain has been with the Hospice since 2006, starting as Head of Retail before becoming Director of Income Generation in 2012 and latterly Deputy Chief Executive. Iain is passionate about ensuring that there is exceptional provision of Palliative Care in the North Hampshire area and that support for families is accessible when most needed. Prior to coming to the Hospice, Iain had a solid basis in leadership across different sectors and has a keen eye for spotting talent in the workforce. Outside of St. Michael's, Iain has been Chair of the Board of Governors at Oakridge Schools Federation in Basingstoke for over 10 years. He has lived locally for over 30 years and lives with his wife and 3 children.

Andrew Chancellor, Chair of the Board of Trustees at St. Michael's Hospice, said Iain brings to the role an extensive knowledge of the Hospice as well as strong experience in the business community and beyond. "The Board of Trustees are delighted with this appointment and we look forward to continuing to work with Iain to ensure the Hospice stays on a strong financial footing whilst responding to the changing demographics of the local community. With strong competition between charities, and the challenges of reduced funding from the NHS, Iain's background makes him uniquely suited to taking the Hospice forward and maintaining its place as a beloved and invaluable local charity."

Commenting on his appointment, Iain said, "I'm honoured to have the opportunity to lead such a prominent local charity as St. Michael's Hospice; the work undertaken here is an integral part of services provided to our local community. I see many challenges ahead some of which are significant in the ever-changing end of life setting and I am passionate about ensuring the very best outcome for patients and their families. Without the highly dedicated and committed body of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to achieve our aims we simply would not be able to operate. People are at the centre of everything we do and our staff, relatives and patients are what makes this Hospice truly special."

St. Michael's Hospice was established in 1991 by a committee led by former Mayor Margaret Weston. Now caring for over 500 patients a year, the Hospice continues to look for ways to meet the growing demands of an ageing population and remains committed to ensuring that patients receive the highest quality palliative care possible and their families are also supported, in order to allow the highest possible quality of life for the days that remain.

St. Michael's Hospice receives around 20% funding from the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group. In 2018 this means the Hospice needs to make up a shortfall of over £3 million through Income Generation activities including retail stores, community fundraising, local business support, legacies, and its highly For all enquires please contact, Chris Griffiths only.



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Everest Health & Leisure Club

Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP
Gym Team: 01256 337573

Quick News

- The new Shagari-la Chinese restaurant will be opening soon. They have applied for an alcohol licence. Once we know more about the opening we will let you know.
- The forecast by experts is for a harsh winter so it will be a good idea to prepare for it as best you can, keep warm and look out for your neighbours especially if they are elderly or vulnerable.
- The "Red Chineham Wave" roundabout now has traffic lights but it is causing some concern so please drive carefully until people get used to it.
- The issue with the 657 bus to Harriet Costello has been resolved for now and a promise that a permanent solution will be found.
- The wall opposite the Poppingjay, now Shangri La chinese restaurant, will be repaired it is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council who have said it will be done with some others in next years budget.
- Boundary changes are due to be published and there will be some changes in Popley, Rooksdown and Sherborne St John and we will let you know as soon as it is decided and certain.
- You may have noticed new signs at the Rights of Way route through from Popley to Sherborne St John. The overhanging tree was also removed it will be a safer route to walk now.
- We have noticed quite a few Union flags when England play or celebrating 100 years from the end of WWI but some are flying upside down which is used as a sign of distress the picture shows you the correct way.



Councillors County: I promised to report back on the Rights of Way issue from Popley to Sherborne St John. We had a site visit and the officer was shown the comments and concerns that residents had contacted us about. Already improvements have been instigated and the overhanging tree removed. There should be already or very soon clear signage as to what is the permitted Right of Way track. The route is about a 30 to 40 minute walk and I have been told there are lots of signs of our wildlife to be spotted.

I have spoken to Highways in regard to getting grit bins in the roads that have been adopted in Marnel Park. Merton Rise is still not adopted but I have contacted the developers and asked if they will put some grit bins in the area. There have also been questions about the road signage especially in Linacre Road and I have been told the missing road sign will be replaced. The street lighting in this area is the responsibility of the management company and should be reported to HML Andersons. Street lighting in Trinity is Persimmons and any broken lights should be reported to them until the road is adopted when it then will be under Hampshire County Council. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

Popley West: Firstly we wish all our residents a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We were hoping that with new contractors appointed that waste collection would improve. Sadly that does not seem to be the case especially in the new developments. We are asking that you report when your bins are missed to 844844 or fill in the forms online. We don't think the administration know or will admit to how poor the service is.

After many complaints from residents about the dog fouling in the main community park we did some site inspections and reported back to officers and asked for damaged and missing bins to be replaced and we are pleased to report there will be at least 12 bins around the park. We are now asking that benches are repaired and/or replaced too.

The bin stores in Melrose Walk are not fit for purpose and yet again we had to contact Vivid to get the overflowing bins and rubbish sorted. Vivid have cleared the mess but for how long remains a mystery. A long term solution is needed. When the flats were built there was not recycling and glass collection. There have been reports again of a group of people trying car doors in the early hours of the morning and advice from the police is to check your car doors are locked!

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

Popley East: Following refusal by the BDBC planning committee to allow Marstons to build a pub/restaurant on the Fire Authority land at Carpenters Down, Marstons successfully appealed the decision to the Secretary of State.

On hearing about the decision, we wrote to Marstons asking that they open an effective dialogue with both the residents and ourselves and seeking information on the construction timetable and start dates. Disappointingly it appears not to have been high on Marstons Agenda as the works were started without any notification to us. We will endeavour to ensure that during the period of the construction all conditions stipulated in the planning agreement are adhered to so please let us know if you believe this not to be the case. We would hope that Marston's dialogue with the community and ourselves improves.

As you know we have been in talks with Hampshire County Council for some time now seeking improvements to the junction at Popley Way to prevent drivers from continuing the dangerous U-turn manoeuvres. We are pleased to say that the works are to be carried out in January and are expected to take two to three weeks to be completed.

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



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6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter



On 11th November, Remembrance Day, the 6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade attended the remembrance service at St Gabriel's Church. We had a great turn out from the whole company. Everyone did a fantastic job especially our 2 flag bearers during the service, Luke and Cameron.

Our annual Merry Quizmas quiz night is on 3rd December and you're invited! Come along (in teams of 2, 3 or 4 or if you're on your own we'll team you up with others) to test your knowledge with our brain tingling quiz rounds and tantalize your taste buds with our superb Christmas roast, all for just £5 a head. We will also be holding a raffle full of exciting prizes so if you would like to join in with our festive fun packed evening, make sure you get in contact with us before 30th November via the details below.

Our company continues to grow and we have 3 new members; 1 joining the ranks of our Company section and an additional 2 new members for our younger sections, Anchors and Juniors. This is fantastic news for us but we still want to grow our ranks.

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).

Give us a ring: **07775 535434** or drop us an email: **6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com**.



What can we say? Another season at Popley Ponds has well and truly begun! We did end up changing our meetings to the first Saturday of the month. In November the team had a very busy morning clearing invasive Flag Iris at the site. Hopefully we'll see a return of the meadowsweet in it's place - that Flag Iris isn't half resilient though - I remember doing the same last year, still it makes for a great weekend workout in the crisp winter air.

What has been great is the variety of species we're finding at the ponds recently not just insects but deer, fox too... and a pretty little cat who was following us around the bush not so long ago! Bet you didn't know snails laid eggs either!?! Well we've seen them and to be fair, it's pretty gross but that's the thing about nature, it rewards in strange and mysterious ways!

So we should thank all of you who have contributed to the group in 2018, we are truly grateful - and we will let you know next year. It will be even better, mostly because we as organisers can't claim to be newbies anymore!

Let's remember that for a lot of us this is the time of year that we get together to eat, drink and be merry, but for others it's just another day - there's still work to go to and jobs to be done but however you're spending the later part of December, we wish you happy, well and warm!

Please check on your neighbours, keep an eye on the hedgehogs, stay safe around the pond and most of all treat each other and your local area with respect and kindness.

Best Wishes for the Festive Season and into 2019 from all of us at MPVC!

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It's Christmas Time, There's No Need to be Afraid...

Happy December all! It's finally my favourite month! December is always filled with love, hope and festivities!

Waking up for college in the dark and coming home from college in the dark is sad. Evenings are cold and can sometimes feel lonely. The rain and wind can blow you into a frenzy of feeling afraid and unsure. It is hard to find light in such a physically dark place.

However, the reason why I love Christmas is because it's a month of togetherness. Family and friends meet all over the world to be with one another. We all give and receive gifts of love and affection. Communities meet to celebrate the birth of Christ and others come together to celebrate family and friendship. Even if you don't celebrate Christmas, December can still be a month of joy and light.

December is also a month for giving. It's important to remember that there are people suffering with illness and grief, struggling with financial problems or just feel afraid and lonely. December is a month to compel you to help someone. Simply smile or give them a hug. Let them know you are there to listen and that you care. Be hospitable. Cook them a meal and let them into the warmth of your home and heart. Simply being a shoulder to cry on can change someone's day and restore their hope in mankind.

Be kind. Be brave. Be strong.

Throw your arms around the world at Christmas time.

Don't party too hard! Go and spread some love and joy instead!

Ruby J

What do you do weekdays during the day?

Are you on shift work?

Want to get out and meet people?

Want to get a fit body and mind?

Come to your local, friendly gym. Maybe we can help.

We would like to invite you to come in and have a look around at any time - guaranteed no obligation, no pressure selling - if you like it great, if not no harm done.

Check out the website for a virtual tour - www.everestcommunityacademy.org/health-leisure-club/virtual-tour/ or call reception for more details 01256 337573 Your community, your club - Everest Health & Leisure Club looks forward to welcoming you.

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Everest Health & Leisure Club



So you think bowls is about as interesting as counting sheep!! If so you haven't tried Short Mat Bowls! - which is friendly - social - and very competitive!!!! If you over indulge at Christmas come and enjoy gentle fun exercise at our club.

We are a small friendly club who meet at the Chute Pavilion on Thursday afternoons throughout the year from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. We arrange a programme of games with other clubs during the winter season. We also used to meet on Tuesday afternoons and Monday evenings which, if there is sufficient interest, could start again.

We are always pleased to welcome new members so why not come along and give short mat bowling a try. We have bowls available which you can use and the existing members will be only too pleased to show you the ropes of the game.

We would be pleased to hear from you and for any further information please contact Les on 01256 850973 (skerrvvo1@btinternet.com) or Tony on 01256 889350 (mar_ton19@yahoo.co.uk).

Christmas Safety Advice

Christmas is a special time for celebration and should not end in tragedy because of the extra hazards that are present at this time of year.

The following advice should be used in conjunction with other sections of the site, such as the candle fire safety page, due to the fact that candles are also used more and more at this time of year.

Fairy Lights

- Check the fuses are the right type (see the box for the maximum size of fuse you should use)
- If bulbs blow, replace them
- Don't leave fairy lights on when you go out or when you go to sleep
- Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper
- Don't overload sockets.

Decorations

- Decorations made of light tissue paper or cardboard burn easily
- Don't attach them to lights or heaters
- Don't put them immediately above or around the fireplace
- Keep them away from candles.

Extinguishing

Many people ask what is the best method of extinguishing a Christmas tree fire should they be unfortunate to experience one. The simply answer is that the UltraFire Water Mist extinguisher from Safelines is the perfect option.



Christmas Trees

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases. This can be demonstrated by viewing the following video (<https://bit.ly/1vALWZZ>). Furthermore the best way to tackle a Christmas tree fire is by the use of a Water Mist Extinguisher which you can see by viewing the following video (<https://bit.ly/2P0x1tp>).

Selecting a Tree for Christmas

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling centre or having it taken away by a community pickup service.

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Walk for Health in the Borough's Winter Wonderland

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It may be cold outside, but Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's health walks are proven to warm your soul – and help you become fitter.

There are 23 health walks held every week at locations all around the borough and suitable for all fitness levels, from beginner to more experienced walkers.

Led by a trained walk leader, they are free, fun and a great opportunity to get out in the fresh air and meet friendly fellow residents. So far, between 12 to 56 walkers turn up for each walk, totalling approximately 1,000 walkers a month.

The council's programme is part of the national Walking for Health initiative - a partnership between the Ramblers' Association and Macmillan Cancer Care to encourage physical activity for everyone and improve mental health and wellbeing at the same time.

Due to popular demand, the Wednesday evening walk has been extended into "winter wonderland walks". These walks start at 7pm from different locations within the Basingstoke Town area. The last walk is on Wednesday 19 December, from the Ridgeway Centre, Buckskin, finishing with mince pies and a hot drink.

The health walks are also held in Eastrop, Basing Wood, Popley, Kempshot, Brighton Hill, Baughurst, Buckskin, Tadley, Oakley, Overton, Whitchurch and East Woodhay – view the council's website for full details.

Most health walks offer the choice of a long walk of 90 minutes and a short walk of 60 minutes. The council offers a buddy system for walkers who are new and feel less confident to join the walk group on their own.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety Cllr Simon Bound said: "Walking has many benefits. In addition to being enjoyable and a great opportunity to make friends, it helps people get fit, lose weight and boosts mental wellbeing.

"Everybody is welcome to join in the walks, which are held at various times of the day and evening across the borough. Why not give it a go this winter - explore the great outdoors and feel great."

Anybody who enjoys health walks and would like to become a walk leader, should contact Elinor Gold on 01256 845284, email healthwalks@basingsstoke.gov.uk or visit <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/volunteer-walk-leaders> and download the booking form for the training session.

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Interested in getting involved in the community but not sure how?

Looking for a different kind of New Year's resolution?

Popley Fields Community Association runs the Popley Fields Community Centre as well as a number of events and activities throughout the year including the Popley Festival and regular youth activities.

On Thursday 17th January 2018 at 7.00pm we will be holding our annual general meeting which is a perfect time to find out more about us or even get involved!

If you have any questions about the association or the AGM please contact:

Tracey Judge, Centre Manager, Popley Fields Community Centre,
Carpenters Down, Popley, RG24 9AE

E-mail: office@popleyfields.org Tel: 01256 414494

We hope you can make it and help to make Popley an even better place to live!

PFCA Committee

Page 8

Surviving the Office Christmas Party!



Christmas party season is fast approaching and some employees have a tendency to forget that even where an office party is held at an off-site venue it is still time spent "in the course of your employment". Therefore the popular theory that "What happens at the Christmas party, stays at the Christmas party" is unfortunately not necessarily the case. Nobody wants to be dismissed for gross misconduct due to bad behaviour at a social event or for posting something inappropriate about themselves or others on social media.

Where alcohol or even a free bar is provided by your employer you do still have a duty to retain some semblance of sensible and responsible behaviour. Even under the influence of alcohol it is not acceptable to make unwanted advances, air grudges, be abusive, fight, harass or discriminate against others, drink and drive or use the photocopier inappropriately.

Jokes you would not tell or comments that you would not use in the office because they might cause offence, are just as likely to cause offence in a party situation even if they do get a laugh from all concerned after a few drinks. Remember for example that not everyone drinks alcohol, celebrates Christmas or likes social events and their views and beliefs must be respected.

Another often forgotten, but important point, is that it is completely inappropriate to discuss work matters, other members of staff, clients, suppliers or customers in a social environment where you can be overheard by others.

Senior staff also have the added responsibility not to make any rash promises such as agreeing pay increases or discussing promotions or company matters under the influence of alcohol as this could well be regretted later.

The office Christmas party should be a happy and fun experience for all concerned and remain in the spirit of the season of goodwill. One last tip - do aim to turn up on time to work the next day even if you do have a hangover.

Whether you are an employer or employee seeking employment advice on this or any other matter, please contact Gill Brown or Jack Gardener on 01256 854631 in the employment team at Phillips Solicitors and they will be happy to assist.

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Christmas Rubbish and Recycling

Christmas can mean extra rubbish. Therefore, extra sacks will be collected on the first collection after Christmas **ONLY**.

- As normal there is no limit on how much residents can recycle.
- Flatten large cardboard boxes and leave them next to your recycling bin.
- Wrapping paper cannot be recycled so please put it in your black waste bin.

This year bin collections will be affected over two weeks and, unless adverse weather affects bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 14 January 2019.

Normal collection

Tuesday 25 December
 Wednesday 26 December
 Thursday 27 December
 Friday 28 December
 Monday 31 December
 Tuesday 1 January
 Wednesday 2 January
 Thursday 3 January
 Friday 4 January
 Monday 7 January
 Tuesday 8 January
 Wednesday 9 January
 Thursday 10 January
 Friday 11 January

Revised collection

Thursday 27 December
 Friday 28 December
 Saturday 29 December
 Monday 31 December
 Wednesday 2 January
 Thursday 3 January
 Friday 4 January
 Saturday 5 January
 Monday 7 January
 Tuesday 8 January
 Wednesday 9 January
 Thursday 10 January
 Friday 11 January
 Saturday 12 January

Check your bin collection day on the website <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections> or call 01256 844844.

More bottles this Christmas?

Let the council know if you need a free second glass collection box for extra bottles over Christmas. Residents are also able to buy a glass bin as an alternative to a box if they often have lots of bottles and jars to recycle. Alternatively a red 140 litre bin can be ordered for £26.63 online at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling>.

More information on what can and can't be recycled is available on the council's website at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle> or by calling the council on 01256 844844.

Thinking of getting a real Christmas tree this year?

Don't forget to recycle it after Christmas at one of the drop-off points across the borough from Wednesday 2 January until Sunday 27 January 2019.

For more information visit <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree>



Lions Club of Basingstoke

World Sight Day was our major preoccupation this month. Thanks to The Malls management, who provided us with the space and the marquee outside Boots we had a really successful day. We had over 35 visitors to the stand who had come along to talk to us about their particular problems, and an enormous number of spectacles and lenses were collected for recycling to the 3rd World. Many thanks to all who participated.

Sight and its associated problems and their causes have been at the heart of Lionism since its inception in 1917. Blindness is a terrible affliction which is why Lions Clubs International has programmes across the world designed to combat this scourge wherever it can. I can do no better than invite you to visit the Lions International page of our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk You'll be astounded.

The main purpose of any Lions Club is to serve its local community to the best of its ability. Last month I gave you an idea of how our Club tries to meet its remit. Our twin Club in Alençon is much larger and has been known to organise lorry loads of shelters, clothing and food to assist people living in dire conditions, particularly in the wake of the demise of the old Soviet Union. Australian Clubs around Sydney have provided very welcome beach shelters and barbecues. The members of an Auckland club I visited were the same sort of good time Charlies as us, putting on events and "sizzling sausages" to support their community. But further up the North Island in New Zealand I visited the Opononi and Districts Lions Club. Not only did they run events, but they ran the library, the tourist information office and the fire brigade. They were also actively helping local families with problems. All the club members got involved. And that is one common thread I have found in all my experiences - good spirited willingness to take on challenges and muck in to get things done. So, in the immortal words of the great Delia Smith "Let's be havin' you!" We can't continue our service without more members.

Almost as important is money, and our fundraisers (that's pretty much everyone) are on the job as usual. Between now and Christmas they'll be out and about at a variety of locations making cash collections to support our donations to areas of need and to spread a little joy. And as soon as the festive season is over, we're back into concerts and quizzes. The programme so far is:-

- 16th February : The Apollo Big Band at Queen Mary College
- 06th April : Quiz Night at the Millennium Hall
- 13th April: ABBA Sensation at Queen Mary College
- 20th July: Moscow Drug Club at Queen Mary College
- 21st September: Ali Mak Rhythm and Blues Band at the Royal British Legion
- 16th November: Quiz Night at the Millennium Hall

If we 'aint shakin' da booty we're shakin' da brains! Join us!

Full details will appear on our website in due course.

Finally our members would like to congratulate the Chairman of Helping Hands for the Blind, David Chatten-Smith, on his nomination as one of the finalists in the Groundwork Community Awards – really well deserved! We'd also like to congratulate all those involved in the production of "Popley Matters", a high quality Community Magazine now up to its 200th edition.



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. No news yet on when the building of Melrose Hall is but it will be bigger and be able to serve the residents with more varied things.

WHATS ON IN AUGUST:

- MONDAY:**
 10.00-11.00am 4 Fits Sake Pound Fit
 12.30-2.30pm Bingo!!
 7.00-8.00pm Yoga with Tory
 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
 9.30-11.30am Popley Little People
 5.00-7.00pm Sama Karate
 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
 9.30-11.30am Community Café
 7.00-9.00pm 4 Fits Sake
- TUESDAY:**
 10.00am-1.30pm Melrose Tots
 6.15-9.15pm Friday Youth Club
 9.15am-4.00pm 7th Day Adventist Church
 10am Sabbath School – Bible Study
- WEDNESDAY:**
 11.30am Divine Worship
 1pm Free Community Lunch
 Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812
- THURSDAY:**
 Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.
- FRIDAY:**
- SATURDAY:**
- SUNDAY:**

Joshua Dempsey

Joshua Dempsey is a remarkable 15 year old Popley youth. Again this year he appealed to residents of Basingstoke and Deane to donate food and goods to help vulnerable people in the borough rather than trick or treating for sweets.

Last year he collected more than 60kg of food for the Basingstoke Food bank this year he collected 180kg this year, triple the amount from last year and this I was told should feed 420 Basingstoke residents.

Joshua asked me to give a huge thank you to everyone in the community who supported him again this year and all the new people he met too.

Joshua set out a stall in Appleton Drive by the play park, to collect for the foodbank. His proud mum, Natalie Dempsey, said "He has always done things to support charities and last year he did so well he wanted to do it again".

We hear so many negative things about our youth and this shows there are just as many who, like Joshua, do care and do wonderful things like this. Well done Joshua.



Upcoming Dates:
Wednesday 5 December 12.30-2pm Over 65s Christmas Party
Friday 14 December last day of Autumn Term
Monday 7 January new term begins

Time has flown by during my time in ECA. It has been such an amazing experience so far. I only have a few more months to go until I leave. It is true what they say; secondary is always a rollercoaster during your lifetime. Of course staying young forever is not an option but making the most of it while you are there. If I could go back to primary I would have tried my best in my SATs. As we know your grades do affect your learning in secondary, which therefore means teachers will only give you aspirational grades based on your results in Year 6. However this didn't stop me from trying hard and working towards better grades to what teachers think I am capable of. For example in Maths I am currently predicted a 6-6.5. Although that is my target grade, my teacher has told me that I am capable of getting higher. Not only has this encouraged me to do more challenging work but it has also changed my mindset more positively to working harder in my other subjects as well. This has been one of the biggest life-changing lessons, no matter what you are targeted you are always capable of doing more by believing in yourself and having the right attitude towards your learning. **Miriam Cisse Head Girl**



Basingstoke Gazette
 School Correspondents
 Four of Year 10 students have taken up the challenge to become School Correspondents, the students articles will regularly appear in the Gazette



On behalf of students and staff I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year
 Alex Russell
 Headteacher





The Probuss Club of Basingstoke



November '18 Speaker Report – 'So Far So Good' by Malcolm Wells MBE

At the November Probuss meeting, Malcolm's talk 'So far so Good' was based on his life time experiences covering 24 years in the army as a musician (playing cello on state occasions and banquets) and as a medic serving in Northern Ireland and the first Gulf War.

Malcolm also explained his experience of receiving the MBE at Buckingham Palace together with amusing stories having spent 15 years as National Speaker at Canine Partners – a charity that trains and provides dogs to assist with a range of practical tasks such as provide day to day assistance that may be difficult, painful or impossible to perform including how to teach a dog to use a washing machine! Since leaving Canine Partners Malcolm decided to continue as a speaker talking about his own career including many funny anecdotes along the way.

Probuss provides a support network for professionals when they retire. These clubs were initially started for men but over the years has seen a steady growth in Ladies and Mixed clubs. Many clubs have extensive networking, social programmes, which include meetings with other Probuss clubs, group trips, holidays and involvement in community projects etc.

The Probuss Club of Basingstoke is a men only club although there is a Ladies' Probuss club also in Basingstoke. We have a small Executive Committee to manage the affairs of the club – meetings, lunches, speakers, trips, finance and publicity.

For further information visit our website: probussbasingstoke.wordpress.com

Dear friends. HAVE YOU EVER GOT IT WRONG?

As I write I'm looking out on the most gorgeous sunset and it's a balmy 23 degrees. We're taking a short pre-Christmas break staying with some friends on the wonderful island of Cyprus. Yesterday evening we were treated to an evening out to a local musical called 'The Rock.' This wasn't anything to do with some fearsome wrestler or a guitarist from some heavy metal band, no, it was the story of St Peter and his journey from fisherman to Christ's closest follower. Jesus said to Peter "Simon, you shall be called Peter and on this rock will I build my church." And he did!

Funny thing is, Peter was way far from being perfect. In fact like all of us he was flawed in many ways. He was a rough and ready fisherman, sometimes abrasive, sometimes rude, sometimes, (in fact lots of times) jumping to the wrong conclusions and saying or doing the wrong things (ring any bells?). So why would Jesus choose someone like him to be the leader of this new church that was about to emerge after his death and resurrection?

What came across very powerfully in the musical was the relationship between Jesus and Peter. Even with all his flaws and faults Jesus loved Peter, he loved him for who he was, where he had been and what he was. He saw the true potential that existed deep within Peter and he was determined to help him realise that potential. He did it in and through a deeply personal relationship with this rough and ready fisherman. Peter went on to become one of the founding fathers of the Christian faith and was not shy in proclaiming Jesus as God's son.

At this time of the year I guess we are all busy preparing for the Christmas season with all its attendant shopping for presents for food and drink for Christmas trees and all that other good stuff. Just take a moment, close your eyes and strip away all the sentimentality of Christmas and see it for what it really is. A young peasant girl probably only 15 or 16 years old and her young husband. Weary and tired from a long journey, heavily pregnant and giving birth in a smelly old stable populated by various livestock. Why? Why not some rich royal family in a palace or a least a wealthy businessman's home? Why choose such a lowly place to give birth to God's son?

I guess the fact of the matter is that God isn't interested in wealth or status or position. He's only interested in the heart and what's really there. Like Peter we are all deeply flawed in one way or another, we all mess up, jump to wrong conclusions, suffer from anxieties and fears, make poor decisions etc., but none of that stuff can or will ever stop God from loving us or seeing the true potential buried deep within us. For sure he will want to help you sort it and change it - for the better. Who wouldn't want that? Peter did!

So, this Christmas may I invite you to come along to one of our Christmas services. Come and meet the man born in a stable who grew up, lived and died and lives again for you. Who loves you no matter who, what, where or how you where you are now.

With every blessing for a peaceful, joyful Christmas time for you and your family and friends.

Revd Arthur.
Vicar, St Gabriel's
01256324734
www.stgabrielspopley.net

The end of October saw a mixture of Halloween activities for all the sections at Basingstoke Air Scouts. The Scouts section had their weekend visit to the Alton Towers Scarefest event. They all soon returned home, quivering wrecks after a very enjoyable weekend. The Cubs spent a while making mummies out of each other; I'm sure the Egyptians would have very proud of their attempts! Meanwhile the Beaver section spent the evening making slime.

Some of the Scouts are currently working on their Personal Challenge award. The Scouts have to complete two challenges, one set by the Leaders and another normally chosen by the Scouts themselves. But just to add a slight twist, the Scouts' parents have to decide a challenge for them to complete. These challenges can include anything from doing the washing up for a fortnight to planning an activity for the rest of the Scouts to do. One challenge



currently being planned by some of the Scouts is an overnight camp, which includes cooking their evening meal and breakfast on an open fire. Sounds like great fun.

Currently the Cub and Scout sections have space for new members, so if any of that takes your fancy you are more than welcome to come down on a Tuesday evening for Cubs, or a Friday evening for the Scouts for a taster of what's its all about. 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 it can be done online. The only qualification needed, you must like working with kids and like having a bit of fun. If you are interested please contact the Group Scout Leader, Colin Karslake on 07796 772500 or contact us through the group website, www.base2000.co.uk or via Facebook.



*Find the real meaning
of Christmas*

(and maybe a mince pie or two)

At our Christmas Family Service

Sunday 23rd December - 10.30am

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All Stars - The recruitment for our All Stars group has been amazing and we are seeing so many great footballers each week, all with big smiles on their faces. The quality of the group seems to get better every week. A fantastic bunch of young players for the coaches to work with.

U8s - Skills aplenty on show in our matches recently. We've had step overs, drag backs, Ronaldo chops and 2 players have even done Rabonna crosses. Loads of effort and goals also.

U13s - If we could bottle up the effort this team puts in then we would have a bigger budget than Barcelona with the sale of it. Mixed results so far and we find ourselves mid table in the Premier division but far exceeding our predictions.

Our U10s teams have started their cup competition on 4th November with our MFC Popley Red team progressing to the Cup and our MFC Popley Black team progressing through to the Plate. The next round is due to take place on Sunday 18th November and we wish both teams the best of luck. Our boys have also been presented with a brand new training top to keep them warm in the winter. Many thanks once again to our Sponsor Grovewood Machines Ltd for their continued support.

MFC Popley U12s played in the second round of the Hampshire Cup on Remembrance Sunday and it was a game to remember with some scintillating football played by the whole team eventually ending with a 6-0 win. Great team performance and goals shared around.

U14s - A very tough season so far for our U14s in a highly competitive North East Hants League. A hard fought draw with Hook Utd was followed by defeats to Beacon Hill and Liss Athletic. A great learning curve for our players in a good quality league.

U16 Saturday team (East Berks League Div 1) recently played our 2nd round Hampshire cup tie against the current Hants Cup champions. Having been drawn previously against Newport in the last 2 years we knew that the tie was a tough one. With 1-1 draws in games against each other and the last years game being a semi final loss for the 2nd year running, we were totally ready for the challenge.

With the game being played on the Isle of Wight, it was a very early start, with kick off at 11.15am. The team started amazingly with Newport not getting near the ball, but putting the ball in the net proved difficult for us. Both teams had chances by the end of the 1st half. They started better in the 2nd half but 15 mins in we changed formation. This seemed to cause problems for Newport and with 15 mins to go we got the breakthrough, scoring a quality worked goal. Then we got another and, with 5 to go, another. Winners 3-0 on the day.

The boys were amazing all game, total commitment to the end.

Note: we have reached the semi final 3 years running, could this be our year!!!

MFC Popley Youth would like to wish all our players, coaches, volunteers, sponsors and supporters a very Merry Christmas! Thank you all for your support and commitment to the club through 2018 - we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Zak Collingwood