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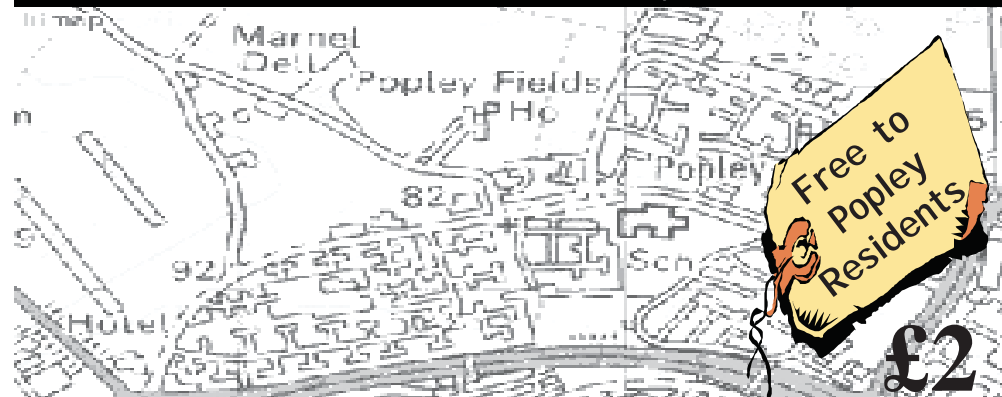
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

November 2011 Distribution of 4,700

Issue 117



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** What beautiful colours autumn brings with the changing colours of the landscape. A relative of mine in Canada sent me some photos of their trees, and I can honestly say I think Hampshire matched them easily. It's the constant clearing up once the leaves have fallen I dislike so much, but without the trees there would be nothing to filter the carbon dioxide in the air and no bird song as they sing from the branches.

November and already some shops have been displaying their Christmas stock for several weeks. You can find details for Christmas

Fayres at St Gabriel's on Page 8, Melrose Hall on page 5 and Age Concern on page 28. I like to help charities and buy some home-made gifts, and wish I was talented enough and had the time to make some of the lovely items you can buy at these sales.

Taking up the two centre pages are the details of a consultation for the Blue Badge Scheme. Page 10 has the details of how to get information on access for the disabled in the Basingstoke and Deane area.

On page 4 Viv Washbourne has written in her memories of Chineham Park and the old house there. I hope Viv writes us more articles, and it may inspire other residents to send in their memories too.

This time of year also unfortunately brings out the rogue doorstep traders so there is some sound advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau 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, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9EL.



Sub Editor  
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

**Editorial Team:-** Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Distribution Iris King; Distribution Marnel and Merton Rise Paul Illsey; Treasurer Patricia Gentry; Committee Members Kate Lomas; and Proof Reader Lorraine Beany  
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# Beckie's Column

Hiya!

I hope you are all well? In my last column I mentioned how the weather was changing. At the time I wrote that column, it actually was cold! Not like the mini heat wave we had in October.

Did anyone go to the Octoberfest? What did you think about it? I went with Pan Everest. We played the pans and got to look around too. I thought it was brilliant! We didn't have time to do everything but it was really interesting looking around all the stalls. There was so much there; I could have spent lots more money than I actually took as there were so many great things for sale. My favourite was a little plaque thing that had quotes on it. Some were really funny but also true! Playing the steel pans there was good too. We had lovely weather for it, which our music matched, and we had lots of people to hear us. It was so different from last year, where we all hid inside from the rain, this time everyone stretched out on the grass under the sun. I loved it and definitely will be going next year!

This year is going so fast. By the time you receive this, Halloween and Bonfire Night may have already passed. The Mayor's Firework Fiesta at the War Memorial sounds really good. I haven't been before so I'm hoping to go this year! I will let you know if I did. And on the first of November, its only just over seven weeks till Christmas!

Well, I've got to go now. Chat to you soon!

Beckie

## 7 Miners and a Girl – A Pantomime in Hook

This year's pantomime from Hook Players is based on the traditional story of Snow White trying to escape her wicked stepmother the Queen and being taken in by 7 miners who all fall in love with her but still expect her to do all of the work around the house!

Will Spit and Polish, be able to save Snow White? Will a handsome prince turn up to fall in love with her? What effect will the mirror have on events? What is the surprise in the final scene?

Performances at the Elizabeth Hall in Hook on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November, as well as Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December.

Curtain-up at 1.45pm for Saturday matinees and 7.45pm for all evening performances. Doors and licensed bar open at 1.15pm and 7.15 pm respectively.

Tickets cost £8 for matinee and £10 for evening performances, available from Trees Newsagents and [www.hookplayers.co.uk](http://www.hookplayers.co.uk) or Box Office Tel. 07709 214 679

## Basingstoke Meetup Group Kick Starting Your Social Life in 2011

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Basingstoke Meetup Group began life in 2008 and has had several organisers since then. I then took over the group in January 2011, having already been a general member.

My vision is for Basingstoke Meetup Group to be the most successful, diverse, friendly and inclusive social group in Basingstoke. My overall aim is to provide a warm, friendly and inclusive group environment within which members can participate in a variety of professionally organised no or low cost events in order to try new experiences and make new friends.

We currently have 70 members from a variety of backgrounds and walks of life, living in and around the Basingstoke area. Some members belong to other social groups in Basingstoke and from time to time, I collaborate with other groups in order to ensure that larger events, such as skittles, are more successful. There is no average age group. People of all ages are welcome. You just need to be keen to get out and socialise and have fun with like minded people. We are a very friendly bunch and if you are a bit nervous about taking that first step, then you can contact me and I will happily have a chat with you.

Since taking over in January, I have organised a variety of events, mainly meals out, pub quizzes and themed events at my house, which have been very well received. There are 16 events planned for the next few months including a pamper night, several walks, pub quizzes, meals out and a Murder Mystery weekend in December.

For more information, take a look at our website: [http://www.meetup.com/Basingstoke-Meetup/pages/About\\_Basingstoke\\_Meetup\\_group/](http://www.meetup.com/Basingstoke-Meetup/pages/About_Basingstoke_Meetup_group/) where you will find a full calendar and descriptions on forthcoming events as well as reviews on previous events and members' profiles. So if you feel your social life needs a bit of kick, then this could be the group for you. So take a look, sign up and get active. I look forward to welcoming you to an event very soon.

Anne Murrill  
Organiser



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MFC POPLEY YOUTH have been in great form this past month across a range of age groups.

Manager Andy Williams's Under 7s have made the most awesome start in their first season, beating Chineham Tigers 2-0 with goals from Koby Collingwood and Oliver Turner, 1-0, with a goal from Daniel Ballard, and 4-0, with goals from Alfie Mosdell, Oliver Turner and two for Luke Davies.

They then beat Andover Youth 4-0 twice with goals from Luke Davies (two), Callum Piper and Daniel Ballard and then two from Alfie Mosdell, one from Bradley Whitwell and another from Daniel Ballard.

In their most recent fixture they twice beat the useful CSA Trinity 3-1 with goals from Daniel Ballard and Alfie Mosdell (two) and another then fine performance with goals from Koby Collingwood, Daniel Ballard and Kai Saunders scoring his first Popley goal.

There was some great work by Lennon Latorre for one of the goals too.

Manager Alec Matthews's Under 8s have been registering wins too and Manager Lee Austen's Under 9s have been in form with wins over Sherborne St John, Thatcham Town Harriers and Andover New Street.

At Under 10s Manager Russell Graves's boys beat CSA 4-3 in the Peter Houseman Youth League Cup, thanks to a hat-trick from Harry Beagley and a goal from Nathan Taylor.

At Under 11s, Manager Danny Oates's squad registered a convincing 7-2 win away at Oakley in their Premier Division clash, which featured a Cole Oates hat-trick, two from Taylor Ross and goals from Callum McKeaveney and Nick Bundy.

Manager Paul O'Shea's Under 12s continue to show promise while Manager Dave Wright's Under 13s have registered PHYL wins over AFC Newbury Colts (5-1) and Thatcham Town Harriers (4-3).

And at Under 15s Danny Oates boys have beaten Frilsham & Yattendon 3-2 at home in the Cup and Kingsclere 5-1 on the road.

Off the pitch, Ian Davies has been appointed Chairman of the Club by Founder Lee Austen, who stays on as Director of Football and Manager of the U9s.

Davies, who is a Level 2 (Uefa B Pro Licence Pt 1) FA Coach and an FA-qualified referee, said: "I am very touched by the faith Lee has shown in me by offering me this role. I will serve this fantastic Club, its players, coaches and parents to the best of my abilities and endeavour to take it to new heights."



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## A Walk in The Park

How many of us really take notice of what's around us every day? Interesting buildings, open spaces, parkland and areas of natural beauty. All things we take for granted until they are gone.

Every now and then it's nice to slow down and really see things again. Buildings and architecture that remind us of bygone times. Childhood haunts, and the memories of laughter and friends.

One of my favourite childhood haunts was Chineham Park. My sister, cousins and myself had hours of fun playing in the park, marvelling at the natural spring, dry as a bone most summers and a frozen pond in the winter. Exploring the overgrown garden at the back of the Chineham House and imagining who would have lived in this lovely large house. We all agreed it must have been a rich eccentric, who had allowed their vast garden to become a park for the people nearby to use.

I later found out that Chineham House was once the home of Colonel Eastwood, who was Commandant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in 1930s. He was Given the Grand Cross, Ordre de Mérite Civil et Militaire d'Adolphe de Nassau, Luxembourg 25th July 1944. For conspicuous gallantry and ability during operations on 6th - 7th August, 1915, in the Gallipoli Peninsula. He guided the night advance of his brigade with skill and resource, especially when the head of the column came under the enemy's fire. Owing to the severity of the opposition the advance came gradually to a standstill, and at this point Captain Eastwood rendered very valuable service in reorganising the 1 column, thus enabling it to continue the advance.

Many years later Chineham House was bought by the council, and various different groups have used it for meetings and events.

One of those groups was the Southern FM Radio group. My dad was and still is, a keen radio ham, and it was through him we were able to have a much anticipated look inside Chineham House. One weekend the group held a radio equipment junk sale. My dad attended and took me and my sister. I remember a large hall, high ceilings and feeling very pleased to be there with my dad. It seemed very big to us, but maybe not quite as grand as we children had imagined in our games in the park and gardens.

**Viv Washbourne**

## SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

**September Meeting** Between 30 -35 Parishioners attended the meeting.

PSCO Geoff Fermor-Dunman reported that there had been break-ins at the garages in Dancers Meadow. The Council will contact BDBC who are currently working with housing associations on garage security.

### **Open Forum.**

Cllr Crawley gave a report detailing the findings of the Friends of SSJ Post Office which was followed by a Powerpoint presentation of a summary of the survey held. The survey was very supportive and appreciative of the service provided by Janet and her staff despite the space constraints.

Council thanked the sub committee members, namely Gary and Jane Foster, and Messrs Pettifer and Rougier.

### **Marnel Park/Merton Rise.**

A lengthy discussion took place regards the above area. A cabinet meeting of the BDBC will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October to determine where future development will take place. Syd Abraham and Carole Stanley are attending in order to lobby the members and speak at the meeting about our dis-satisfaction with the proposal to build a further 450 houses in Marnel Park.

Council feels that there are plenty of other sites that are already in the pipeline and should be used instead, for example completing Merton Rise and Manydown estate.

The Council resolved;

- Lobby BDBC to ensure greenfield sites are not developed until 2020/2021 earliest.
- Set up a Marnel Park development sub-committee.
- Track, attend and speak whenever possible at all relevant planning meetings.
- Explore mutual interests with other Parish Councils.
- Explore and allocate funds to use in retaining a Planning Consultant.

### **Lych gate for the Cemetery.**

Work will only commence after 11<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance Day). It is planned to begin the work on 14<sup>th</sup> November, which should take 3 weeks to complete.

### **2012 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.**

The Council would welcome ideas from residents as to how they would like to celebrate this occasion. Please let us have your suggestions and ideas.

### **Chute Pavilion-Solar Panels Proposals.**

The Council has received quotations for installing solar panels at the Chute. Before any decision can be made, further technical information is required and a split in the financial contribution needs to be agreed between SSJPC and the Chute committee. A final decision will be made at the next PC meeting in October.

Syd Abraham  
Parish Councillor



# BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE  
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TELEPHONE  
OFFICE: 01256 363156  
HALL: 01256 308442

We have excellent Popley Explorers pre-school here Monday to Friday 8.30am - 3.00pm Also available- Breakfast and Lunch clubs (for further details contact Elaine on 363156)

Monday evening -	C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick Boxing from 6:30- 8.00pm
Tuesday evening -	Community Bingo doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm. Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available halftime)
Wednesday evening -	C.M.A Kick Boxing from 7.00-8.30pm
Thursday evening-	Street Dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult. 4.30-6.30pm Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484 School term time.
Friday evening-	Friday Club (children) 5.00-6.30pm

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

Prize bingo at Popley Fields Community Hall on Carpenters Down 11th November. Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 7pm. Everyone welcome, the more the merrier. This is our Christmas one so lots of great Christmas prizes.

Lots of great bingo and raffle prizes. Refreshments also available, drinks, and snacks and hot food.

On 3rd December 2011 at Bermuda Community Hall, 11am-2pm we are having a Christmas table top sale. Also tombola and refreshments. £5 a table. If you like to book a table please ring 363156.



## christmas bazaar

Saturday 19th November 11am - 3pm



St Michael's Church Cottage, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW

We offer a lovely mix of stalls - crafts, cards, gifts & charity fund raising plus a giant tombola, face painting & hot & cold refreshments.

Something for everyone!

For more information, or to book a table, please call Tracey at Age Concern on 01256 423874 (insurance required).

**SORRY NO PARKING ON SITE BUT  
THERE ARE SEVERAL CAR PARKS NEARBY.**

Organised by Age Concern. Reg Charity No 290874



On 3<sup>rd</sup> December we are holding a Christmas Fayre. Anyone interested in hiring a table (£5) for this event please contact Vicki in the office. We will be selling new and handmade gifts, Hands on Healing, Grand Raffle - 1st prize Christmas hamper and hand made confectionary. All are welcome.  
FRIENDLY CAFÉ - Every Monday and Thursday we hold a café, 9.30-11.30am. Come for a chat and a cuppa and even a bacon sandwich! All ages are welcome.

**WHAT'S ON:**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30 am	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	4.00-9.00pm	AG Dance Academy
	9.30-2.30pm	Pebbles Children's Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
	9.00-10.45am	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm	Oasis Lunch club
	5.30+7.30pm	Slimming World
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
	5.30-8.00pm	Street Dancing - NEW!!!!!!
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	10.00-11.30am	Pebbles children's centre
	6.30-7.45pm	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00- 9.15pm	age 11 plus.
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	9.00am-12.30pm	MG Dance Academy
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble 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](mailto:Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk). Also find us on Facebook: Melrose hall.

## Make Your Will Fortnight 14<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> November

St. Michael's Hospice is offering the local community a great opportunity to create a Will whilst at the same time raising valuable money for the Hospice. Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November the Hospice is offering the chance to have a professionally drafted Will in return for a donation to the Hospice. Seven local Solicitors have generously agreed to waive their usual fee for creating a Will; all donations will help the Hospice raise valuable funds to provide the best possible care to patients in North Hampshire suffering from life limiting illnesses.

By creating a Will personal assets will be divided amongst the people named. If a Will has never been drawn up then assets are divided according to UK law, meaning it may not go to the preferred beneficiaries.

When preparing a Will there is no obligation to remember St. Michael's Hospice, however leaving a legacy whether small or large is a wonderful way to support a cause that provides such a vital service to the community.

For further information on the fortnight please contact St. Michael's Hospice Fund raising on 01256 848 848, email [fundraising@stmichaelsospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stmichaelsospice.org.uk) or visit [www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/makeyourwill](http://www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/makeyourwill)



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## How to avoid rogue doorstep traders

Rogue traders knock on people's doors, offering to do work. They often target older people. They may say they've been doing work in your area and have spotted your house needs work doing. This could be to do with your roof, paving, general building work, or offering to do insulation or install burglar alarms. They often end up running off with your money without ever doing the work, doing a very poor job, or doing work that never actually needed doing. Here are some top tips to help you avoid getting involved with a dodgy trader:

- **don't ever agree to work or sign anything on the spot** – take their full details and say you'll get back to them
- **check their details** – they should give you their business name and address and not just a mobile phone number. Then check these to see if they are real
- **check if they are a member of a professional trade body**, belong to a local authority assured trader scheme, or to the TrustMark scheme, which can help you find trustworthy tradesmen in your area. For more details about these schemes, go to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)
- **ask them for details of other customers** they did work for and contact them to check this out
- **don't get taken in by their sales banter** – they might claim there is a special offer on only for that day or that they'll get sacked if you don't employ them. This kind of talk is likely to be a sales pitch and you shouldn't take it seriously
- **always get more than one quote** before employing someone – it's usually best to contact other traders your friends or family have recommended
- **don't ever make a cash payment upfront** – a reliable trader won't ask for money before doing the job – not even if they need materials. If they run a business, they should have enough money to cover these costs themselves and only ask for payment once they've completed the job, or done a reasonable amount of work
- **if you think a trader is trying to con you** – speak to Consumer Direct on 08454 040506. They can report anything suspicious to your local Trading Standards Department
- **if the trader becomes aggressive or threatens you**, this is criminal behaviour and you should call the police straight away.

### Need further information or Help?

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau, (located within Basingstoke Discovery Centre) can help you with queries you have on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10am-3.30pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday) and Saturday mornings 10am-12pm.

The Advice Line telephone number is 01256 322814

Or you can drop in to our outreach services at these times:

CAB Outreach Popley – one Tuesday morning per month 10am-1pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley

CAB Outreach Buckskin – one Monday morning per month 10am-1pm at The Ridgeway Centre, off Buckskin Lane

CAB Outreach South Ham – one Wednesday morning per month 10am-1pm at Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road.

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

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Perms from £35/40

Colour work from

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**Councillors Page:** Kiln Farm has been included in the list as suitable for development by the Conservative run council. We did achieve that it should be recommended not be built on till the end of 15 years, but the cabinet (despite some excellent points made by councillors from Popley parish councillors from Sherborne St John and residents), said they could not stop any developer from putting in a planning application, and David Wilson Homes have already indicated that they will put in an application for 450 dwellings. We will fight this as we all believe that they should finish the Merton Rise, Everest Park and the regeneration on Popley Islands first. The patience of the residents is amazing but everyone has their limit and that I truly believe has been reached now.

As I write this report I am still fighting to keep the "Hospital Loop" on the number 5 route due to cease on October 30th. 754 residents signed the petition. I received letters and emails from Popley, Oakridge and some other areas from hospital staff and patients alike who will be badly affected. I also had the copy from the hospital to Stagecoach and Hampshire County Council from the management at Basingstoke Hospital. For some passengers it means a price rise of over 385%!

Please let me know by letter or email. Contact details are phone 819924, mobile 07974098131, email [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk) or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

**Popley West:** Despite your Labour Councillors going to the meeting to decide what areas are suitable for development and putting very good reasons why the developments that have been started should be finished first, the Cabinet members have decided that the Kiln Farm area is suitable and is on the list. We were at least successful in that we have said that it should be nearer fifteen years before Kiln Farm or any more plans are passed. Sadly we have been told that David Wilson Homes are going to put plans forward by Christmas. All our team together with residents will fight this if a planning application is submitted.

Colder weather with snow and ice is forecast so now is a good time to get your salt and grit in ready. I would just mention, Cat Litter as a substitute is not a good idea. It is made of a clay like substance and soaks up moisture and holds it. When the thaw comes it makes even more slippery ice and also leaves a white residue that walks into your house and stains, and can rot, the carpet.

To contact me, phone 819924, mobile 07974098131, email [cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk) or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

**Popley East:** I want to start with a big thank you to the residents from Jersey and Guernsey Close who came along to last month's council meeting on potential sites for new housing development and spoke out against the land at Kiln Farm being allocated. The fight goes on to stop this and I will be monitoring the council closely as it comes to a decision.

On a more positive note, did you know that it's Keep Britain Tidy month? As part of this a national Love Where You Live campaign is being run that aims to inspire, encourage and enable us to make where we live, work and play the kind of place we really want it to be. It's about making a difference ourselves, whether as individuals, groups, local authorities or companies. Complaints about litter and untidy areas feature frequently in my mailbag as a local Councillor, and although our streetcare team at the Council do a fantastic job of keeping our area looking good I thought it might be nice to lend them a hand. Therefore, I have organised a community litter pick in Popley- 'The Big Popley Pick'- on Saturday 26th November from 12 – 2pm. Anyone who wishes to take part should meet at 12pm outside Marnel Junior School. It would be helpful if you could contact me first on 07834818489 to let me know you are coming so that I can get an idea of numbers. Equipment and gloves will be provided. I hope to see many of you there!

If you would like to contact me about an issue of concern or anything else that I might be able to help you with please call me on 07834818489 or email me at [Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133  
popleyfields@hotmail.com

### Family Prize Bingo

Don't forget our fantastic Family Prize Bingo night is here again!  
This is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, doors open at 6.00pm, eyes down at 7.00pm.  
This is our Christmas Bingo so come and have a game or 2 lots of great prizes, including a raffle, hot food and a licensed bar.

### Zumba

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

### Silver wings Line Dancing

Wednesday evenings 8.00-10.00pm.

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 5.00-7.00pm.

### Knitability Knitting Club

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

This group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12 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](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)

## **St. Gabriel's Church Victorian Christmas Fayre Saturday 3rd December 1.00-4.00pm**

Grand Raffle (top prize £250 cash) \* Tombola \* Refreshments \* Craft, Food and Sweet Stalls \* Christmas Tree Competition \* Children's Games and Activities \* Carol Singing \* Live Animal Experience \* Face Painting

A brilliant afternoon of fun for all the family!

St. Gabriel's Church, Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way



A WORD  
FROM THE  
CUBS!



(This Months article has been written by two of our cub scouts)

*Cubs are awesome especially 1<sup>st</sup> Popley. I think Cubs is awesome because you go to BBQ's, Brownsea Island, Lime Pits, Fire Station, Police station. 1<sup>st</sup> Popley Cubs are at Popley Church near traffic lights! – James Cook (9 ½)*



*I liked it when we went to Brownsea Island because we saw a red squirrel that I have not seen before and I went on a ferry and a train. I started on the 24/9/10 I have been invested a year and have been on many trips like the police station and Pets at Home. I have 16 badges and I am soon going to get my Silver Award. – Robert Mcdonalad(10)*

As ever please make contact with Martin Lee (Group Scout Leader) on 07854860895 if you have any questions or you would like to join us in our adventure! Whatever your age there is a place waiting for you!



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, Tewkesbury Close during term times)

Facebook: [facebook.com/1stpopley](https://www.facebook.com/1stpopley) [www.1stpopley.orgfree.com](http://www.1stpopley.orgfree.com)

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Before



After



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## Disabled Access Guide

A NEW online guide for disabled people will provide information about accessibility at venues across the town and borough.

DisabledGo offers detailed and up-to-date information on more than 500 venues in the area. It has been funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Free to use and without any need for registration, the guide has been produced by Disabled-Go – a national charity which creates personally-surveyed access guides in the UK.

Representatives from the charity visited all the venues to survey them, with help from local residents, including Pamela Heyfron, from Marlborough Gardens in Oakley.

The 69-year-old grandmother suffers from severe arthritis and uses crutches or a mobility scooter to get around.

She said: “We are very lucky in Basingstoke because most places are accessible. But if I am going out anywhere I have to make arrangements and talk to someone about getting into the venue.

“They say you can get in but you arrive and you can’t because there are two steps down.

“This guide means people can check for themselves beforehand and trust the information because it has been put together by people with disabilities.”

The guide uses 20 symbols that represent important information that disabled people have told the charity would be good to find out at a glance, including whether Braille is available, or if there toilets adapted for wheelchair users.

The Basingstoke and Deane version of the guide was launched at the Civic Offices by Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Councillor David Leeks, who uses a wheelchair himself.

He said: “The guide represents a really positive development for disabled people in the borough.”

To view the guide visit [disabled.go.com/en/org/basingstoke-and-deane-borough-counc](http://disabled.go.com/en/org/basingstoke-and-deane-borough-counc).

AGEconcern  
Hampshire

# RESIDENTIAL CARE INFORMATION DAY

15th November 2011

10am - 3pm

Popley Fields Community Centre  
Carpenters Down, Basingstoke, RG24 9AE

For people considering residential care  
for themselves or a family member.

Is residential care the right option?

Finding suitable care & paying for it;

Emotional considerations;

Powers of attorney; hospital discharge.

Speakers from Age Concern,  
HCC Adult Services and local solicitors.

Lunch provided. Suggested donation £10.

Please call Age Concern on  
01256 423874 if you would like a  
booking form or further information.





## Phillips' Legal Corner



### How to survive Christmas without strangling your partner.....!.

'It may seem early but Christmas is coming and the stakes are high for couples' says Hayley Eachus, family lawyer at Phillips Solicitors, 'the dangers are everywhere - overspending, sleepless nights, Christmas party flirtations, the influx of in-laws, overeating and possibly binge-drinking, over excited children and family resentments which can boil over into a Greek tragedy. On top of all that there's this year's added pressure of belt-tightening. As a stressful time, Christmas is up there with bereavement, divorce and moving house. So here are a few tips on how to rise above the pressures of families and survive, with your relationship intact:

1. Set expectations: don't fall into the trap of setting huge expectations but sit down with your partner and talk through what you'd both like before, not after, Christmas. Plan ahead and don't leave shopping until the last minute. Don't expect it to be perfect, or the same as it was in your childhood, but decide that being together and having fun with family and friends is more important than extravagant presents and decorations.

2. Set a budget and stick to it. Disagreements over finances are always high on the agenda of relationship breakdowns. So resist the temptation to spend, spend, spend, it's bad for your bank balance and your mental health. Do-it-yourself gifts mean more than shop bought presents or you could agree to only buy for children. It doesn't matter, so long as you both agree.

3. Manage your extended family: agree how much time to spend with them and how you'll handle any difficult members. If they come to your home, you can set the ground rules.

4. Delegate and divide up the jobs. There's no reason why everyone in the house shouldn't help out, so get everyone involved in the preparations and there'll be fewer arguments. If you can't face cooking Christmas dinner, ask guests to bring a course each or plan to eat out.

5. Don't forget to pamper your partner - set aside some romantic time for each other. Spending time together can be helpful if your relationship is struggling - or it can be the death knell. Be considerate and give yourself some time together that isn't shopping, wrapping or cooking and keep your bedroom definitely 'out of bounds'.

6. Keep your sense of humour at all costs - this is the elixir that will get you through.

Finally' concludes Hayley 'whatever you do, try to be a team. Think 'we, us, together' - that's how you avoid divorce. If it all goes off well, a safely negotiated Christmas can deepen your relationship. And it's worth every bit of effort. So from the family law team at Phillips - a very happy Christmas!

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We believe in child lead learning where the children decide what activities they do including messy play, outdoor play, singing, dancing, story time, walks (weather permitting) and lots more.

We have a summer trip each year and several celebration parties.

Popley Explorers is run by an excellent group of staff with years of experience between them lead by our Group Manager, Sharon and Elaine our Group Deputy Manager. The staff team are supported by a strong parent committee who are dedicated to helping with the smooth running of the group and fund raising.

You are very welcome to arrange a visit to come and see our facilities and meet the staff, everyone is welcome.

Contact: Ask for either Sharon or Elaine on 01256 363156



Pebbles Children's Centre have had a really busy start to the autumn term programme. There are many groups and courses for families with children under 5 to choose from including song and sign, literacy and numeracy classes, English as an additional language, Stay and Play, Crafty Rhyme Time and a number of Peep classes. Peep stands for the 'Peers early education programme' and it aims to help parents understand how their baby develops and learns as it becomes a toddler, pre-schooler and eventually goes to school. Peep works on four principles

**O is for opportunities** and there are many of these throughout the day which encourage conversation, exploration and brain development.

**R is for recognition**, each time your child achieves something there is a chance to boost his self-esteem by recognising the achievements with smiles and encouragement.

**I is for interaction** and even the tiniest baby welcomes interaction with her parents. It helps her to feel good about herself as well as encouraging speech and physical development.

**M is for modelling** – role modelling. Everything we do as parents is what our child learns. We are our child's first and most important educator. If we are kind to each other, if we listen to each other, if we show respect to each other – this is what our child learns and this is how they will behave when they grow up. Peep is also great fun so come and join us at one of our weekly sessions (age specific).

By the time you read this we will have run our first ever **FAMILY LEARNING FUN DAY** in conjunction with Octopus children's centre in Oakridge. Activities included photography and frame making, hoola hooping, making musical instruments, kite making story bags and face painting to name but a few. A free lunch was also provided. We're hoping this will be an annual event so if you enjoyed it let us know or if you think we could have done things better then just contact us so we can improve things in the future.

Dates for your diary:  
 w/c 5 December – last week of groups before Christmas  
 13 December Christmas party – further details tba  
 23 December - Centre closes for Christmas  
 3 January – Centre re-opens  
 w/c 9 January – groups re-start

If you haven't registered with Pebbles Children's Centre yet, come along and get to know us I am sure you and your under five year old children will have a great time. If you don't know where we are or what's on just ring 01256 357028 or e-mail [pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk) or visit our website at [www.3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc](http://www.3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc)

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## Diaries from The Old Codger

Well, as you can gather, I made it back home from our holiday. So very pleased that we had great weather, except the day my son and Her Indoors went for a walk along St Catherine's Point. She nearly got blown away, the wind was that strong. I should have given my son a bigger bribe! Holidays are great, but to get home and sit in your own armchair with the best cup of tea in the world is heaven.

I have just finished reading a great book on the war years and just after. It surprised me how much crime occurred in the six years of war. It was put it down to absent fathers and children not getting the discipline at home as they would have normally got. It pointed out that due to the war all the children's social i.e. youth clubs, closed down leaving children to wander the streets. How much of this rings bells today. It is a sad fact that many youngsters miss that spirit of the good old fashioned youth clubs. I know when I was a young lad I went to Cubs and Scouts, three different youth clubs and plenty of times I would go to the pictures. Is it just me or has this country of ours changed so much? If so why? Who do we ask questions about this, and what can be done to bring back youth clubs so boys and girls can go and enjoy a good evening out instead of being on the streets. I read Arthur's column in last month's Popley Matters and how true the words are that he wrote. There are far too many bigwigs, as I call them, getting extremely high wages when the real workers are doing the hands on work that is done by their work force. Yet the workers are paid a pittance in comparison

Sadly this is the same the world over. However we also see the other side. There is so much poverty and so much death. I would say that the time it takes me to write this column another 20 children will have died because of the lack of water, food and medicine.

When I was small I can remember all the hand-me-downs and if my shoes got a hole in them my granddad would fix them with cut up car tyres and bone glue. If I had a hole in the back of my shorts mum would patch them, or darn my socks. I wonder how many mothers know how to darn.

When I look back at my life I ask "Was I one of these children that lived in poverty"? The answer is "yes" but we all worked hard in our family and we all pulled in the same direction. We all had to pull up our socks and dig in for a better life. Yes we made it, but we were a big family and everyone wanted a safe and good life for the next generation to come. We do not want children wandering our streets aimlessly around looking for things to do. However the way our country is going at the moment our children do not stand a chance in life. Unless we get our governments to change their attitude to the young and see that at the moment they are going wrong.

I look at things this way, if a person is down pick them up, if a person has no food, feed them, if someone is in need give him or her the help they need. You may think my philosophy in life is wrong but this is just the Old Codger. I am not sure about giving help to Her Indoors, as I can say "Do you need a hand with that dearest?" The look on her face and the words! I can manage. Who am I to argue with that.

Till next month.  
The Old Codger



## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

[www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk)

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake 01256 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510 07790 018 171

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 07971 491 145



Both the Beavers and the Cubs enjoyed a super Hallowe'en Party with lots of 'scrummy goodies' made by Akela and some fabulous costumes!

The cub section have almost finished the Rugby Tournament' and were sad to see the last vestige of British hopes fade with the departure of Wales in the quarter finals.

Scouts section were hoping to make a few new contacts with other scouts across the world on the annual Jamboree on the Internet JOTI weekend. The section will celebrate bonfire night with other troops.

The Beaver section is working on 'Passport to India' Quite a lot of the Colony will be joining with other Beavers scouts from around the county for the annual outing to Paultons Park to see the 'jolly-giant-in-a-red-coat-with-white-whiskers" who is almost ready to start his practice run.



After half-term Christmas preparations will start in earnest (thanks for all the empty ice cream cartons - we now have enough for the Beaver project!)

New members welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 8) and Cubs (aged 8-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -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](mailto:bookings@base2000.co.uk) or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends. The Princes' Trust will start a new course for the 16-25 age group in the building in December.

... want a new challeng? - come and join us!

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

## Cornerstone Nursery News November

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way -

01256 840300

Throughout October all the children have been doing lots of fun activities. We all took part in Jeans for Genes day where we raised £49 for charity. Some of the children took part in cooking activities where we made bread and dough which they all enjoyed. We took our 2-3s and 3-5s for a trip to the library where we brought some books back with us to read. Our babies have enjoyed lots of messy painting activities where they have all rolled around and used their hands and feet to make some lovely art pictures. We have been making some Halloween decorations to put up for our Halloween tea and we have been talking to our older children about what costumes they have to dress up in on the day.

### Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road - 01256 818118

October has been quite a busy month in the Nursery with lots of new faces joining us. We would like to welcome you all! Our pre-schools rooms have recently started looking at animals of the world and created lots of different sensory experiences for the children to explore, including our African snails. The children have been watching them grow and are looking forward to seeing them when they reach their full 'slimey' size. This month's theme day was story book characters. Lots of different costumes were worn by the children including the Gruffalo and the Very Hungry Caterpillar! We showed off our costumes with the rest of the Nursery by joining in our hall area for a yummy tea party.

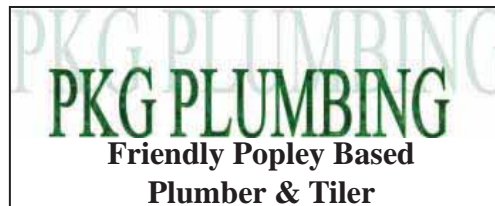
We have also changed our kitchen menus for the winter, with lots of new recipes, including chicken and vegetable soup which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We are all very excited about the last day of the month as this is Halloween and we will be celebrating by having a party. Children will also be taking part in lots of different activities throughout the day. You can hear all about our SPOOKY PARTY in next month's edition!

### Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

In the Baby Room the babies have been making things to hang from the ceiling, and have been practicing their kicking skills in the garden with Josh. The babies are now learning Wind the Bobbin Up and are using the actions that go with the song. In the Family Room the children have been listening to the 3 Little Pigs. They are also playing the game outside in the garden and have made houses to see which ones can be blown down easily. The straw house was by far the easiest just like in the story. The children are making a new display all about the 3 Little Pigs. They like to "huff and puff" when acting out the 3 Little Pigs in their play.

The children have explored the texture of shaving foam, they all thought it was funny to say HO HO HO like Father Christmas when they wore the shaving foam like a beard!

All settings currently have spaces in all age groups but spaces are limited so please contact the manager at your preferred setting.



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## Marnel and Merton Community Group

Members of the steering group from Marnel and Merton Community Group attend a Community Planning networking meeting on 12th October at Basingstoke and Deane Council offices. It was a great opportunity to met people from other community groups in the area who are at varying different stages with the preparation of their community plans. Basingstoke and Deane is the first local authority supporting urban groups to produce plans so we are, along with the other groups, leading the way nationwide! We had not appreciated before and now feel a renewed enthusiasm for the whole process and what can be achieved.

The really exciting news is that our website is now up and running. It is in its infancy however please do go and have a look. [www.marnelandmertoncommunitygroup.org.uk](http://www.marnelandmertoncommunitygroup.org.uk)

You can leave your comments to let us know what we can do to develop the site.

We have also met with Basingstoke and Deane to talk about the technical/IT support they can offer us with our in depth consultation around what you, the community, would like to see included in our plan. This will follow up on the information you gave us at The Big Lunch in June this year - where you identified the three top priorities for action on the estate - which were dangerous parking, speed of cars on and the inconsiderate behaviour of dog owners (and their dogs). More information on this next month and on our Facebook page (Marnel and Merton Community Group) and website.

Have a great bonfire night, stay safe and please follow the Firework Code.



Reg. Charity No. 1065677

## Quiz Night

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 ,7.30p.m.

At

St. Michael's Church Cottage

(Behind St Michael's Church,  
Church Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7QT)

Tickets £6 each or £30 for a team.

Please bring your own feast.  
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## Have your say about changes to the Blue Badge scheme

The Government is changing the Blue Badge scheme to make it fairer and more consistent. We would like to hear what users of the scheme and carers of people who use the scheme, think of our proposals.

**Complete our consultation questionnaire - closing date is 4 December 2011**

### What is the Blue Badge scheme?

The Blue Badge scheme allows people with severe mobility problems to park close to where they need to go. Most badges are valid for three years.

You automatically qualify for a Blue Badge if you:

- are registered blind under the National Assistance Act 1948;
- receive the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance;
- receive a war pensioner's mobility supplement; or
- have been awarded a benefit under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, under tariffs 1-8.

If none of these apply, you may still qualify for a Blue Badge by having an assessment of your mobility.

### What is the Department of Transport changing nationally?

From January 2012:

- All new Blue Badges will be printed and supplied centrally in the UK, rather than by each local authority. This will make them harder to forge or alter and enable the Department for Transport to implement a central database of Blue Badge holders.
- Local authorities will have to pay a production fee for each Blue Badge of £4.60 (excluding VAT). In addition to this, the County Council will continue to pay the administrative cost of assessing applications.
- The Department for Transport plans to increase the maximum fee that local authorities can charge users for their Blue Badge from £2 to £10. This is the first increase since 1983.

From 2012, local authorities may have to use independent mobility assessments (where they would have previously been carried out by doctors) to decide if someone who does not automatically qualify, should receive a Blue Badge.

As a result of these changes, local authorities will have more powers to tackle fraudulent use of Blue Badges.

### How much will it cost to apply for a Blue Badge in Hampshire?

From January 2012, Hampshire County Council is proposing to charge the full £10 for a new or renewed Blue Badge. This one-off fee would cover the three-year period for which the Blue Badge is valid.

This fee would cover the production costs for the badge and contribute to our administration costs. It would also help with improvements to the service, such as mobility assessments and reducing fraudulent use of badges.

Around 70,000 people have blue badges in Hampshire and each year the County Council issues around 25,000 for a charge of £2. Each badge currently costs Hampshire County Council £8 on average to produce, but under the new scheme this would increase by an additional £4.60 at least, bringing the total cost to £12.60 per badge. The current £2 charge has been in place since 1983.

### What is a mobility assessment?

If you do not automatically qualify for a Blue Badge you may need to have a mobility assessment to fully satisfy the requirements.

From April 2012 doctors will no longer carry out Blue Badge assessments. Instead, we are required to make alternative arrangements for the independent assessment of people, where necessary.

We are currently exploring options for this and will carry a further consultation on proposals for mobility assessments early next year.

### What happens next?

What you tell us will help inform the recommendations on the proposed changes.

### About the consultation

The consultation will be split into two phases.

- **Phase 1:** Consultation on the proposed changes to the charge for a Blue Badges (this consultation).
- **Phase 2:** Consultation on proposed options for mobility assessments (this part of the consultation will take place in 2012).

The phase one consultation will be eight weeks long rather than the normal 12 weeks. This is because the national changes, around badge production and the cost, apply from January 2012. The shorter consultation will ensure that your views can be fully considered before recommendations are made.

### Complete our consultation

**questionnaire - This consultation closes on 4 December 2011**

If you have any questions about this consultation, need help to take part, or if you would like a copy of the survey in large print, Braille, or a different language, please contact the Blue Badge Unit by email: [blue.badge@hants.gov.uk](mailto:blue.badge@hants.gov.uk) or phone 0845 603 5633

