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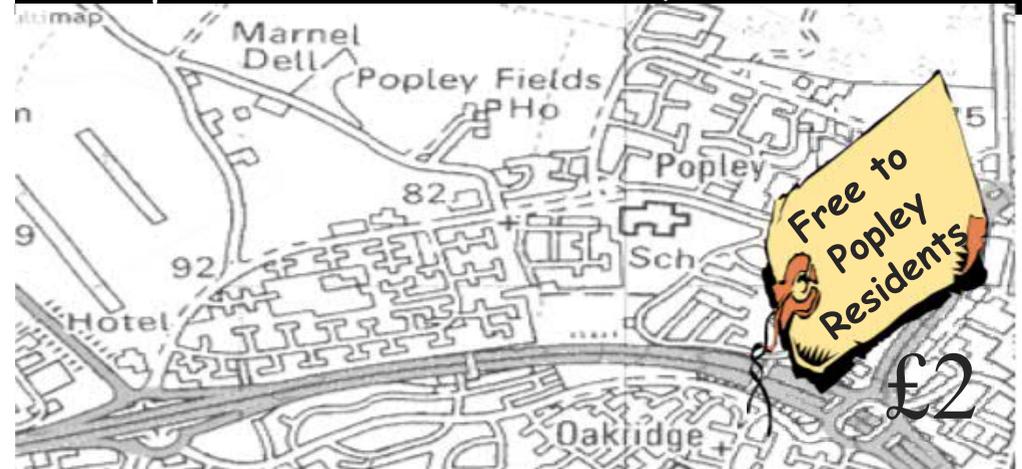


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POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

September 2020 Distribution of 5,400 Issue 223



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-9-20) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Editor Message:- We are back into print and it has been a mammoth task to get it ready and taken two or three times as much effort and time for Paul and me to prepare. I hope you read and enjoy your community magazine. Thank you to the lovely people who have helped especially Chris our treasurer, Martin our printer, Jeremy who helps to get the Matters out; and not forgetting Paul who has had to reset everything. Paul will continue to also do the virtual copy on the Facebook page Popley Matters and I will share it around to other pages.

It has been a tough time for so many people and sadly not over yet; guess it won't be till a vaccine is found. We can at least get to do some of the normal things that we all took for granted before. I don't know about you but it has made me appreciate just how much freedom we have.

As you read through this copy you will see just how many things are starting up again. I owe an apology to The Spine Team who, on the virtual copy, I put temporarily closed and it wasn't. Now is the time to use your local shops and businesses. I noticed in the Abbey Road shops that the Post Office sells an amazing amount of different goods stationery, party bits, kitchen ware, magazines, newspapers and, of course, the Post Office we all fought so hard to get where you can even do your banking now.

We could do with some help in delivering Popley Matters - some of our long term serving deliverers have said its time to retire, so thank you to you all for the many years of service to the community. If you have an hour once a month to spare, we would love your help. Our deliverers say they enjoy the walk and meeting and chatting to people they meet while delivering your magazine. We also welcome articles; it could be about you and your involvement in the community or about your hobbies or maybe the group or activity you attend. Contact me at or phone 819924 or drop me a note through our door at 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL.



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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Dear Friends

We used to have a saying in the RAF “Constant change is here to stay – perhaps!” Mostly because the shifting sands of change were ever with us, wherever we were and whatever we were doing. It’s a fact of service life. When I became a Christian I read in a Christian magazine “Scientists have a term for life forms that do not change and grow – it’s dead!” Finally that gracious lady The Queen Mother once said that “you do not grow old rather you become old by not growing.”

We are living in unprecedented times and constant change is something we are going to have to get used to living with, as hard and as difficult as it may be. New ways of being, living, working and using our leisure time and neither is Church excluded from that list. Our hopes, dreams and desires can seem lost. In the words of Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones song “You can’t always get what you want.”

Change is never easy, even for those who, like me, take enjoyment in its challenges. We have had to find new ways of worshipping God together, new ways of taking funerals and other key life events, new ways of reaching out and caring for one another. But there are some concerns; will we ever get back to ‘significant normality’ as our Prime Minister puts it? Will we ever want to go back?

One of my chief concerns is the level of anxiety and fear that I meet almost every day in some way shape or form. There are those who are becoming ‘lockdown agoraphobics’ through the anxiety and stress of losing their perceived normality and who cannot find those new ways of being and living, of establishing a new normal. I fear that in the long term the damage to mental health may account for more lives than the virus itself.

Given all this I was pleased to see on social media a post that greatly encouraged me, it read: “Make sure you test positive for faith. Keep your distance from doubt, and isolate yourself from fear. Trust in God through it all. Amen”. I hope that is something that you will find encouraging as well. In the Bible, in a letter written by St Peter, he writes “Leave all your worries with Him (God) because He cares for you.’ One of the most common phrases found in the Bible is “do not fear (do not be afraid)”

In the midst of all the crazy stuff going on around us we don’t need to let fear, worry or anxiety dictate our every thought or decision. “Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you!” He really does. For more on this come along to St Gabriel’s or give me a shout.

Every blessing to you and yours.
Revd. Arthur
01256 324734
www.stgabrielspopley.net



Notice from the Old Basing Royal British Legion

This year’s Poppy Appeal and November’s Remembrance event is fast approaching. Due to the Covid-19, restrictions this year will look very different from previous years and I will keep you up to date as soon as I have further information.

We are still collecting used clothes and coins, both foreign and pre-decimal, so please contact me if you have some you wish to donate.

Also, if you wish to commemorate Remembrance with a poppy wreath there are over 3,000 different emblems available so you can pay your respects.

Please let me know if there is a specific tribute you would wish to have on Remembrance Sunday.

I can be contacted on hampshire.chairman@rbl.community.

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As one school year finishes and another will shortly begin, it would be foolish to ignore the significant impact that the pandemic has had on all members of the local community. As a school, we have faced many challenges over the past four months.

Along the way, our staff have had to adapt to new scenarios, develop a remote learning platform and ensure the wellbeing of our students is a priority. What is most pleasing is the impact all of our efforts have had on the community. Students have been able to learn, parents have felt our support and our school has provided consistency in an ever-changing landscape.

Despite extraordinary circumstances, we have been able to consistently operate at a high level and keep the Everest spirit alive. Thank you to all staff, students and members of the community; you have worked diligently and tirelessly over the last few months.

Current circumstances mean we find ourselves facing a return to school on September 3rd, which in the first instance will not feel normal. We are however, extremely confident that we are ready to deliver. We all must start the year feeling empowered to get back behind the wheel, drive the school forward and move beyond our recent 'Good' Ofsted judgement.

We looking forward to welcoming all students back in a few weeks ready start 'a new normal'

Have your Say on Plans to Stamp out Dog Fouling.

People are being asked to give their views on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's plans to get tougher on dog owners who don't clear up after their dog.

The council is proposing to introduce a borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order taking a firmer stance on dog fouling in Basingstoke and Deane and is asking people to have their say.

Evidence gained by the council demonstrates that dog fouling in public spaces is a problem across the borough and therefore the council so it is putting forward plans for a borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order for dog fouling bringing tougher penalties.

The draft order makes it an offence if people do not clear up after their dog has fouled in a public space and requires they carry with them an appropriate means to pick up their dog poo and transport it to a bin after their pet has fouled. If they do not comply they could receive an on the spot fine of £100 or be prosecuted at the Magistrates' Court.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Enforcement, Cllr Hayley Eachus, said: "The majority of dog owners act responsibly and clear up their pet's mess but there are a minority that still do not and this lazy and selfish behaviour cannot be condoned. Dog mess is unsightly, it's dirty and it's dangerous and we have received feedback from residents where it has been a real issue for those using public open spaces.

"We are asking for people to feedback on our proposal to impose this order across the whole borough bringing a greater consequence to irresponsible owners and giving the council greater powers to enforce."

People can their say online from Monday 10 August to Friday 18 September at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/PSPO-dog-fouling>



County Councillor Report: Thank you to all the wonderful people who came together to save Chineham Library from being closed; it was a mammoth victory. It was wonderful to see residents coming together from Chineham and Popley defending the library for our school children and many of us older generation who use it too. Sadly South Ham Library will close. Please use Chineham library so we can keep the threat from future closing away. The library does a lot more than just loan out books. Now that the phase one and two road and path improvements are completed by Hampshire County Council in Popley East, the next phase will begin soon for Popley West. They include a new path that will be created from Tintern Close to the bus stop by Melrose Walk. There will also be a short path from Abbey Road to the Apollo Hotel and Popley Community Park. In the work programme for later on is that a new path will be created by the bus stop at the end of Abbey Road from Abbey Court and Magnolia Court and up to the shops. However with all the cuts it may be a couple of years for those paths.

I am campaigning on improvements for disabled access around the estates. I have got Abbey Road on the work programme and I am in talks about the horrendous gap and step up across from Abbey Road bridge to Oakridge. If you know of other places please contact me. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 [email:- jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk).

Popley West: You will have noticed the blue railing fence around the front of Popley Community Park the fencing around the back will be less formal. The hedges have been cut back making it easier to see coming out of Don Allen Drive. More work will be done to the entrance to the park and new play and green gym equipment will be installed soon. Paul and I have asked for more waste bins as the eleven that are there now are not enough with the growing popularity of the park. There will also be more parking spaces near the MUGA Court (Multiple Use Games Area). The new equipment will have items for all ages, making the park for all the family, including disabled and old like me! We were very disappointed and angry to see the wanton vandalism to the picnic tables and benches. Developer money may have paid for the equipment but the upkeep will have to be paid for out of all of our council taxes.

Most dog walkers are taking the dogs mess home or putting it in the bins around the park however there are some selfish and lazy people who do not clear it away. It can be harmful as it can cause blindness especially if young children get it on their hands. PCSOs are paying particular attention to this; you may have seen the posters? There are also posters in regard to fly tipping around the estates. Thank you Persimmon for at last cutting back the hedges

along Don Allen Drive after many complaints from Paul, myself and residents. We are pleased they have done it, as requested, in time for the new school year.

We are glad that we are going back to weekly bin collections as, in the few weeks that it was fortnightly, there were lots of reports of overflowing bins, maggots in some bins and fly tipping increased massively. If your bins are missed please report it to the council on their web site or phone 01256 844844.

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

Popley East: "We continue to work with residents and are able to undertake case work remotely as required. Albeit many agencies are offering limited responses during lock down, we are achieving results for many residents on the issues they face"

"We have a number of applications submitted relating to new local projects. Decisions will be taken on these regarding funding by the end of August so we will report back on these in a subsequent issue of Popley Matters "

Cllr David Potter 07941507801
cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk
Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200
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Basingstoke police are once again providing residents with some fraud prevention advice, as it continues to be an issue that affects a great many of us.

Fraud is the most commonly reported crime, and anyone can become a victim, regardless of age, sex, or income. Every year the British public loses billions of pounds to fraudsters who bombard us with online, mail, door-to-door and telephone scams. Fraud occurs when someone lies or deceives you in order to cause harm, most commonly by taking money, and there are many types of fraud.

With this in mind Basingstoke police would like residents to bear in mind the following advice:

- Be suspicious! If it seems 'too good to be true', it usually is. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
- Take time to consider offers or deals, do not be pressured into accepting things before you have time to think. Insist on time to obtain advice before making a decision.
- Do not hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company or individual.
- Never send money to anyone you do not know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment that you are not comfortable with.
- Never give banking or personal details to anyone you do not know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.
- Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links provided by an email.
- Do not rely solely on glowing testimonials: find solid independent evidence of a company's success.
- Always get independent/ legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
- Your bank or the police will never ask you for your 4-digit PIN or online banking password, ask you to withdraw money for them, ask you to transfer money to a new account, send someone to your home to collect cash or banking details, or ask you to purchase goods for them.
- Do not be embarrassed to report a scam. Because the scammers are cunning there is no shame in being deceived. By reporting you will make it more difficult for them to deceive others.
- In Hampshire all fraud should be reported to Action Fraud, via www.actionfraud.police.uk, or by phoning on 0300 123 2040. In addition, you may wish to report to the police direct by calling 101.

You can find more information on the types of fraud and scams commonly used and how you may better protect yourself from them on the Action Fraud website and the Hampshire Constabulary website under the 'Advice and Information' section.

Community Room Hire



Now that lockdown restrictions have eased, we are pleased to tell you that our Community Rooms at St. Gabriel's Church are now available for hire!

We have taken steps to ensure that our building is COVID secure, and we are confident that we are ready to reopen and that we have taken the necessary measures to keep our visitors as risk free as possible.

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Some restrictions are still in place, so if you are interested in hiring a room, please contact **admin@stgabrielspopley.net** to discuss your particular needs.

We are also pleased to welcome back many of our existing hires who have started to run their groups again.

Check out our website **www.stgabrielspopley.net** for more details



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6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter



With the lockdown lifting and some of our young people have been back at school, Boys' Brigade Headquarters have sent us the great news that we can start to go back to face-to-face meetings (but of course we will be wearing masks).

Although we had great success with the virtual sessions we are really looking forward to the face-to-face meetings so we can see the young people in the flesh.

Boys' Brigade HQ have supplied a set of comprehensive guidelines that build on the government's rules. These have been put in place to bring us safely back together. HQs have also designed and planned a range of activities that can be done during the "new normal" and still be fun.

We will be sticking to these guidelines as we all want to get back to a normal group meeting but, regardless of these changes, we are all looking forward to seeing the young people again.

As of September we will be returning to St Gabriel's and trying to keep our session times as close to normal as we can.

We will be continuing to hold our Anchor and Junior session at 6:15pm for an hour but our Company session will be starting at 7:30pm and finishing at 8:30pm. These sessions will act as bubbles so no staff can crossover.

If you're thinking of coming along and joining 6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade then please get in touch as we have limited spaces.

Bermuda Community Hall

Due to COVID-19 the hall is still closed. However, we are looking to reopen as soon as possible and we will release more updates in the next issue. We look forward to resuming all the activities as soon as we can!

Thank you for your patience.



Page 22



Hello from Popley Fields Community Centre!

We were very sad to have to cancel this years' Popley Festival (the first time in 26 years) and also halt all of our regular groups and private hires due to Coronavirus but finally we have some good news!

Since June we have been slowly opening our doors as advice has allowed, with Treasure Island playgroup running from June and the RCS connect for summer event running through August and we are now happy to announce we're ready to open "normally" – well our new socially distanced normal, from September.

We'll be open again for our regular users and are also able to take bookings for private hire, parties etc... (advanced bookings for later on in the year are also welcome). For everyone's safety a simply system is in place to ensure all users of the hall can stay safe. For more information please contact us by e-mail and we'll be happy to help.

Many thanks, Popley Fields Team

e-mail us at: office@popleyfields.org.uk

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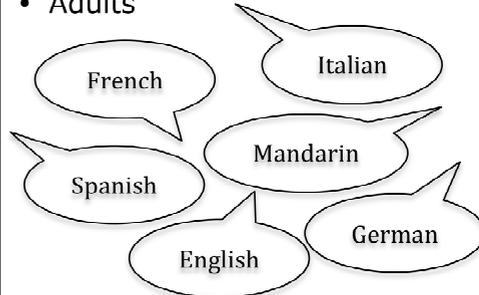


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Winning prizes while helping your community has never been so simple!

The team at Basingstoke Voluntary Action are working to deliver the new Band Community Lottery across Basingstoke and Deane. Participating not only offers an exciting chance to win prizes up to £25,000 per week but also whilst

effectively works to raise money for the many good causes in our community.

The Band Community Lottery will be launched in September 2020 and anyone can buy a ticket for the draws! A ticket gives you the chance to win prizes of up to £25,000 for just £1 per week. Every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize every single week! That's better than the National Lottery and the Health Lottery.

The goal is simple - to raise money within the community for the community. Together, we will empower local good causes to raise money in a fun and effective way. As well as the chance to win, each ticket contributes valuable support to community projects and good causes in the local area.

This is necessary because public funding by local authorities for anything other than essential services is likely to be reduced going forward, leaving our many community groups and event organisers starved of vital resources.

Lotteries of this type are well established across the United Kingdom and have helped thousands of good causes generate recurring income in a proven and secure way.

If you are a local good cause then signing up is FREE.

Local good causes that commit to the Band Community Lottery will receive 50% of all ticket sales from supporters that sign up on your page. The charity will be paid any sums due on a monthly basis.

What's the catch? There isn't one. No fees, no administration, no hassle. All we ask is that any charity that signs up shouts about the Band Community Lottery to their supporters and community so as to increase ticket sales and therefore funding for the charities by default.

Who can join? Any good cause operating within Basingstoke and surrounding area can apply, just contact Neil Morrow (nmorrow@bvaction.org.uk) to register your interest.



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

**YOUR LOCAL
ROTARY
ROUNDUP**
September 2020

Can you make a child happy with a shoebox full of goodies?



Last year Rotary Wessex (Hampshire and east Dorset) distributed over 26,000 shoeboxes full of goodies to delight children in Montenegro, Moldova, Albania and the Philippines who live in poverty. To make sure they don't go astray Rotarians supervise the whole process including volunteers going to the countries to make sure the boxes get to the children.

Philippines boxes go to a charity set up by a Rotarian that we know, so they will not go astray.

We have been told by recipients of shoeboxes, who have now grown up, of the excitement with which they were opened and what treasured memories they have of that special gift

Its great fun to get involved in putting together a shoebox.



- Ideas below of what can you put in your box, things for:**
- Playing** - ball, skipping rope, small games, cards, dominoes, harmonicas/recorders, cars, small toys, cuddly toy
 - Washing** - soap, toothbrush
 - Writing** - pens, pencils, sharpener, notebook, colouring book, puzzle book
 - Wearing** - hat, gloves, scarf, socks, hair accessories, jewellery
- Items need to be new or in good/as new condition.
- Please - No liquids, sharp items, guns or war toys**
- Boxes for either Boys or Girls, ages, 1-3, 4-7, 8-11, 12-15**
- Just use elastic bands to secure your box so it can be checked by customs

Forms to attach to your box and further info and small print on our website and social media.

Remember that recipients will be opening the box in eager anticipation of finding it full of toys and useful items, possibly the first gifts they have received.



One girl, aged 8 was thrilled to receive the first doll of her own, and said: "it is the most beautiful doll I ever saw. I will dress her and take care of her; I never had a doll before."

A 10 year old boy received a baseball cap and wore it all afternoon showing the dispatch team saying "I look so cool."

Why not get your workplace, church, club, your school, Scout, Cubs, Brownie & Guide groups, your children, grandchildren or just you involved, start now so with your help Christmas time can be special for these children who don't have a lot and spread a little joy

Please also attach coins to the value of £1.50p to each box for transport cost.

Drop off your box at the venues below by 19th October 2020

- Eden Mazda Basingstoke, London Road, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 7JD
 - Oakley Carpets. Station Yard, Andover Road, Basingstoke RG23 7HA
 - Parnell, Jordy & Harvey, Estate Agent, 5 Winchester Street, Overton, RG25 3HR
- More drop off sites may be published

Check our website and social media for updates

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men and women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane



Wedding Delayed? Don't Forget to Sort out your Will

For those who made plans for their wedding or civil partnership this year, there is little doubt that the coronavirus has caused serious disruption.

Understandably, many couples have decided to delay their special day until next year.

Although it does not sound very romantic, it is worth remembering that a marriage or civil partnership is a contract, which legally recognises your spouse or civil partner.

Couples who live together but who are not married or in a civil partnership are at a disadvantage as there is very little provision for cohabiting partners should one die.

Claire-Marie Selwood, who is a Wills and Probate Solicitor at Phillips Solicitors incorporating Brain Chase Coles explains: "Despite what many people think, there is no such thing as 'Common Law Marriage'."

"If you die without a Will, your estate will be governed by the Rules of Intestacy, and your life partner/cohabitee will not be classed as your next of kin. The Rules of Intestacy will determine how your property is divided and distributed irrespective of the number of years you have lived together. This could result in your estate being divided amongst your surviving family members to the exclusion of your life partner/cohabitee and this may not be what you would want to happen."

"Therefore, I would strongly advise cohabiting couples who are postponing their wedding or civil partnerships to make a Will."

Ordinarily, a Will made prior to marriage is automatically revoked once the marriage has taken place unless the Will is explicitly made in contemplation of that marriage.

"We can easily arrange for a Will to be drafted with a clause that incorporates the intention to marry or form a civil partnership. This means you don't have to wait until after you are married to make your Will," said Claire-Marie.

"They provide clarity and peace of mind. If you are not sure when your wedding or civil partnership will take place, you can use the time in the lead up to your delayed nuptials to make suitable provision for your future spouse or civil partner."

For more information about making a Will please contact Claire-Marie Selwood by calling 01256 854622, emailing claire-marie.selwood@phillips-law.co.uk or by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/wills-probate.



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Update on behalf of Chineham Medical Practice Patient Participation Group.

COVID-19 has presented us with a substantial challenge over the past few months and the Chineham Medical Practice wanted to thank patients for their support, patience and resilience during this time. Out of necessity the way care for patients has changed in order to keep both patients and staff safe. This has meant all initial contacts are now made through telephone or video call.

The practice has seen that a lot of the work people would previously attended the practice for, can be delivered safely and effectively via phone and more recently video consultation. In the future in the next phase of how we manage COVID-19, the normal care provided for patients will start to resume, although how this is safely and efficiently achieved is still be considered.

If you haven't already and need advice, why not try using our online consultation, e – consult? This is accessible through the practice web page. You can use this to ask questions about new or existing problems and can submit helpful information about long term conditions like blood pressure monitoring. The practice aims to respond with these in 48 hours and often this will be via a text message. Text messages are playing an increasingly valuable role in both in giving information or advice and also helping GPs understand your issues better. Pictures can now be sent in reply which has helped manage things remotely. Similarly, utilising video consultations regularly have been an effective way of managing many conditions and allows you to remain in the comfort and safety of your own home. There may still be times when you need to physically see a doctor / nurse / health care assistant and this can be done at the practice with full protective equipment.

It is difficult to predict for how long these arrangements will be necessary. Your support and help to deliver the safest and most effective service is appreciated. Thank you.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining the patient participation group please contact: Karen Nicholls Tel: 01256 479244

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Group Scout Leader | Colin Karslake | 07796772500 |
| Assistant Group Scout Leader | Douglas Gowan | 07733325498 |
| Beaver Leader | Mandy Pain | 07508204098 |
| Cub Leader | Charlotte Bell | 07919148376 |
| Scout Leader | Kevin Pocock | 07717108560 |

As the Beavers & Cubs continue to meet weekly on Zoom here is a look at back at our meetings: -

Following on from our visit on the July 7th by Megan Taylor & her Assistance dog Rowley who talked to us about hidden disabilities and the life-changing work Assistance Dogs do and the lack of understanding by some people and business, the Cubs & Beavers have decided to work on a project to try & help raise awareness.

The first part of the project saw the Cubs & Beavers each writing a letter to Maria Miller, telling her about our visit and how they found out about hidden disabilities & that some shops & taxi drivers are unaware of that Assistance Dogs are the same as Guide Dogs & asking her to get the Government to help publicise & ensure all business display the correct signage. The following week the Cubs & Beavers made posters to help raise awareness of hidden disabilities. This project will count towards the Cubs & Beavers Community Impact Staged Activity Badge.

With the school summer holidays upon us, at the time of writing it was decided by the Leadership Teams, that we would continue to meet virtually over the holiday period. Activities included an evening of observation related activities such as working out what object had been removed from a Leaders background after they turned their camera back on, and an animal safari where the Cubs & Beavers had to find the animals hidden in the background of everyone's screen. Another evening involved the Cubs & Beavers been set a challenge, by one of the others for example to go to the kitchen and bring back their favourite food to show the rest of the Group. More highlights of the summer holiday meetings to follow

We have also had a Challenge evening where one person set somebody else a challenge to do.

Looking forward to September we have got another guest speaker coming to talk to us, this time from the Middle Wallop Museum of Army Flying, more about this next time. We are also hoping to organise more surprise visits in the coming months

And finally, I thought we would take a trip back in time to the September 2010 issue of Popley Matters to see what we were up to as Group 10 years ago



The summer session ended with a Group Bowling evening which was (not surprisingly) won by the young people who took delight in beating the leaders by a wide margin! Many thanks to Ryan for being a good Scout, helping everyone to choose the right size ball, setting up bowling ramps and showing some good techniques for success. Thanks are due to Katie too for helping with getting everyone fitted out with bowling shoes - it saved the staff such a lot of time as there were so many young people to kit out. The Group had nine lanes in use, most without barriers up which was some achievement. The food was great: much enjoyed and after almost four hours of energetic bowling everyone was exhausted. A great evening of fun and laughter for all - thanks Eve for making the arrangements.

Scouts' summer 'Goose Camp' in Dorset went well and everyone had a busy time. The Scout section could have another opportunity to camp at Pinsent Campsite in mid-September when the annual Scout Survival camping weekend and Emlyn Trophy competition takes place. Plans for the two younger sections have yet to evolve.

Douglas Gowan
Assistant Group Scout Leader



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Hello Popley,

Well another month has passed by and we at MHA are still out and about supporting our wonderful members as and when we are needed. We now have our summer programme in place with a variety of activities on Zoom and on You Tube for all our members to enjoy and help to keep active. We are still working alongside Oasis Cafe aka "Penny's Meals on Wheels" and delivering freshly cooked meals and yummy puddings to our members at a cost of £5 per two course meal.

We are currently working on initiating the safe distance one-to-one meet ups, which I am very much looking forward to doing. I know I have missed each and every single one of our members.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with telephone befriending and one-to-one befriending sessions and also help at our activities that we provide. All the training and DBS checks are done at no cost to you.

If you know of a family member or maybe a neighbour or friend who are isolated and maybe a bit lonely and need that little extra boost to enjoy life more, please get in contact with myself on 07720680403.

Many thanks
Francesca Wildash
www.mha.org.uk

Walking Group

Thursday's 12 noon
Starting 3rd September

Join us for a walk around the park - Get active
whilst having fun with our sociable group!
Open to ALL abilities - FREE - Extra support available

Meet at The Orchard,
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Chair Yoga

Wednesday's @12:00

Starting 2nd September

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Basingstoke – Old Basing



Introduction

Founded nearly 40 years ago, the UK U3A movement encourages people who are no longer working full-time to come together to develop their interests, make new friends and have fun. There are now more than a thousand U3As spread around the country. A short film (less than 90 seconds) outlining the benefits of joining this amazing movement can be viewed at www.basingstokeu3a.org/membership-benefits

What we offer

Basingstoke has a thriving U3A organisation which has been running for 21 years. Around 700 retired or semi-retired people come together in more than 40 groups which meet across Basingstoke. There are recreational and social activities plus a wide range of study groups. With pastimes ranging from sports to music, games to crafts, and arts to science, there's something for everyone. As a member, you can take part in as much or as little as you want. Our meetings are always friendly and informal, so why not join us? You can try out as many groups as you wish over the autumn for a single payment of only £5.

We also offer excursions and holidays across the UK and overseas.

In most months, we normally hold a meeting open to all members to update them on group activities and matters of general interest and usually with an external guest speaker.

Current activities

During Covid-19 we continue to thrive, even during lockdown and social distancing. More and more of our groups are devising ways of keeping in touch safely, and we keep our website up to date. Please have a look at the latest opportunities on www.basingstokeu3a.org or, if you are uncomfortable with technology, ring our national office on 020 8466 6139. They will be able to redirect you to us locally.

We are running an ever-increasing number of groups again, and outdoor groups are now able to run subject to Government guidelines. The **croquet** group is operating

with a reduced number of members participating. The **cycling** group members are keeping active with group rides, keeping to six in a group and separate leaders, plus a cycling treasure hunt and an online meeting each week to give the answers to the clues. **Strings and Things** members now play in the Group Leader's garden once a month, and **walkers** are out and about again, arriving in separate cars with six walkers per group.

Most indoor groups cannot yet meet indoors, but our **Line Dancing** group has started again. Further, a number of enterprising groups are continuing to meet using online technology:

- **Needles & Pins** meets every two weeks, to showcase members' work and have a general catch-up.
- **History** have had a presentation on WWI and WWII communications.
- **Poetry Appreciation** choose two poems to review and read one.
- **Science & Technology** have a fortnightly presentation by a volunteer speaker from the group, followed by a Q&A session.
- **Biography, Literature, Environment** and **Simply Sewing** are shortly going to hold online meetings.
- **Badminton** and **Table tennis** will restart in September. So if you're looking to develop new interests, make new friends and have fun, we'd love to hear from you!



Members of the Cycling group enjoy a well-earned break