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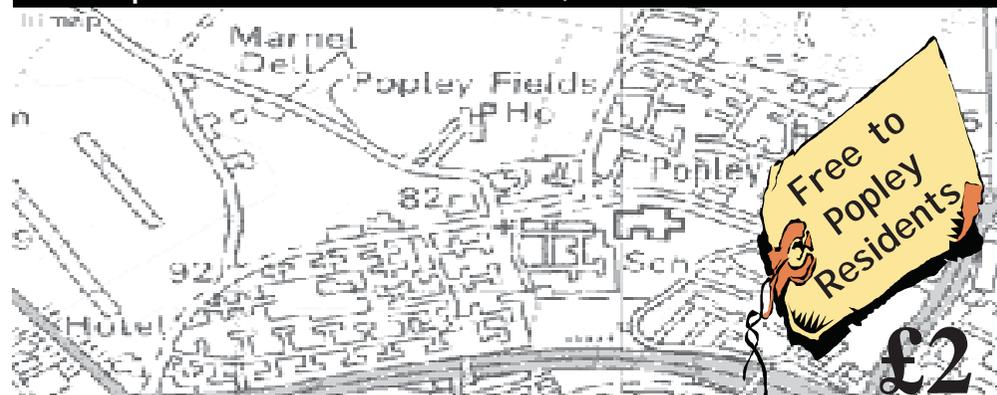
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2011 Distribution of 4,800

Issue 110



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-04-11)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- Spring is here, and as usual we see the flowers and trees coming into flower and leaf. It is so strange to see all this beauty and try to even partially comprehend the awful devastation in Japan. It goes to show that at the end of the day nature has its say. All we can do is try to help and work with the environment. I wonder how many readers will be going on holiday and where too? I bet there are some really exotic destinations?

Merton Junior School have written an article for us and I must say we love hearing from our schools and nurseries. Looks like the

pupils have been very busy, read their article on page 17. Hampshire Fire and Rescue will be writing a more local article instead of the usual advice that can be found on their website. The first article is on the opposite page.

Thank you to the volunteers that have stepped forward to help deliver Popley Matters to Marnel Park and Merton Rise. The number of magazines grows by the month it seems and soon we will be printing off 5,000. Your next issue of Popley Matters it will be nineteen years old. It's Your Popley Matters and I hope you all still enjoy reading it.

There are two public meetings coming up about the probability of yet more new housing in the area at the side of Jersey and Guernsey Closes you can get the details on page 27.

If you want to write an article, advertise or be a volunteer for Popley Matters, contact Jane Frankum on 819924 or Iris King 411113 via email editor@popleymatters.org.uk, or write to Popley Matters Group, PO Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, P.O. Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, e-mail: editor@popleymatters.org.uk. The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

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Beckie's Column

Hello! I'm sorry about the mix up of dates for Mother's Day! It's actually on 3rd April. At least you will be ready early!

Anyway, spring's here!! And I've seen the sun pop out from behind the clouds a couple of times now!! Has anyone been to the new park at Eastrop? I love the new swing and the talking pipe, where you talk into it one end and you can hear it somewhere else!! I think it's quite good for all ages because there are small things for the younger ones and bigger and more interesting equipment for the older ones. It would be a nice place to spend time over Easter.

Any plans for Easter? Holidays? We've got quite a long time off of school in April. Lots of sleep!! And chocolate. Yum!

I also like that Easter is about Jesus being reborn and about new life. I think that's quite sweet. I don't see where the whole chocolate thing came into it though!! Talking about chocolate, there's an Easter Egg Hunt on at Highclere castle for all the family. Its £4 to get in but it's to help the Naomi House Children's Hospice. So it's going to a good cause and could be a lot of fun! If you want to go or want more information then www.highclerycastle.co.uk should help. Going back to Mother's Day, there are lots of places doing lunches. One place is doing a family photo with the meal. That could be a nice way to spend Mother's Day. Making your Mum breakfast in bed might be another way.

Well, I hope you have a good Easter, enjoy it!

Beckie

Water garden opens for HART

If you love wildlife and would like to visit the finest water garden in the world (according to the International Water Lily Society) there's an important date to put in your diary.

On 15 May the Longstock Park Water Garden is open by kind permission of the John Lewis Partnership for the benefit of HART Wildlife Rescue. The garden, which is near Stockbridge, is only open on 12 occasions during the year and provides the chosen charities with an excellent opportunity to raise funds.

"We are delighted our application was successful, and feel very privileged to have been chosen," said founder June Gibbs. "The day is likely to be one of our biggest fundraising events of the year and it is particularly fitting that much of the proceeds will help us to transform the field adjacent to the new wildlife hospital in our own wildlife haven."

People flock from miles around to see the beautiful secluded lakes which attract an abundance of wildlife in all its forms. In May, the many varieties of primula, which began flowering in March, will still be going strong and the irises will be adding to the colourful landscape.

With entry only £5 for adults and children under 14 just £1, a visit to the garden makes an excellent day out. Teas are available at Longstock Park Nursery where visitors may be able to purchase some of the plants they have admired and many more besides.

No dogs, except those providing assistance, or picnics are permitted within the water garden.



A View from Your Fire Station

Looking back, the Christmas festivities and the snow and ice seem a long time ago. Yet this period of time was testing for all the emergency services including your Basingstoke fire crews. The Basingstoke Landrover with its 4x4 off road capability was invaluable in maintaining the ability of crews to reach even the most difficult of locations during the adverse weather. The festive period saw the actual number of property fires in the Popley area decrease even though we all now introduce fire risks into the home such as candles and potentially overload electrical sockets. It is pleasing to note that our Community Safety messages are being heard and listened to. The number of car accidents did increase but that was mainly due to the adverse weather and almost all were low speed collisions which thankfully resulted in few injuries.

As we look forward, what are the fire service doing now for the Popley residents and wider Basingstoke community?

Well the Princes Trust are running their 14th Team at Basingstoke from the Popley Scout hut. The team leader is a fire fighter from Basingstoke and all thirteen young people on the scheme come from the local area. By the time this article goes to press they will have completed their community project at Roman House in Winklebury Way having landscaped and improved the outside garden area for the residents. The team will be nearing the end of the 12 week programme and have learnt invaluable skills that will help them in the rest of their lives.

Later in the summer time it is hoped that Basingstoke Fire Station will get a series of new fire appliances. Two new major appliances are planned to arrive, and one will have a newer heavy rescue capability. It will also have a new fire fighting medium called CAFs, which stands for 'Compressed Air Foam'. This will complement our already wide range of extinguishing media used on a variety of fires. A new small rapid response vehicle is also planned called the 'small fires vehicle' which as its name suggests will attend all minor incidents.

As for the coming spring and summer months can we please remember fire safety when considering outside barbeques or bonfires. Many people are injured in such activities all of which are avoidable.

In closing I just want to focus on home safety – we have attended several house fires in Popley over the last few weeks, and the messages to you are the same as before. Never leave cooking unattended in the kitchen and please always ensure you have working smoke alarms in the home. Have a home escape plan and remember in an emergency, Get Out, Stay out and Call the Fire Brigade Out ! Keep well and keep safe.

Basingstoke Fire Station Staff



Hello Folks,

This year seems to be moving fast. The sun has shown it's face a few times and I am hoping for a great summer this year. The Popley Team have been hard at work trying to keep the community safe. In case you didn't already know the Popley Team are all cycle officers and come rain or shine we are in Popley. I for one love patrolling on a bike. It is great for feeling part of the community and communicating to the public. It is also great for fitness. The stereotype of the beat office may involve a lot of tea and cake but this is balanced with many miles of high visibility cycle patrols. PC Chris Brindley and I have made some good arrests in relation to drugs in Popley. The Popley community had informed us that drugs in and around Abbey Road was a serious issue. We have been targeting the known areas of drug use and drug dealing with some great results.

On 14th April 2011 the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team will meet to vote on three more Community priorities. I will update you with the new priorities as soon as I know them. You can also find out about other Popley news by visiting the Popley Matters website or by following the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel on twitter: twitter:@PopleySNP

Marnel Park now has a Neighbourhood Watch area, and the next planned area is Speckled Wood Road. Every address in the street has been letter dropped with Neighbourhood Watch information. Hopefully there will be enough interest to start the ball rolling and get a really good scheme up and running. You may have read in local news that a man called Peter Heath was missing. The Beat Teams from North and South Basingstoke assisted shift officers with extensive searches in Winklebury for Mr Heath. I am pleased to report that he was found . You can always contact us with any comments or information on 08450454545. As always the Popley Team are keen to here your views about Popley and ways we can work with the community.

I look forward to seeing you on my travels

Regards
PC Dan Carter
Popley West Beat Manager

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IT'S been another fantastic month for MFC Popley, the area's local Youth Football Club.

Leading the way of late has been the Under 12s who, under the expert Management of Dave Wright and his Assistant Manager, Kevan Merritt, have notched a couple of famous wins recently.

The first was on the road up at Water End, where they beat league leaders Basingstoke Town Colts 3-2.

Afterwards, a delighted Wright said; "Away to the league leaders and we played them off the park on their own patch. Can't describe how proud I am of every single one of the boys. Also a big thank you to all the parents who came to support us in the pouring rain."

The second victory came with a 3-2 home win over Andover in another gripping match.

Elsewhere, the under 8s, Managed by Club Chairman Lee Austen, Clint Bassett and Barry Lunnon, who are continuing to impress with their "total football."

They recently drew 0-0 in a fantastic match with the very useful Winklebury Wizards, prompting Club Secretary Ian Davies, who refereed, to remark it was the best standard of football he could ever remember seeing in a match at that age group level.

At Under 7s Manager Alec Matthews's squad continue to progress and Coach Jo Dawber is doing great work preparing the Under 6s for next season.

Manager Russell Graves continues to do sterling work with the Under 9s and at Under 11s, Manager Paul O'Shea's boys have been showing improved form of late.

At Under 10s the Dynamos look set to finish a very honourable second to Andover New Street in the highly-competitive Blue Elite Division.

The Dynamos have had a great season and all the lads deserve credit. Fab goalkeeper Josh Poynter, brilliant sweeper Kieran Carr, superb midfielders Kallum Cousins and Callum McKeaveny, awesome winger Taylor Ross and the quite amazing forward D'Andre Brown have all excelled, along with also talented Aidan Lea, Nick Bundy and Liam Thomas.

Meanwhile, at time of writing, the Under 10s Raiders lie third in the also tough Yellow Division, having ended their season with a six-one win over Loddon and a 4-1 win over the useful CSA, the latter after being a goal down at half-time.

As ever, Captain Cole Oates has been dominating every game he plays in, but the whole squad have been playing well.

End of season PHYL matches goal scoring statistics for the Raiders are as follows: Felix Davies 17, Cole Oates 15, Ray Adebawale 11, Morgan Best 11, Kacper Wojtaszek 7, Louis Windebank 3 Tyrese Richardson 2.

However, the one goal that does not appear in those stats (because it came in a Friendly) is the one we're all in raptures about because it was scored by unsung hero Andrew Hyde.

Andrew is arguably the most improved player at the Club this season, having made the sweeper/centre back position his own in recent months and having had Academy standard opposition players in his pocket for lengthy spells this season.

He'd never scored for the Club before and everyone was delighted to see him crash the ball into the top right-hand corner when given an outing up front in the Raiders's final friendly game.

At Under 14's, Danny Oates's boys are ending the season well.

Off the pitch, the Club looks set to host its annual Tournament at Powerleague on the third weekend in July. More details to follow in subsequent issues of Popley Matters



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Family Prize Bingo .

It's that time again for the Family Prize Bingo run by Bermuda Hall, Melrose and Popley Fields and this takes place on Friday 8th April 2011 at Popley Fields Community Centre. A game that all the family can play, doors open at 6.00pm, eyes down at 7.15pm. Raffle, food and a licensed bar are available. Please remember that if you do bring young children they should be seated with you whilst the Bingo sessions are running, as they are your responsibility.

Zumba

This takes place on Thursday 7.30 till 8.30pm in the Large Hall

Computer Courses

These are still running and very popular. Please call Debbie at Popley Fields to find out more information on what courses are available.

Youth club

Monday evening 5.30 to 7.00pm

Come along and have a fun evening with your friends

MAD Academy

This high energy dance group for under 4s is continuing in popularity but there are always spaces available. Come along on Tuesday mornings from 10.15-11.15am and speak to Cathy.

Silverwings Line Dancing

Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm from 20th April 2011

This class is for all those people that can line dance. Come along and give it a try.

New Testament Church of God – Coffee Morning for over 50s

This popular get together is held here on Thursday mornings from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Come along with your old friends and make some new ones.

Dynamics:

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday evenings 5.00 to 7.00pm.

Knitability knitting club

Are you a machine knitter or would you like to learn (hand knitters also welcome).

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month 10.00am till 12.00pm.

For more information please contact the secretary on 01256 772083.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and under 12s children's parties all at very reasonable rates. Call now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the Centre every week.

Tel: 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com

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Wednesday evening - C.M.A Kick boxing from 7.00-8.30pm
Thursday evening - Ladies keep fit from 6.30-7.30pm
Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 5-6.15pm
Sunday Afternoon- Christian Family Fellowship 4.00-6.30pm

THE HALL IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO HIRE FOR PARTIES ETC AT VERY REASONABLE RATES. FOR DETAILS RING 01256-363156.

Marnel and Merton Community Group – The Big Lunch

Hello from the Marnel and Merton Community Group! On Sunday 5 June we are holding our first event for residents of Marnel Park and Merton Rise in honour of “The Big Lunch.”

“The Big Lunch” is a one day get-together for neighbours created by the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to have lunch with their neighbours once a year.

It’s a great way for residents to meet one another in an informal setting, with food, music and entertainment for all ages. Our event will be held on a communal part of the development so we can involve as many people as possible.

Residents will also have the chance to learn more about the Marnel and Merton Community Group, and an opportunity to offer ideas and suggestions on changes and events in the area.

So please join us to celebrate our community, meet people and have a fun (hopefully sunny!) Sunday afternoon.

For more information or to get involved visit us on Facebook or email marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Friends

‘Spring is sprung and the grass is green!’ so the old nursery rhyme goes. As I write this we’ve been enjoying several days of blue skies and sparkling sunshine and it has been a real joy to be able to get out and about – an added bonus, the days are slowly getting longer and the lighter evenings are just over the horizon. The rhythm of life (a powerful thing – so I’ve heard) is beginning to pick up again after the long winter days. Already there are many daffodils in flower and it does somehow lift the spirit to see all these new signs of life! New life is what our Christian faith is all about and nowhere is this more apparent in the Christian year than at Easter.

Easter, for so many, sadly will only be associated with eggs, particularly those of the chocolate variety. Why do we have Easter eggs? Well, doesn’t an egg represent all the potential for new life, new beginnings! And why are Easter eggs hollow? Because the empty egg is symbolic of the empty tomb of Jesus when he rose from the dead to resurrection life on that first Easter Day offering a whole new life for all who would follow him.

St Paul wrote “If any one is in Christ they are a new creation, the old has gone the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17). If we truly want a fresh start for our lives, if we truly want to leave the mess of the past behind, then as a Christian I believe there is only one place to start, or rather only one person to turn to and that’s Jesus. And this new life is not just for the now but for all eternity; Jesus himself said “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life eternal.” (John 3:16).

So as the new life of Spring begins to emerge all around us may your thoughts turn to the possibilities of new life for yourself and, if like me, you’re a chocoholic then may your Easter eggs this year take on a new and added meaning. Hope to see you at one of our Easter Services!

With God’s blessings, your friend and Vicar,
Arthur.

Easter Services at St Gabriel’s

Sunday April 17th 10.30 a.m. – Palm Sunday Family Communion with giving of Palm Crosses	Good Friday 22nd April 10.00 a.m. ~ All Age Family Service 12 noon – 3pm ~ Three hours by the Cross	Sunday 24th April ~ Easter Day 7.30am ~ Sunrise Service outside the church 10.30 a.m. ~ Family Celebration with Communion
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Beware of extravagant promises. Remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don't be afraid to bin it, delete it or hang up.

Take your time

Scammers don't like to give you time to think. They will try to pressure you into making a decision by telling you that if you don't act now, you'll miss out. Resist any pressure to make a decision right away. Consider asking a friend or family member for advice, or even an accountant or solicitor if big sums of money are involved.

Know who you're dealing with

Be suspicious if you're contacted out of the blue by someone you've never heard of. This is often a clear warning sign that it's a scam. And don't be fooled by official looking websites and marketing materials. Scammers are very good at making their scams look authentic.

Protect your financial information

Never give your bank account details and passwords to someone you don't know. Trustworthy firms will never contact you to ask for this information.

Spotted a scam?

If in doubt, don't reply. Instead, bin it, delete it or hang up.

You can also report the scam to Consumer Direct at

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/scams

If you think you've been caught by a scam, call Consumer Direct for advice on 08454 04 05 06.

This information has been taken from a leaflet issued by the Office of Fair Trading. The Office of Fair Trading website includes more information about scams. The website address is www.oft.gov.uk.

Popley Islands Regeneration Update

The second phase of the Popley Islands regeneration is well underway, and a further 55 new homes will be completed between now and the end of May. We expect the third phase of homes to be ready in the late summer and early autumn. Our new planning application for the final phase which includes the old Barbican Public House is due for review in mid April. We'll let you know more once we hear back from the planning committee. If you're interested in moving into one of the new homes, make sure you're on the housing waiting list.

Now building work has finished in Tortuga Walk, you may have noticed landscapers working in the area, planting shrubs and laying turf. We're sorry to say that vandals and thieves are trying to bring the area down by stealing turf and causing damage. These planted areas are there for everyone's benefit so please, if you have any information that can help us put a stop to this please get in touch with Nicky Cook on 0800 195 5515. Any information will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. If you would like to chat in person, pop along to one of our regular drop in sessions with our contractor Hill Partnership. The next session is booked for Wednesday 20 April 2011 4 – 6 pm at the site office on phase two near Madeira Close shops.

Councillors Page: Popley Way is now 30mph and I would ask that you are patient There still seems to be drivers who have forgotten this is a residential road and not a rat run or race track. There will be new signage soon!

Congratulations to Merton Infants for such a good Ofsted report I know it has been achieved by everyone working together. I think everybody is so proud of you all. Congratulations to Marnel who are also doing very well.

I was disappointed that Everest Community College did not start to do any consultation till only a few short weeks before a decision was to be made. I also felt that as it is a community school in the heart of Popley all the people who will be involved like the other schools, nurseries and SureStart Centres should have had more time to respond. Also as the school was built by Hampshire County Council out of what is "our" money, we should have had a say as a whole community, not just the children that are there now. HCC invested 27.8 million in the new school and a further 1.4 million on safer paths and crossings for our children to go to school. I met with the Head and nothing so far convinced me that there is any real advantage in going with the academy quoted in the 19 page consultation booklet. I firmly believe that an open questions and answers session for all people would have been fairer. Why the rush? This is the future of our children for generations to come.

Phone 819924 mobile 07974098131 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

Dear Residents,

Regretfully I have decided to resign from the Council to look after my husband Frank who has Alzheimer's. This is not a decision I have taken lightly.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege serving as a Councillor for Popley these past five years. In that time I have seen massive changes, with the building of Everest Community College, the expansion of Marnel Schools, regeneration in The Poets, demolition of the flats at Faroe and Maldive, and regeneration. The fantastic facilities in Carpenters Down Woods are also to be celebrated.

I was very sorry to see Chineham Park School close and I hope the site will continue to be used for the community. There is still work to do regenerating the rest of the Poets and I hope my colleagues will be able to announce new environmental schemes in that area in the near future. The work will go on with further improvements in the older parts of Popley. It has been great working with the team of Popley councillors, the partner agencies, and the many dedicated residents who do so much to make things happen. Popley is a vibrant and friendly community. With the new build and regeneration, we are now the largest community in Basingstoke and Deane. It has been great to be a part of that change - nobody else has achieved what has been achieved in Popley. You the residents have been amazing coping with all the mess and disruption. There are more plans for developing in the fields beside Jersey and Guernsey Close and I think its time Popley was left to have a rest from more major building. Up to 500 more homes is just a step too far. I am sure whoever replaces me will work with the great team we have to look after Popley. I will still keep in touch with my friends in Popley and wish you the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Brian



Spring has finally sprung, and so we are turning our attention once more to our Community Garden. We have again this year entered the Basingstoke in Bloom competition and hope to get a good result. Can you spare an hour or so to help us in our garden? All tools provided.

NEW – We now have a notice board for private sales advertisements, £1 per week, £3 per month or £30 per year. Please contact Vicki in the office to place your adverts.

WHATS ON:

- MONDAY:** 10.00am-12pm Friendly Café
7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 4.00-9.00pm AG Dance Academy
9.30am-2.30pm Peebles Childrens Centre
- WEDNESDAY:** 9.30-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
9.00-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
7.30-9.00pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** 10.00am-12pm Friendly Café
- FRIDAY:** 6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00pm- 9.15pm age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9.00am-12.30pm AG Dance Academy
- SUNDAY:** MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, and conferences. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.

Also find us on Facebook: Melrose hall.

SPOT LIGHT



The Popley Spotlight Centre,

Formerly Chineham Park School, Shakespeare Road, RG24 9BP

A community building run by registered charity Peace of Mind Care (Reg. 1129258).

Our aim is to provide affordable activities for **all!**

Following a VERY successful family fun day (many thanks to Hampshire County Council, Aiming High and to Peace of Mind who made this day possible) we are very much looking forward to Springtime...

Easter Holiday Club



Looking to entertain the children this Easter break? Look no further! We will be running a Theatre School (Drama, Dance and Singing) Holiday Club for both weeks (excluding Friday 22nd) for £25 per week. Take a look at our website for more details or call to book your place!



Easter Family Day

Saturday 23rd April 11am – 3pm (Egg Hunt starts at 12pm)

Spotlight will be hosting an Easter Day for all the family. This will include an Easter Egg Hunt Trail, Bouncy Castles, Easter craft and colouring competitions, Easter bonnet competition and a fabulous craft and gift fair. Bring all the family along for a brilliant and fun packed day.

FREE Taster Sessions



We are now offering one FREE TASTER SESSION per person for any of our classes – download the form from our website and we'll see you soon!

Look out for our brand new spring programme coming soon!

www.popleyspotlight.co.uk peaceofmindcare@hotmail.co.uk

www.facebook.com/popleyspotlightcentre

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Dance School at Sherborne St John Village Hall

David Smith of DS Inspiration Music & Dance, Merton Rise, Basingstoke, has celebrated his first year of operating his Ballroom & Latin dance school at Sherborne St John Village Hall.

David is a Qualified Dance Teacher and Examiner for The United Kingdom Alliance of Professional Teachers of Dancing. He offers lessons to adults in Ballroom, Latin American, Salsa, Modern and Classical Sequence. First Wedding Dance lessons are also available for that special day.

A weekly Tea Dance is held every Monday afternoon 2:00 - 4:00pm at Sherborne St John Village Hall, from which a raffle is held each week in aid of St Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire).

On 7th March 2011 a celebratory dance was held to mark the 1st anniversary of opening - David is also an accomplished keyboard player and provided live music for the occasion. The total collected via the Monday raffles over the twelve months came to a total of £310.00 which has been accepted by the Hospice with their sincere thanks.

Photograph attached with David Smith sat centre - members of the Monday afternoon Tea Dance pose for the first anniversary party at Sherborne St John Village Hall. (Photograph taken by Rosemary Whitehall).

For information regarding on lessons and classes David offers, please phone 07791 749163 or email: David@dsimd.com or view the website: www.dsimd.com



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DO YOU WANT TO SEE MORE HOUSES BUILT AT MARNEL PARK?

SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND AN OPEN MEETING
TO BE HELD AT THE CHUTE PAVILION ON
TUESDAY 19TH APRIL AT 7PM.

AND

AT EVEREST COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITY ROOMS ON
WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL AT 7PM.

THERE IS A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A FURTHER 500 HOMES AT THE POPELY FIELDS SITE AT MARNEL PARK.

WE HOPE TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM BASINGTOKE & DEANE PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND THE DEVELOPER.

LET YOUR VIEWS BE HEARD.

Please contact The Clerk if you need further information.

Note this is a meeting for all residents in Popley as this could have a massive impact on our area. I will be working with Sherborn St John Parish Council and the Marnel and Merton Residents Association. Though technically the area is Sherborn St John it is by Jersey and Guernsey Close as well, and the access would come out on our already very busy roads.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs C Morgan,
24 Vyne Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke RG24 9HX
Tel: 01256 851715
Email: ssjclerk@btinternet.com
www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk





Thinking of letting your property to holidaymakers?



Choosing a holiday destination can be one of the most important decisions a family can make and many more people are choosing to take holidays in this country rather than abroad. For this reason, if you are a landlord or plan letting your property to holidaymakers, check these recommendations to make sure you are keeping within the legal regulations because the government has recently published revised proposals for new rules on the taxation of furnished holiday lettings (FHLs). You have a legal and moral obligation to make sure that your visitors have a safe environment so the first thing is to make sure you are compliant with safety regulations:

- Electrical wiring and appliances must be in good working order and comply with , your visitors won't want to turn up and find the TV or washing machine doesn't work
- You need to keep a proper gas certificate which needs updating every 12 months
- If your holiday property was built after 1992 you need to install smoke detectors and alarms
- Your furniture and fittings must pass the 'match' test and pass strict standards of fire resistance
- You will need an up to date Energy Performance Certificate

There are other things to consider following the government's new rules on the taxation of furnished holiday lettings (FHLs). Government figures suggest that, under the new proposals, approximately 25% of existing holiday properties will not qualify. There will be changes to occupancy thresholds and restrictions on loss relief amongst other proposals which are intended to ensure that only people running FHLs as a commercial business will benefit from the favourable tax treatment offered by the FHL regime. It is complicated and legislation changes all the time so we would advise landlords to take professional advice.

Make sure you have proper terms and conditions for your guests and with a relatively small investment on modern fittings and nice décor you can make your property appeal to as many holiday tenants as possible and encourage them to want to come back. A higher occupancy rate will mean a healthy increase in your income.

Call Melanie Roberts, business lawyer at Phillips Solicitors, on 01256 854677 or you can email Melanie at mroberts@phillips-law.co.uk. Visit our website www.phillips-law.co.uk for lots more information.



This month first of all we would like to introduce you to the latest addition to our group (first picture). Our new mascot is already a huge hit with all sections and has already enjoyed a talk from Basingstoke rugby club and is going to support the Basingstoke Bison play! He is however nameless, so if you have any ideas for names please go to www.1stpopley.orgfree.com go to his page and suggest one. You will also be able to follow his adventures on facebook.com/1stpopley.

Well done to the Cubs who took part in the District Cub football competition. They gave it their all and had a great time!

All sections were having pancake fun on Shrove Tuesday with over 20 pancakes made! (Some more edible than others!) The Cubs have been working on a gardening project and have had a visit from the Basingstoke rugby team, whilst the scouts have been working hard on their fitness challenge.

If you are an adult who would like to help implement our exciting adventurous programme for young people, or you are a young person wishing to join that programme, please contact Martin Lee (Scout Leader) on 07854860895 to discuss.

Thought for the month: *The future depends on what we do in the present - Mahatma Gandhi*

facebook (facebook.com/1stpopley)
Website: www.1stpopley.orgfree.com



Boys & Girls 6-8
Tuesday 5pm-6.00pm



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½
6.00pm-7.30pm



Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15
7.30pm-9.00pm

(All meetings held at St Gabriel Church Hall, Tewksbury Close during term times)

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN PARISH COUNCIL – March 2011

We are sad to report the passing of **Vi Neale** following a short illness. Vi was a champion for the rights and welfare of seniors in the parish and, by her regular attendance at PC open forums, a champion for the improvement of our bus services.

Following changes to the bus pass scheme there are indications that due to budget constraints Hampshire County Council will be announcing further cuts to rural bus services this summer. The PC will issue a **transport survey** this month for completion by residents and will summarize their requirements and communicate them to HCC. Please look out for this survey and complete and return it.

Following submissions from the PC, BDBC has agreed to **protect a length of tree belt surrounding the old golf course at Elm Bottom**. However, the PC considers that this protection could be extended further south and to the west and has requested this be considered.

Inconsiderate **parking on Vyne Road during Football Club match days** has resulted in a number of complaints (with pictures) being sent to the PC. A meeting was held with representatives of the Football Club and Chute Management Committee to resolve matters. Actions were agreed and the PC will continue to monitor these arrangements.

On Wednesday 23rd February at 9.30pm yet another vehicle travelling north on the A340 left the road at the bend at West End and crashed into the hedge and fence of No.2. The unidentified driver and vehicle quickly left the scene without reporting the accident. The owner of No. 2 West End and two parishioners attended the **Open Forum** to report that this was the seventh serious event in seven years and requested that action be taken before serious injury or loss of life results. The PC explained that this road is the responsibility of Hampshire Highways and previous actions had resulted in localised resurfacing, moving of the northbound 30 mph sign, new speed warning signs, a crossing island and the introduction of a Speed Indicator Device. The SID is now retained solely on the A340. The meeting considered construction of reinforcement barriers and a further site meeting with Hampshire Highways is proposed.

The PC will press again for a **passing lane northbound at Elm Bottom** and will request that HCC consider improving off-peak traffic flow at the Apollo roundabout by limiting the operation of traffic lights to peak times only.

Dog fouling remains a problem in the village and in Merton Rise and Marnel Park. The Clerk will seek to order additional bins and dog owners are reminded of the hefty fines for being caught allowing this anti-social behaviour.

The PC received a letter from David Wilson Homes regarding a new **development to the north of Marnel Park**. The chairman expressed his concern that BDBC had not consulted with the PC regarding this proposal and meetings are being arranged with BDBC and DWH to discuss this threatened development. The PC intends to hold an Open Meeting to advise all residents and interested parties and discuss the position.

Due to inclement weather, work has not yet started on the **Chute Teenage Ball Play Area**. The contractor is ready but the ground is too wet to move their heavy machinery. The delay is threatening the funding from LEADER and the chairman has determined to resolve this issue.

Due to project delays, the PC's financial reserves are more than £10,000 higher than this time last year. It was resolved therefore to bring forward the payment of a further £10,000 grant to reduce the balance on the Village Hall mortgage.

The PC had a useful meeting with the Marnel and Merton Community Group. The MMCG has no funding and struggles with the cost of hiring meeting facilities. The PC will investigate the cost of room hire and lobby for financial support from HCC or consider support from its own reserves.

Chris Cooke, Vice Chairman and Treasurer.

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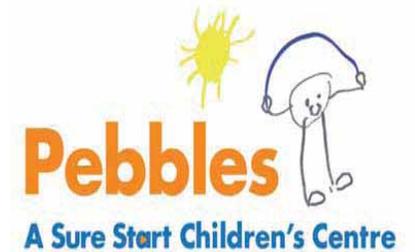
DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

I would like to start first with, I hope, all of our Basingstoke family in sending our deepest sympathy for the loss of life in this devastation that is going on in Japan. It will take them many years to recover from this disaster but I also know the world will come to what ever aid is needed to help them not only the short term but long term as well. My next paragraph is insignificant at this time but I have written it because it was a different time back then, a time the world will not want to see ever happen again. We can only do this by the way the world is gathering to help each other now. I feel if we can only do this all the time it would be a much safer world to live and give our children and their children to grow up in.

It was in 1938/9 my father, on the notion war was coming, joined the Navy. He was an East Ender lad and was about to sign full time with West Ham Football Club. He had played for them from a Junior. All of this changed and after the war he had children to feed and was too old to start picking up from where he left off. During the war he trained at Chatham, H.M.S RYLEY. From there he went on to sail in the Castle class ships. his main ships were Berkley Castle and Carisbrooke Castle. They were mine hunters, tenders, and escort working out of Liverpool. He became a Cox First Class and had a twelve man landing craft. I was told by my Grandfather that Dad was seconded to the Army and was on Special Operations, dropping men behind enemy lines. I had listened to my father when he very occasionally talked of his time in the war years but I found out more doing research after his death and contacting the War Office for his records. What he did in the Army we will never know as most of it was classified, he was at Copra Before D Day. MY research is still on going and I wonder if any readers of Popley Matters have any records of their fathers or grandfathers that were on Castle class ships? If so if you could send any info to me I would be grateful for that.

Well yet another month of rain sun and frost has gone by, Easter is on its way as I saw eggs in the shops at Christmas. Once Easter is over they will start to sell Christmas stuff and Her Indoors will be in her element. Talk about shop till you drop each year. Now Her Indoors has reached that golden age called retirement, unfortunately she cannot she has cut her hours so we can book all my hospital doctors etc. around that day she has off in the week. As for me, well I will be shut in the house even more. So when we get the new travel vouchers £32! Boy if I have to use a taxi that wont last long.. Yes there are community rides but if you need to go out to get anything or go to the hospital you need to book way, way in advance. Now with this new concessionary pass coming in booking a year in advance well may be not that long off , I hope you get my meaning. So I would on behalf of many disabled and senior citizens thank our County Council for make our houses even more of a prison than they are now. On that note I bet this county council that run Hampshire do not and will not suffer this hardship. Mind you I suffer enough with Her Indoors as well !

Take care The Old Codger



EASTER HOLIDAYS ARE NEARLY HERE!

As usual in the holidays Pebbles Children's Centre will be running an exciting programme – call 01256 357 028 to find out what you can do with your under 8s from 11-21 April.

Pebbles will be closed from 25-29 April so no sessions or courses will be running. This gives staff the time to clean toys and plan future activities. Please note that in the last edition of Popley Matters we advertised the Centre would be closed 4-8 April but this is no longer the case.

Dates for your Diaries

11 - 21 April Easter Holidays – see separate timetable

22 April Good Friday – Centre closed

25 April Easter Monday – Centre closed

25-29 April – Centre closed

2 May – May Bank Holiday, Centre closed

3 May – Courses and activities return to normal

You may be aware that the consultation, to have your say about what happens to Children's Centres in Hampshire, has been extended until 15 April 2011 – so if you have not done so already please complete a form and hand back to Pebbles before this date.

For full details, contact **Pebbles Children's Centre** on **01256 357028**
email pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk or visit www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc
Pebbles Children's Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire,
RG24 9BP

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

www.base2000.co.uk

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

Group Scout Leader - Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 01256 410629



The Beavers are all very excited at the prospect of attending the District Beavers' Easter Fun Day in The Vyne School and I hope to have some pictures next month. Soon it will be time for the Colony to have its first very own 'sleepover'. Unlike District 'sleepovers' later ALL the colony can take part not just the older ones so it will be doubly exciting this year!! Work on Global Adventure Challenge has been completed and some of the older Beavers are well on their way to completing the Bronze Chief

Scout's Award - which is the highest a Beaver can achieve. Well done everyone!



The Cubs took part in the District Six-a-side Football competition - plenty of action but no trophy this year. The Pack spent an evening visiting the Police Station and had a bonus with the armed response unit being in the station at the time. The Cubs were shown round the Unit's special car and witnessed some of the firearms they are authorised to carry and sat in the back

of a police van. At the end of March some of the Pack will join in Cub Activity Day when they will have the opportunity to gain several activity badges and join in with other members of the District.



The Group will take part in the customary District St. George's Day Celebrations at Queen Mary's College which will be held earlier than normal due to the clash with East Bank Holiday weekend.

New members welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5½ - 8) and Cubs (aged 8-10½) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10½-14) on Friday. Contact section leaders as above for times. Explorer section for those aged 14-18 - contact Group Scout Leader

Enquiries for bookings at Base 2000 can be made to bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. One-off occasions, children's parties, meetings welcome and consideration will be given to anyone wishing to hold a regular activity in one or other of the halls. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends.

... and the adventure goes on - come and join us!

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Monday 5.00pm-11.00pm

Tuesday to Saturday 12noon-2.00pm

5.00pm-11.00pm

Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays Closed

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£5.00 & with banker's Card

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<http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/Adverts/Peters.pdf>

Help Us Find Ratty!

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are looking for volunteers to join an existing team of water vole surveyors, to carry out surveys over the summer in the North East of Hampshire, as part of the Loddon and Eversley Heritage Area project.

Water voles used to be a common sight on many of our streams and rivers. However, in the last 20 years there has been a 90% decline in numbers, making the water vole the fastest declining mammal in the UK. Their decline is due to a number of factors including habitat loss and predation by non-native American Mink. Occasional sightings mean that we knew that there were water voles still present in the Loddon area. However, the exact status of water voles in the area is not known because much of the information was out of date and many areas have not yet been surveyed.

The surveys will take place throughout May, June and July on parts of the Loddon and Lyde, and will involve searching river banks for signs of water voles, as well as other species. This will help us build up a picture of the current status of water voles in this area, and provide us with information to help landowners manage their habitats sympathetically.



A training day will take place on Tuesday 19th April for those wishing to take part in the surveys. If you would like more information about the project, please contact Sarah Lynes on 01256 381103 or email sarahl@hwt.org.uk.

Brenda Parker Way

A new long distance path is being opened that stretches across north Hampshire and runs for 78 miles between Aldershot and Andover. It crosses the rich and diverse north Hampshire countryside taking in heathland, forest, tiny fields and small farms before climbing to the highest villages in Hampshire. The route passes many points of interest along the way, such as Fleet Pond, Hampshire's largest lake; Calleva, an ancient Roman Town; and Highclere Castle, home of the discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun.

It is supported by a dedicated website www.brendaparkerway.hampshire.org.uk that gives walker all they need to walk the route. As well as the Brenda Parker Way, which can be walked in one go or over time in stages, the website includes details of many other self-guided walks starting from villages along the way. This long distance path is marked along both directions with the mauve Brenda Parker Way waymark disc. Look out for the chaffinch symbol.

Peter Davis
North Hampshire Downs Ramblers Group





Slimming World is now back in

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Any questions call Hazel

07796 158 098
hazeleastman.sw72@yahoo.com



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BASINGSTOKE NEIGHBOUR CARE will be happy to receive any unused orange tokens by Wednesday 13th April 2011



Charity No 1067729

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Contact: Basingstoke NeighbourCare
tel: 01256 423855

e-mail: info@neighbourcare.com

or pop in at

The Orchard, White Hart Lane, London Road,
Basingstoke RG21 4AF

We are always looking for volunteer drivers to help us with our work. You can give as much or as little time as you wish.
TRAVEL EXPENSES PAID. Please get in touch.



Letters to the Editor.



Dear Editor; People of Abbey Road seem to think it's ok to dump what they like at the side of the road and it will get removed. They are correct, it will get removed, when someone reports it. I am fed up with people thinking they can place their rubbish by a road sign next to our house. I have rightly or wrongly put a polite sign up asking people not to dump rubbish there. I am in constant contact with the council about it. Today, we had more rubbish dumped but a neighbour witnessed what house had placed it there, so my husband knocked on their door to advise them we will be contacting the council on Monday to report it if it doesn't get moved. This woman said she phoned the council during the week and was advised if she placed it there it would be moved. I am inclined not to believe her as she removed the rubbish. but she is obviously ignorant of what she should do if she has rubbish and wants it removed.

I do believe that people see the council workers bags there when they do a street clean and think they are able to do the same. People need to be told that only the council workers can leave their bags there, not the public. Abbey Road resident

Editors reply; The street cleaners have quite a hard job to do to keep on top of all the rubbish that gets discarded If you require rubbish to be removed

phone 01256 844844 and they will arrange it.

Dear Editor; Here we go again nice weather and I see the cars on verges up for sale! Maybe they are selling them for money for their holiday. Well it's no holiday for those left trying to look around to be able to use the roads safely. They are mostly untaxed and I thought that was illegal too? They are grass verges not sites for a car sales area.

Editors reply; I agree with you and I can't count the times we have had to phone to get them removed on Health and Safety grounds. There is a little more help on the way in that if cars are not taxed the council will be able to remove them without having to constantly contact the DVLA and wait till they contacted the last owner and then got back to you. New laws will mean that the council can just remove them and it will cost £200 to get the car back.

Editor's Note: We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.

Please send your letters to: **The Editor, Popley Matters, PO Box 6727, Popley Basingstoke RG24 9GG or email: editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone 819924**



Merton Junior School

Spring has been an exciting term so far at Merton Junior School.

Eco Club have put up bird feeders and took part in the 'Schools Spring Bird Watch'. We have also put up some nesting boxes with cameras in. We all wait to see if any of the local bird population decides to take up residence! There has also been lots of planting going on – bulbs, shrubs and trees have all been planted in the school grounds to improve the area for the wildlife and for everyone who uses it.

The School Council were very excited to win a prize recently at the 'Everest does the Oscars' event with their film 'A Day at Merton Junior School'. They won best cinematography, and even more exciting was Horrace, the school rabbit, won best supporting actor! A fantastic evening was enjoyed by the School Council and their families at Everest.

Merton has entered the national 'Rock Challenge' competition this year and rehearsals are well underway for the event which takes place at the Portsmouth Guildhall in June. All the children (and staff) are working really hard to perfect routines, make props and create costumes.

The school enjoyed a very positive and successful monitoring visit from the local authority this term. Many aspects of the school were highly praised including: pupil welfare, pupil behaviour management, pupil progress, the inspiring curriculum and the overwhelming positive ethos and values of the school. I am very proud to lead a dedicated team of professionals who go out of their way to support all children in their care.

We are all looking forward to the rest of the year, including our 'Royal Wedding Street Party', Upper School residential visit and we are planning another whole school trip in the Summer Term.

To contact school please call 01256 326573 or, to keep up-to-date with all our exciting news, check out our website www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk

Miss Helen Palmer Headteacher



enrolment information



adult



Summer Term 2011



Personal Development	Length	Day	Time	Start Date*	Cost#
Computing- Beginners	6 wks	Tues	1000 - 1200	10/05/11	£60.00
Computing- Advanced	6 wks	Tues	1900 - 2100	10/05/11	£60.00
Confidence Building	4 wks	Wed	1900 - 2100	18/05/11	£40.00
Life Coach Yourself	10 wks	Mon	1900 - 2000	09/05/11	£50.00
Counselling Skills Introduction	10 wks	Thurs	1930 - 2130	12/05/11	£100.00
Dressmaking for Beginners	10 wks	Tues	1900 - 2100	03/05/11	£100.00 (+materials)
Dress/Garment Making and Tailoring	10 wks	Wed	1900 - 2100	11/05/11	£100.00 (+materials)
Digital Photography for Beginners	6 wks	Wed	1900 - 2100	11/05/11	£60.00
Patchwork and Quilting	10 wks	Mon	1900 - 2100	09/05/11	£100.00 (+materials)
Creative Stitched Textiles	10 wks	Thurs	1900 - 2100	12/05/11	£100.00 (+materials)
Button Jewellery Workshop	1 wk	Wed	1930 - 2130	11/05/11	£10.00 (+materials)
Glass Bead Jewellery Making	6 wks	Wed	1930 - 2130	25/05/11	£60.00 (+materials)
Indian Cookery	6 wks	Wed	1900 - 2100	11/05/11	£60.00 (+materials)
Dance and Fitness	Length	Day	Time	Start Date	Cost
Hoopdance Taster Session	1 wk	Tues	1800 - 1900	03/05/11	£5.00
Hoopdance	10 wks	Tues	1800 - 1900	10/05/11	£50.00
Ballroom & Latin Dancing – Beginners	10 wks	Thurs	2100 – 2200	12/05/11	£50.00
Ballroom & Latin Dancing – Intermediate	10 wks	Thurs	1900 – 2000	12/05/11	£50.00
Ballroom & Latin Dancing– Advanced	10 wks	Thurs	2000 - 2100	12/05/11	£50.00
Self Defence	10 wks	Tues	2000 - 2100	10/05/11	£50.00
Tennis - Beginners	10 wks	Mon	1830 - 1930	09/05/11	£50.00
Tennis - Improvers	10wks	Mon	1930– 2030	09/05/11	£50.00
Pilates-gentle for the over 50s	10 wks	Mon	1000 – 1100	09/05/11	£50.00
Pilates	10 wks	Tues	2000 – 2100	10/05/11	£50.00
Circuit Training	10 wks	Tues	1900 – 2000	10/05/11	£50.00
Gym Fitness	10 wks	Tues	2015 - 2115	10/05/11	£50.00
Mind & Body Self Awareness - over 50s	10 wks	Wed	1100 - 1200	11/05/11	£50.00
Yoga (Hatha) - Advanced	10 wks	Mon	2000 – 2130	09/05/11	£75.00
Languages	Length	Day	Time	Start Date	Cost
Understanding your Community (English)	4 wks	Wed	1900 – 2100	18/05/11	£40.00
French- Beginners	10 wks	Thurs	1900 – 2100	12/05/11	£100.00
Spanish– Beginners Term 2	10 wks	Tues	1900 – 2100	10/05/11	£100.00
Spanish– Beginners Term 1	10 wks	Thurs	1900 – 2100	12/05/11	£100.00
Saturday Workshops & Courses	Length	Day	Time	Start date	Cost
Sewing Machine Workshop	1 day	Sat	1000 – 1400	14/05/11	£20.00 (+materials)
Make a Bag Workshop	1 day	Sat	1000 - 1200	21/05/11	£10.00 (+materials)
French Braid Quilts Part 1	1 day	Sat	1000 - 1400	11/06/11	£20.00 (+materials)
French Braid Quilts Part 2	1 day	Sat	1000 - 1400	25/06/11	£20.00 (+materials)
Indian Head Massage	1 day	Sat	1200 – 1600	14/05/11	£20.00
Life Coaching	1 day	Sat	1000 – 1600	25/06/11	£30.00
Phobias & Habit Kicking	1 day	Sat	1200 - 1600	11/06/11	£20.00
Meditation and Relaxation	1 day	Sat	1200 - 1600	21/05/11	£20.00
Spanish for Children - Intermediate (GCSE)	5 wks	Sat	1030 - 1200	07/05/11	£37.50
Spanish for Children - Beginners	5 wks	Sat	0930 - 1030	07/05/11	£25.00

10% discount for enrolment by 30/04/11. 25% discount for over 60s

*Please note that course start dates may be subject to change.
#Additional concessions available for those on receipt of certain benefits. Fees are non-refundable.

To enrol please contact Community Office on 01256 473698
or email community.info@asc.hants.sch.uk
Qualified New Tutors Sought – contact Community Office

