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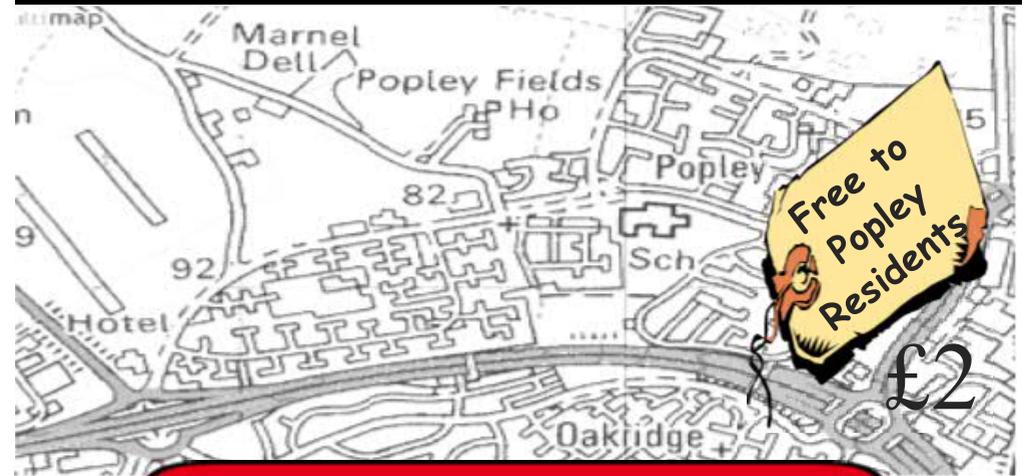
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

February 2021

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 228



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-02-21) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Editor: We have gone back to digital copies of Popley Matters until we feel it is safe for our wonderful deliverers to deliver to your door. It does give us the chance to share the magazine on other Facebook pages, and you can also read it online, you may want and join the page and join in some of the chats. It is a closed group but if you answer a very simple question, I will endorse you then you can join the over 600 people already on the page.

Popley has seen a high number of people having a positive test for Covid-19 and its variants. Please stay home, except for essential journeys, work from home if you can, wash your hands, and keep the two metre social distance. At present play areas are open but the ball courts, outside gym equipment are sealed off limits but this can change. If the play areas and facilities are abused the council have said they will completely close all the play areas. To find out more and keep up with local and national news on Covid try <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/search> and put your own post code for local news.

Melrose Hall has a Community Food Link where on a Monday from 11am to 12.30pm; it is there for all to use and has fresh fruit, veg, meat and other provisions - details on page 9. Another really helpful group on Facebook is called "I need a whisk"; read about it on page 24. This really shows how communities can help each other; and has the added value of recycling items you don't want or maybe you need; something either way, it is there to help.

If you have any questions that are Covid related, Hampshire County Council have a number you can call 0333 370 4000 and they will know the answers or point you in the right direction.

Basingstoke and Deane are trying to get a programme together of things to do over the summer months, you can read about it on page 26. If you have any questions for Popley Matters Contact me by on phone 819924, drop me a note through our door at 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL or email editor@popleymatters.org.uk.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

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

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Greetings from Chineham Library!

As I am writing this we are in Lockdown #3, so the library is only available for collection of Ready Reads (click and collect) and reservations. My crystal ball isn't working at the moment, so I am not sure if we will be slightly more open when you read this – please keep your eyes peeled (ewwwww) for updates online and/or our Facebook page.

If you want to learn something new over the next few weeks there are a number of courses available online as part of the 'Learning in Libraries' scheme. To find out more and to book a course visit the Hantsweb shop online on <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=369> and click on 'Online learning' or 'Online events' (there are no face-to-face events running as yet). Be aware that you may need to download Zoom for course access. Online learning courses are in categories, for example learning something arty, or updating digital skills.

The Ready Reads scheme is still up and running if you would like us to pick your books for you – if you would like to register, either ring **01962 454747** or go to www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/ready-reads to fill in the online registration form. You can specify particular genres such as Crime, Romance or Biographies, as well as choosing how many books you'd like for both you and/or children.

If you want a specific book, then you can choose those by reserving them. Did you know that we have a Spydus app where you can search the catalogue and reserve a book from the comfort of your own home? Best news – it's free!

Hampshire Library offers a Home Library Service to support those who cannot visit a library due to ill-health, disability, or caring duties. If you do not use the Home Library Service but are taking additional health precautions, Ready Reads selections and reservations can also be collected on your behalf. Go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/resources/homelibraryservice> to find out more, or ring **01962 454747**.

Please remember that joining the library is FREE, the Ready Reads and Home Library Service are FREE, and our e-offerings through BorrowBox and RBDigital are FREE!

We are currently open on the following days:

Tuesday: 10 am – 4 pm
Wednesday: 10 am – 1:30 pm
Friday: 10 am – 4 pm
Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm

Chineham Library Team

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Hi, I'm Freyja, I am 12 years old and I would love to tell you about my card business, Freyja's Ink.

I started my business because I love to make all kinds of art.

When I was 10, I made a few cute little finger print cards and sold them for 50p to raise money for The Dogs Trust and for Guide Dogs. This went so well I started sewing cross stitch pictures and making them into cards. Now I also have watercolour prints and a few other original designs.

In the autumn I chose The Food Bank as my new charity and I now donate 30p from each card to buy food for the Food Bank. It's really awful to think of all the people who have trouble looking after themselves and their families and it makes me happy to do a little thing to help.

If you would like to send a card to someone special that you are not able to see in these difficult times please do look at my website 😊 www.freyjasink.weebly.com. If you would like to buy some cards please use the contact form on the website. Thank you for reading this and stay safe <3





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As schools close and we step back into virtual learning, the staff at Everest Community Academy have been working incredibly hard to continue providing high quality education and it appears the students are having great fun too! Students have said their live lessons have been 'really engaging', 'fun' and they are 'excited to learn', whilst parents are confident that the virtual learning is still giving 'students opportunities to participate in answering and asking questions, just like they would at school'. Everest Community Academy have also taken to social media to provide additional support for parents and students, including wellbeing tips, helplines and encouraging students to take part in some fun challenges to look after their wellbeing and keeping active. For example, Everest Book Club is now live and the Sports, Health and Nutrition Department are encouraging students to get involved in Flex Friday and show off how they are keeping fit.

When asked about the provision of home learning Mr Grills, Acting Head of School commented 'I am delighted with the level of support and engagement with online learning. Students, families and all members of the school community have pulled together to ensure they get the best possible education whilst working at home. Over the coming weeks we will be looking to develop our offer further whilst ensuring the safety, health and mental wellbeing of all connected with the school is our number one priority'.



**Council Considering Options for Programme of
Summer Entertainment**

With the ongoing uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is exploring options to safely deliver a programme of outdoor arts, music and performances this summer.

Basingstoke Festival is set to make a return to the borough this summer with 17 days of performances, music, dance and arts between Friday 25 June and Sunday 11 July 2021.

Due to the uncertainty of social distancing restrictions which may still be in place and to keep Basingstoke and Deane safe, the borough council is working with artists and local art organisations to explore how it can hold virtual and socially distanced events.

However, it is unlikely that crowds will be able to return for B LOVE Festival, which brings over 100 live music acts, family entertainment and art in unusual places to be War Memorial Park and is the finale event of Basingstoke Festival.

While work continues to investigate how the festival can be safely delivered in line with government restrictions which may be in place in the summer, there is still plenty to look forward to.

From February, the council's Art in Unusual Times virtual programme, in partnership with local artists and organisations, will bring residents the best in arts and crafts, dance, theatre performances and public art.

Activities include arts and craft sessions using recycled materials with Basingstoke-based entertainer Junk Jodie, interactive Basing-folk storytelling sessions with local theatre company Pumpkin Pantos and the return of the successful Window Wanderland project which will return to communities across the borough, filling their windows with bright and colourful art.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: "We know the COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for residents across the borough and we are keen to provide a fun-filled programme of entertainment this summer that everyone can look forward to.

"But ultimately, the safety of our residents must come first and we are continuing to monitor the latest government guidance and are working with art organisations and members of the arts and culture industry to understand how we may be able to safely deliver the annual Basingstoke Festival.

"We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations in our borough. I am pleased that we are able to bring residents an exciting selection of virtual arts and culture through our Art in Unusual Times programme which we hope will bring some much-needed entertainment to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes." For lots more to see and do, visit www.basingstokefestival.co.uk @BasingstokeFestival on Facebook and @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram

County Councillor Report: The County Waste tip is running a bit better and there are more slots available but we still have lazy inconsiderate people who seem to think they don't have to follow the rules, and are still dumping furniture, white goods and all manner of things. We have asked for CCTV as certain spots seem to attract these selfish people, Abbey Road shops being one of the worst areas. We are still following up about the broken walls. The problem is who is responsible for which walls - some are Hampshire County Council, some are the responsibility of Vivid. The county at present remove loose bricks but because of budget issues will not be replacing them. You will have noticed that we have at least got some areas replaced with railings and I think they are more practical and look a lot neater.

The County Council has that from 25 January, the start time restrictions will be lifted so older person's bus passes can be used at any time. This temporary change to the scheme is intended to continue until schools reopen to all students. It is anticipated that the extension should support older people travelling to early morning vaccination appointments, and to travel at quieter times for essential journeys e.g. food shopping.

Three more parking spaces will be installed in Dryden Close shortly and we continue to try to find solutions to parking issues in all parts of Popley. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email: jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

Popley West: The pandemic is really taking a grip. I just hope by the time you read this issue of Popley Matters that the vaccine and lock-down are helping to get the tragic numbers of people infected and some sadly dying down and soon eradicate it all together. We all have our part to play and only by working together can we beat this.

Now some great news: the Popley Community Park has completed another stage but there is more to come. There will be outdoor gym equipment later and the planting along the fence with gaps and ugly metal fencing will be done when planting is appropriate. At the time of me writing this, play parks remain open and notices about how to use them in the pandemic have been posted at the entrances. For the time being when the outdoor gym equipment is installed they will be cordoned off until the government ban is lifted. Also the MUGA area is closed.

We are busy with casework but you can contact us in the normal way by phone 01256 819924, email for Hampshire County Council issue the email is by letter to 405 Abbey Road. I am also contactable on Facebook.

There are still some issues about the new bin stores for Melrose Work and we are working with Vivid to solve the issues.

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

Popley East: Most of the last year has seen us all having to adapt to different ways of doing things. We have had to make changes and find new ways of working on the issues that matter to you. Although we have been unable to hold our monthly surgeries at the Bermuda Hall or visit residents in their homes, we continue to be available by phone and email, and our contact details are below. Many of you have been in touch for help on a range of issues from missing waste bins to grounds maintenance and more.

All Borough Council meetings are held on Zoom and are available for everyone to watch online via the BDBC website.

We have also been working with Officers on the Environmental Renewal Scheme proposals which have been out to consultation. Thank you to all the residents who have responded to the consultations and also to those who have been in touch with us directly bringing forward some really interesting ideas and observations. It is anticipated that during the next financial year work will also commence on the improvements to the play areas at Chineham Park and Jersey/Guernsey Close.

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



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I Need a Whisk



Do you have items you don't want? Do you need items you don't have! 100% free... NO SELLING! This group is for the 'whisking' of items to others FREE OF CHARGE.

I was chatting to a friend on Messenger who asked me if I was in the 'I need a whisk' group. I had never heard of it so asked her about it. She explained it was a group where people would exchange goods for free, no money exchanged! I thought it was a great idea and went to search. Then realising Basingstoke didn't have one, I waited a week checking each day to see if one had been made. I spoke to friend and colleague Ginny Bailey about it and asked her if I set a page up would she help with me with being in admin/moderator role. She agreed and after a few more days I opened the group. My driving force was that I wanted Basingstoke and the surrounding areas to help each other out and be a better community. The Covid pandemic has brought out the best in so many people. Clothing and household products were the actual feature. The page was set up within a day. My sister-in-law sorted her food cupboard out and posted it on the page, which prompted Naomi who volunteers at one of the four hubs that distribute the food, to contact me with regards to us working with the food banks, They arrange food parcels for those in need! Almost immediately I received a private message asking if the group could help their family. Then another followed very quickly. These current times have become very tough for so many and it is difficult for some people to ask or know where help is available. I also recognised that some really don't want their personal business on the group itself but were in desperate need. I myself had found myself relying on the food bank when my son was little. The admins put themselves forward to help wherever they could. We now have Louise who helps those in need of clothes and don't want their names on a public site. Very understandable and something we support and agree with. It remains completely confidential and they can pm her, or anyone else on the admin in confidence. Our present helpers include Naomi helps with the food. Selina is our volunteer if anyone wants to privately arrange children's toys. Please note, you do not need to be struggling to ask for items you may want. The page is there for anyone to use and help each other. It also helps with recycling all types of items; Instead of throwing those away or just taking up room in your cupboards, someone else will make good use of them. Join our group and post them on the page. I was taken aback and still quite shocked as to how well this group has taken off. Jane, the Editor of this Popley Matters, joined at about number 23 and did a share then those people shared and in less than a week we have (at present) 1200 and we are absolutely delighted. But more importantly within the first two days we were able to help five families. However I do not want my admin to become overwhelmed by too much as there is only so much we can do, but we will do our very best. On FACEBOOK... I need a whisk!

www.facebook.com/groups/414125496462141

Basingstoke Deane

Rotary



MAKING THE BEST OF IT

Our Rotary President usually takes on their role of leading the club in June each year, but in these altered times it was decided last June, when we all thought life would be different by Christmas, to roll this forward to January. So now after being our President for 18 months Alf McCarthy has handed over the role to our new President Gareth Lewis. The club wishes him well for his Presidency.

And so we review our year.

All our social activities have been cancelled. Our formal events such as Charter Night, Presidents Night and Charity evening didn't happen. Most of our fundraising has come to an abrupt end but prudently we did have some funds tucked away that we could put to good use.

So did we achieve anything worth mentioning?

We helped Mencap sell some of their produce - which raised much needed money for them. More importantly we helped Mencap fund the replacement of their dying van without which they would not be able to function.

We also helped Besom replace their van. Besom in Basingstoke helps people make a difference. It provides a bridge between those who want to give time, money, things or skills and those who are in need. It ensures what is given is used effectively. The service it provides is free. For example someone may be refurbishing a room and have good quality furniture to donate to Besom who then give it someone who has been homeless and is moving to an empty new home. Effective recycling!

We purchased equipment for Helping Hands for the Blind allowing them to continue running the community radio station from volunteers' homes. An essential lifeline in normal times but this year many more people have learned about, and benefitted from, the work of this great local charity.

We supported the Spotlight food bank both financially and with drivers in the longer term to help deliver food parcels. Rotarians also helped Inspero deliver their food parcels.

We have again supported Age Concern with their social therapy groups.

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

CONTACTS

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

YOUR LOCAL
ROTARY
ROUNDUP

February 2021

We continue to support Lend with Care, a microfinance charity which enables people in the UK to make small loans to entrepreneurs from poor communities around the world. This charity changes lives by lifting people out of poverty by financing loans for them to start their own businesses.

Against all the odds we managed to set up a pop-up restaurant to provide Christmas lunch for the clients and volunteers of the Camrose Centre who do wonderful work caring for the homeless in the borough.

As Rotarians, the icing on the cake at the end of 2020 was that, at very short notice, we, along with the other Rotary Clubs in North Hampshire were asked to help the local GP practices with setting up the site and marshalling patients for the vaccination programme. It's our hope for the future.

Rotary Foundation is one of the largest charities in the world. During the year we received three grants totalling £5,000 from Foundation towards our projects, including -



"A Healthier Hampshire in a Heartbeat"

We are raising funds to finance the provision of equipment for Basingstoke Hospital to treat a debilitating heart condition called Atrial Fibrillation, which whilst a little known condition, affects large numbers of the population. The equipment will cost approx. £60,000 in total, towards which we have to date raised £18,000. Our Rotary target is £30,000 with the balance being funded by a matched grant.

You'll find more information on our website:

www.rcbd.org.uk

Still a chance to donate - go to:

<https://www.gofundme.com/!a-healthier-hampshire-in-a-heartbeat>

So how did we do in 2020? Think we made the best of a difficult year! We were delighted to welcome Laura and David as two new members of our club this year. If you like the sound of what we do and would like to share in the fun read the notes below.

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Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF)

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF) are excited to announce the dates for the next **Chineham and Sherfield Park Scarecrow Trail Summer 2021!** Last year's event was hugely popular and raised vital funds for BDDF. Noting we have taken the feedback onboard to run over a longer period. The event will take place over the first week of the school holidays, **24th to 30th July 2021**, with map sales available over the first weekend.

Please look out for details on our Facebook page on how to vote for this year's theme and how to sign up to be an entrant, which will open later in the year.

We would welcome volunteers to help with the planning, organisation and execution of the event. A virtual meeting will take place on Thursday 18 February at 7pm. If you have skills to offer or time available to help us run this event, or simply a passion to get stuck in, please get in touch!

BDDF's services. Our weekly seated exercise for mobility and wellbeing and Friday Teabreak club are both free and take place online. Our Walking Club will resume once it is safe for us to do so, as will our courses to help people use their personal IT devices. If you are interested in registering for any of these activities, please get in touch.

Disability Awareness Event. BDDF are preparing to host our annual Disability Information and Awareness Day virtually this year. If you are a charity who would like to be represented at this online event; or if you are a key speaker on issues affecting disabled people because of Covid.

Disability Signposting Services. Have a disability related issue or question? Don't know which way to turn? We will do our best to point you in the right direction, just let us know.

Get in touch and Keep up to date Please get in touch with regards to any of our updates via email info@bddf.org.uk or via Facebook Messenger.

We offer regular newsletters via email; paper version are available by post if you do not have internet access. To be added to our postal mailing list please call 01256 423869 leaving your home address, name and telephone number.

Information on all our free services are updated regularly on our **social media** and **website**. Keep up to date by liking our page on Facebook @BDDForum, Insta @BasingstokeDisabilityForum via our website www.bddf.org.uk, or tweet us @BDDForum.

From Amanda, Sarah, Ani and the team of Trustees





Basingstoke Shed

Our Shed is based on the popular Men's Shed concept which provides a communal space where you can feel at home, socialise and pursue a variety of practical interests. It's an opportunity to meet up and share the tools, skills and resources to work on various projects. Members make their own items and take on community projects supporting the local neighbourhood. Activities can be quite varied with members working at their own pace in a safe, friendly and inclusive environment.

We welcome new members and are looking to encourage older men (usually) to come together to work and generally enjoy a fulfilling time. The social interaction and banter help combat the isolation and loneliness we often associate with retired men. Our Shed contains a wood and metalwork lathe, a pillar drill, band saw and bench saw along with a planer, sanders and lots of hand tools both powered and manual. We also have a kettle and enjoy tea (or coffee) breaks with a biscuit and a good chat, of course. While there are no age limits, many existing members are retired and include electricians, plumbers, heating engineers, joiners, IT people, managers, electrical engineers, teachers; all are welcome! We often repair and even restore items where multiple skills might be required. Projects come in all sizes and range from bird boxes to buses (we are converting a double decker into a mobile Men's Shed – our Shed-in-a-Bus project).

Basingstoke Shed is a member of the UK Mens Shed Association (UKMSA) and there are now over 600 Sheds throughout the UK. As a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity we would love to show you round our Shed so you can see what we do. However that is not possible during lockdown and so we suggest the following:

Visit our website www.basingstokeshed.org.uk or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/basingstokeshed/posts/849849498711081>

You will find various contact details and lots more information including where we meet, when we meet and even about Shed-in-a-Bus! We hope that in time you will join us and have fun making things, as well as enjoying the friendship, humour and support of your fellow Shed members. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Or you can contact us by phoning 07434 678104 or email contact@basingstokeshed.org.uk

News from the Camrose Centre for Homeless and Vulnerably Housed people in Basingstoke

Thanks to the amazing staff at GO Outdoors Basingstoke who went above and beyond recently when we went to purchase boots for our clients only to find our voucher had expired!

We had been gifted the £300 voucher which Camrose Support Worker, Chris Jenner, wanted to use to buy some walking boots that met the needs of our rough sleeper clients.

Thankfully Store Manager, Stuart, was able to reactivate our expired voucher as well as agree to an amazing series of discounts which enabled us to buy 15 pairs of sturdy new boots.

Chris said "Staff member, Gary, spent over 2 hours going through nearly every boot in the shop explaining the pros and cons of each. At no time was there any rush or were we made to feel we were being a pain. These are good quality boots that will last clients a few years. Thanks to Go Outdoors for being so helpful and wanting to help our clients".

(Photo shows Gary from Go Outdoors with Chris from Camrose)



MFC Popley Youth on Social Media.



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

MFC Popley Youth, FA Charter Standard Development Club & Nike Partner Club, has a dedicated club page on Facebook (as well as individual team pages), and you can also find us on Instagram.

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club through our main website: <http://mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk> or on any of the above social media platforms. or on any of the above social media platforms.

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We are continuing in some strange times again this year. This pandemic is affecting many of us in many different ways with mental health, mobility, and lack of social interaction with our loved ones and friends.

We at MHA Communities are still out and about assisting our members with essential shopping, medication pick-ups, delivery of lovely fresh baked cakes.

Our members get to see one of us for a five or ten minute socially distance chat each week which brightens up there day and week.

Oasis cafe are still providing hot and cold meals to the community of Basingstoke - two course meal can be delivered to your door for £5 per two course meal. You can contact Oasis staff if you require a hot or cold meal delivered on 07745392130

I have been busy arranging and setting up Zoom sessions and we are now doing two sessions a week: one is much enjoyed bingo and the other an imaginary walk with using our imagination and acting out the walking motion. We all take part in the story of the walk on what we see it can be :- certain smells, the clouds, the weather etc. You never know, I may actually end up doing the session in a local park in and around Basingstoke to help us all get in the spirit of the walk on Zoom.

We are still continuing to reach out to our members who do not have the use of Zoom or are online. We have a very popular telephone befriending service, welfare checks and dropping off puzzles and arts and craft bags. As a chairty, all the way through the pandemic, we have highlighted that not everyone has Internet access so our more isolated members are not disadvantaged because they have no local family and friends.

We are always happy for enquires on becoming a volunteer or join us as a member, please get in contact with myself at francesca.wildash@mha.org.uk or on my work number 07720680403.

Be safe

Francesca Wildash

Bermuda Community Hall

Due to COVID-19 the hall is closed except for **Tiny steps pre-school which is open**; for further details ring Helen or Connie on 07907815270.

There is no hall hire, however if restrictions are lifted, we hope to resume activities.



Thank you for your patience!

COMMUNITY FOOD LINK

Melrose Christian Fellowship & Melrose Community Association

MONDAYS

11am-12.30pm

Melrose Community Hall, Abbey Road

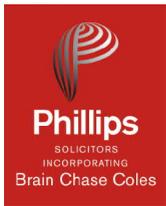
BRING A BAG



Melrose Community Association & Melrose Christian Fellowship have partnered with Community Food Link. CFL is a charity who is given food by the supermarkets that has passed it's sell by date, but not its best before date, food that would have otherwise been taken to landfill.

The food delivered varies week to week, but certainly helps top up your weekly food shop. Please bring a bag & help yourself. For more info call Rhoda on 07756383068





Are you thinking of divorce?

It goes without saying that 2020 was a very difficult year for most of us.

Indeed, the pressures of being forced to spend time together because of lockdowns and social distancing measures, job worries, financial strains and the inability to access support from family and friends have contributed to a very tough year with many people re-evaluating their lives and relationships.

Sadly, for many the coronavirus pandemic has proved to be the catalyst for couples to go their separate ways and file for divorce with perhaps Christmas arguments being the last straw.

If you are thinking about separating from your partner your first port of call should be to get some legal advice from one of our Family Law solicitors. They are on hand to offer you support and get you through the divorce process. At Phillips, we know only too well that it can be a deeply emotional, upsetting and difficult time.

We are here to give advice that you can trust, particularly when it comes to your children, home and sorting out your finances.

Our solicitors will listen to your concerns and discuss your options, letting you know what your rights are, as well as those of your former partner. We can also assist you through family mediation if you prefer, through Haymarket Family Mediation which is part of Phillips.

For many people, mediation is a quicker and cheaper option for resolving family difficulties about children or finances than going to court. It empowers separating couples to make their own decisions together.

Our objective is to help you as quickly and effectively as possible with the best outcomes for you and your family.

Whatever the issue you face this New Year, we can help you and your family find a way forward.

To find out more about our Divorce or Separation legal services please call Hayley Eachus on 01256 854633, email or visit www.phillips-law.co.uk/family

During these difficult times our Town Gate office in Basingstoke is temporarily closed to visitors unless by prior appointment when meeting in person is essential.

However, thanks to our lawyers being able to work remotely, Phillips remains fully open for business and can discuss your legal matters by telephone and video, such as by using Zoom.



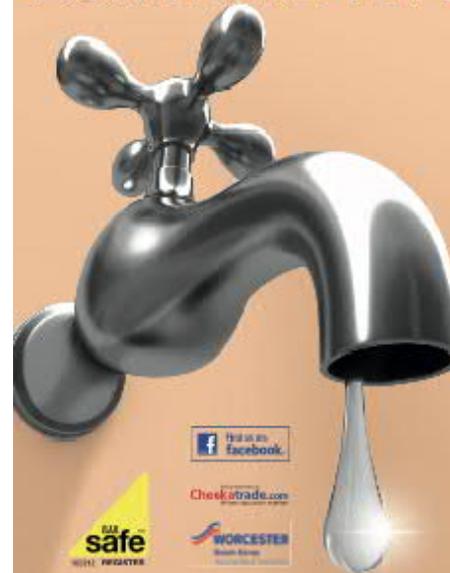
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Basingstoke Voluntary Action Lottery

Basingstoke Voluntary Action have started a community lottery in Basingstoke and Deane. The first draw took place on 28 November 2020 and we are delighted to see the impact this lottery is already having on the good causes in our local community. With nearly 1,000 tickets sold in the first draw alone and 60% of every ticket sold going directly to local causes it is proof that each £1 ticket truly adds up. Currently we are on target to raise over £30,000 in our first year, this money of course going to the 50 plus organisations who have already signed up!

In the short time since the lottery began, we have seen 45 winners! From bonus tickets to cash prizes, the generous supporters of our local communities' causes have enjoyed the variety of prizes this lottery rewards! There are also additional benefits such as the national draw on 19 December. As well as their usual weekly chance of winning the £25,000 jackpot, supporters will be in for a chance to WIN 1 of 5 Entertainment Bundles! Each Entertainment Bundle includes an Amazon Echo Show8, Echo Dot, and Fire7 Tablet! If you are already supporting the lottery, we thank you and ask that you share your enthusiasm with family and friends. Stuck for a gift idea for birthdays and anniversaries? You can now purchase gift vouchers starting from £5; a unique gift for a neighbour, a friend who deserves a bit of luck or the person in your life who is impossible to buy for!

An incredible amount of good causes have signed up already, but we are always accepting more. We are so excited to see the impact the lottery continues to have on our local community in the coming months, especially at a time where our community needs more support than ever.

If you would like to know more about the lottery and how you can take part then please visit our website www.bandcommunitylottery.co.uk or contact cware@bvaction.org.uk.

Update on Austen Academy and its Progress.

The Austen Academy has been commissioned by Hampshire County Council to provide much needed additional places for children with special educational needs. All new schools are required by the Department for Education to be academies and therefore Children's Services has worked with the DfE to secure the capital investment and Hampshire County Council has led the delivery of the building project. Over the past five years the number of children with Education Health and Care Plans has doubled. Around 40% of children with such special needs have their needs met within a specialist school and the Austen Academy is therefore needed to assist in meeting the increased demand. Alongside the Austen Academy, the County Council has increased places at existing special schools and developed new resourced provisions in mainstream schools. More places are planned including the creation of another 90 place setting on the Samuel Cody Special School site, which is currently subject to consultation. Special schools do not have catchment areas but we try wherever possible to locate children in their nearest available provision to ensure children are educated within local communities.

The first sixteen pupils have been identified and will start this spring.

The school will be opening with 16 pupils in April 2021. This increases to: 40 in September 2021, 64 in September 2022, 88 in September 2023, 112 in September 2024; with a maximum number of 128 in September 2025.



Base 2000, Carpenters Down, Popley, RG24 9AE
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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	Contact GSI/AGSL	

As we ended 2020, having had our Risk Assessments approved, we were busy working on finalising our plans to start some limited face-to-face meetings, only to have them put on hold as we entered Tier 4 restrictions and then entering a National Lockdown again, so we are back to running all our meetings over Zoom.

With the start of the New Year, we started off with a Recycling Quiz to see if everyone knew what could and could not be recycled. This was followed the following week with them showing and talking about a Recylobot they had built out of recycled items, that is designed to recycle rubbish into something useful. We had some very strange and interesting Recylobots.

Other activities planned include going on a magical adventure into another land far away and having to work your way back to camp by answering a series of questions.

In the next issue we hope to report activities we did to celebrate the Chinese New Year & Waitangi Day in New Zealand.

Going forward we are planning on going on a virtual hike around the area using "What3Words", though this is in the early planning stages.

Looking for a new challenge for 2021 then read on.

We need your help.

The Leaders are passionate about giving every young person who wants to join, the opportunity of the life changing experiences that Scouting offers. To do this, we need more adult volunteers to help run weekly meetings, organise events and to share in the fun and adventure. But we also need people to help behind the scenes as well.

Why not put a spring in your step, start a new hobby, and put something back into your local community? You will find the time you give really rewarding, Scouting actively promotes flexible volunteering, so we will find you a role that matches the time you want to give. You will be surprised how rewarding and fun your time spent volunteering with us can be, so please contact either myself or Colin on the numbers above today to start your Scouting adventure and help to change the lives of the Young People

Douglas Gowan
Assistant Group Scout Leader



The Covid-19 pandemic, has made a lot of changes to all of our lives, increased social isolation, perhaps more time on our hands?

Can you spare a couple of hours each month? Would you like to make a difference to your local community?

If so, why not consider joining Popley Fields Community Association? We meet (currently online) once a month to discuss the running of Popley Field Community Centre and other outreach activities like, events, youth club and Popley Festival.

No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome. Even if you don't feel you have anything to offer, by being willing to help you have all the qualifications required.

For more information please contact us via the e-mail below and we'll get one of the current team to contact you.

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

Many thanks and hope to hear from you soon,

The Popley Fields Team

Dear Friends

I sat yesterday afternoon and watched the inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th President of the USA. I found parts of the ceremony quite moving and the speeches particularly pertinent to this great nation in all of its internal struggles and divisions at the personal and corporate level.

I was especially touched by some of the things the new president mentioned in his inaugural speech and by the young inaugural poet Amanda Gorman. The President spoke of an end to 'this uncivil war' and appealed for unity to "heal the country's deep wounds of toxic political tribalism, the pain of the pandemic and racial strife... History, faith and reason show the way, the way if unity" he said. "We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbours. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature. For without unity there is no peace, only bitterness and fury." Powerful and prophetic words. Amanda Gorman echoed the same sentiments in the specially written poem that she recited. She began with an image of despair "When day comes we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade?" She then quickly moved in some really uplifting words "And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it..."

In this Epiphany season the Church celebrates the annual 'Week of Christian Unity' when churches across our town and our nation will be considering ways in which we can work more closely together to bring about the dawning of the light of Christ. The prophet Isaiah wrote: '*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*' This, centuries before the revelation of Jesus Christ as a babe in a manger.

Epiphany means 'revelation' and Jesus is revealed as the one who comes to reunite us with God and to bring about the restoration of all of creation into the perfect unity which he originally intended. Unity is a calling to work together and He longs that we should strive to achieve that goal. That is why I found the words of Joe Biden and Amanda Gorman so inspiring yesterday.

May we respectively take on board that call to unity so "We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbours. We can treat each other with dignity and respect..." and in this week of Christian Unity to heed the call of Jesus recorded in John's Gospel chapter 17: "*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.*"

May He richly bless you, your family and your neighbours in the week ahead.

With every blessing

Rev. Arthur

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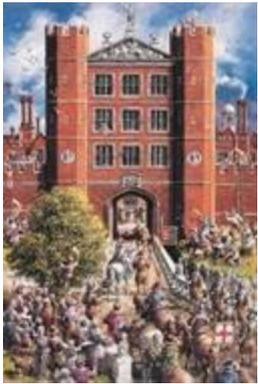
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Pupils Set to Turn Back Time for Local History Competition

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane has re-launched an English Civil War art and poetry competition for young people in the borough after it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor is inviting all schools and sixth form students in the borough to produce a piece of artwork or a poem relating to the Battle of Basing House in 1645.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire County Council are co-running the educational project which commemorates the 375th anniversary of the battle in 2020. Pupils will learn how the nationally important historic site at Old Basing was besieged and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. Basing House was the last Royalist stronghold in the south east and a key site in the battle between King and Parliament at the end of the English Civil War.

Art entries for the competition can be in any form, for example drawing, photography, sculptures and music, together with poems, and should be inspired by Basing House and/or the English Civil War. The closing date is Friday 12 March 2021 and judging will take place on Friday 19 March 2021.

There are three categories – primary, secondary and sixth form. Subject to coronavirus restrictions being lifted, all the winners will be invited to join the Mayor at a special opening of the English Civil War Art and Poetry Exhibition at Basing House, where they will receive a Mayor's plaque and an annual family pass to Basing House.

The winners' schools will also each receive a free educational visit to Basing House, potentially including a travel bursary.

Cllr Taylor said: "The borough has a rich and fascinating history and 2020 marked an important milestone with the 375th anniversary of the Battle of Basing House. We weren't able to go ahead with the planned events in the summer due to the pandemic, but we are now pleased to re-launch the English Civil War art and poetry competition.

"The project is a perfect opportunity for young people to learn more about the English Civil War and I hope as many pupils as possible will contribute to the art and poetry competition – it is a chance to stretch their creative talents."

For full information and inspirational local history lesson plans visit <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/english-civil-war-competition>

Update from Chineham Medical Practice January 2021

As many of you will know, the local Covid-19 vaccination centre is based at the Hampshire Court Hotel, RG24 8FY and is in collaboration with all practices in North Hampshire. This arrangement was decided as the Government required the service to run at Primary Care Network population scale and it minimises disruption of normal general practice services.

The capacity at the Hampshire Court Hotel is increasing to match increased availability of vaccination supplies and we are ready to increase the number of people vaccinated as soon as we have it. We are following the priority guidelines established by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Their priority list is as follows:

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. All those 65 years of age and over
6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. All those 60 years of age and over
8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

We appreciate the concern and frustration people feel when they know there is a vaccine and they can't get access to it. Please be reassured that as soon as we have stock **we will be contacting eligible patients directly in order of priority to organise these appointments.** Although we are unable to be specific about when individual groups will be receiving their vaccination as this is entirely dependent on national availability of stock which is not control locally, people will receive the vaccination.

In the meantime you do not need to contact the practice to request a vaccine. Please keep safe and follow the government guidelines.

Dr Tim Cooper, Chineham Medical Practice