

# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

December 2011

Distribution of 4,700

Issue 118



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (11-12-11)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** It's the early hours of the morning and Paul and I are still here at our computers getting Popley Matters ready to go to the printer. It suddenly struck me that 2011 is nearly over and how many people will be thinking about what this year has been like for them, and the people around that they care about. It has been such a tough and sad one for my family but we have each other to lean on. I wonder how many people will have an even lonelier Christmas than we will. If you know someone who is on their own, please just ask if they are OK and maybe even send them a card or a note. I hope Christmas is a happy time for everyone no matter what your beliefs. It is a time when we can all come together and share some happiness.

We hope you enjoy reading Popley Matters as we try to keep our readers informed as much as we can. We have a fantastic band of volunteers who go out in all weathers to deliver your community magazine. They are all special and we thank them. A few have had to give up delivering this year and one has been delivering as long as I can remember. Thank you Maud, also to the others who know who they are. We are so grateful for your time and support. This leaves us with a few vacancies so if you could spare just one hour a month to help us deliver the magazine we would appreciate it greatly. We have been contacted lots of times about the 30 mph speed limit and signage for Popley Way and Carpenters Down so we have some information on page 12. There are some safety tips from the Fire Service on page 13.

Get well Old Codger. He has been in hospital for five weeks and has been very poorly. We all hope you are soon well enough to help Her Indoors to spend your money on the Christmas shopping! Old Codger writes children stories too and has been trying to get his next series printed out it is an expensive business.

Finally a very happy holiday time for all and I hope that those that will be working over the Christmas period get at least some time home with family or friends.

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 Beaney

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Thank you for the support

# *New CSPO team for Popley*

Introducing your new **Community Safety Patrol Officers**.

We would like to introduce ourselves as the new CSPO team for the Popley area.

Dan White covering Popley West & Paula James-Bailey covering Popley East have taken over from David Mason who has moved to a new patrol area after many years of hard work in Popley. Paul Bowman will continue to cover the whole of Popley.

The CSPOs are provided by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. Our role in Popley is to work closely with the community and partner agencies, such as the police and housing associations.

We identify and tackle local issues, reducing crime, deterring anti-social behaviour and dealing with environmental crimes, to make residents feel safer and happier about their neighbourhood..

We work closely with the police with daily combined briefing meetings and shared information through innovative use of technology. As patrolling officers we can use enforcement powers to tackle offences such as graffiti, littering, dog fouling or confiscating alcohol from underage drinkers.

We hope to see as many of you as possible whilst on patrol around Popley. If you don't manage to see us and would like to talk to us about any issues you may have, please contact us on **01256 845 700** or by email ; [safetypatrolservice@basinstoke.gov.uk](mailto:safetypatrolservice@basinstoke.gov.uk)



Dan White



Paula James-Bailey



Paul Bowman

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# Merry Christmas

I was recently watching a clip on youtube about Basing Wood (Carpenters Down Wood). It was really well done with lovely photography of the wood, plant life, leisure facilities and some marvellous wood sculptures.

As I marvelled at having such a fantastic natural leisure facility right on my doorstep, I was reminded how each year about a week before Christmas my Mum, Dad, my sister and myself would go to the local woods to look for holly and greenery to decorate the house for Christmas. It was a lovely family time, with my sister and myself getting more more excited knowing that Christmas was only days away.

On Christmas Eve, after my Mum had cleaned the house from top to bottom, we would put up the Christmas tree with the fairy on the top and decorate the house with paper chains and the holly and greenery we had collected.

At night my sister and I would go to bed unable to sleep, straining every tiny muscle of our ears hoping to catch the sound of Santa's Sleigh bells, as he passed over our house before landing on the roof, to climb down the chimney drink the sherry, and eat the mince pie left for him. Our imaginations would run wild, as we dreamed of the presents he might leave at the end of our beds.

They were happy days and I remember them fondly.

In these times of austerity cuts, pay freezes, pay cuts and job losses, I think we all should remember the following paragraph found on the internet:

*The best Christmas presents can't be wrapped, and no amount of money can buy them. They're brighter than tinsel, warmer than firelight, and sweeter than toffee. They are our Christmas memories. They shine from year to year, generation to generation, linking past and future. They soften hearts, lift spirits, and make us better people all year long.*

**Viv Washbourne**

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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, handmade confectionery, jewellery, a Grand Raffle - 1st prize Christmas hamper, all welcome.

FRIENDLY CAFÉ - Every Monday and Thursday we hold a café, 9.30-11.30 come for a chat and a cuppa and even a bacon sandwich! All ages welcome.

**WHAT'S ON:**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	4.00-9.00pm	AG Dance Academy
	9.30am-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 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](mailto:Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk).

Also **find us on facebook: Melrose hall.**



*Basingstoke and Deane*

## **Bin Collections over the Festive Period**

Rubbish and recycling collection crews will be taking Boxing Day (Monday 26 December) off but will work the next Saturday (31 December) to catch up, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has announced.

If your normal collection day would be: put your grey bin (and green bin if your recycling week)

Monday 26 December  
 Tuesday 27 December  
 Wednesday 28 December  
 Thursday 29 December  
 Friday 30 December

Out instead on:  
 Tuesday 27 December  
 Wednesday 28 December  
 Thursday 29 December  
 Friday 30 December  
 Saturday 31 December

Christmas can mean extra rubbish, for example wrapping paper that can't be recycled, Therefore, in the first collection after Christmas ONLY extra sacks will be collected. Unless adverse weather affects bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 2 January 2012.

For more information about bin collections see [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/recycling](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/recycling) or call 01256 844844.

**Councillors Page:** There is a meeting with the Portfolio Holder responsible for the allocation of approved sites, the Head of Planning, Councillors, and residents that spoke against the planning application to start to build on the fields next to Jersey and Guernsey Close and directly behind Marnel Park, known as Kiln Farm. All those protesting against the 450 more dwellings agree that David Wilson Homes should listen to the residents and the recommendation of the Planning Inspector. At the last Local Development Framework, He recommended that Popley and Sherborne St John should have time to settle as a community. The committee that the residents came and spoke to said that "the planning application should be put back to the end of the Local Planning Framework. In 10 to 15 years time". The building has not finished in the old John Hunt site nor on Popley Islands. If you also add in the plot of land owned by the Fire Authority and 784 due to start next year in Merton Rise it is obvious to all except David Wilson Homes and developers, that ENOUGH is ENOUGH. I suppose there's little hope of them considering the residents before their profit? The planning application called The Spinney in Popley West was rejected as there was no provision for social housing and little chance of people getting on to the first rung of owning their own home. There is also a meeting with David Wilson Homes at the very end of November we will report back to you on this and the December meeting in January.

We continue to fight for the reinstatement of the "Hospital Loop" and I had a meeting with Cllr Mel Kendal and the officer who is the "Head of Transport". They have promised to go back to Stagecoach and ask them to look at re instating the service. Both Hampshire County Council and Stagecoach are adamant that the bus service is hardly used. So please write, email or phone and let them know that you do use it and it is a valued service, especially in the winter.

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:** David Wilson Homes are now meeting with the council Planning Officers about submitting their planning application to the council for another 450 homes on the Kiln Farm site, known as BAS104. Along with many local residents, I am opposed to these plans. I am not against development but Popley has had more than its fair share in recent years and it is time to say enough is enough. We really need as many residents as possible to send objection letters to Giorgio Frammalicco, Head of Planning, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4AH. Myself and the other Popley Councillors will be looking at what steps we will take next and we will keep you updated with the timetable for making 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 12pm – 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.

Finally, last weekend I went to see the fantastic production of Romeo and Juliet by local young people at the Spotlight Centre. A big well done to all those who helped to organise it and took part, you were great!

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).

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## **Slimming World**

Slimming World is coming to Popley Fields after Christmas on Wednesday mornings and starts on 4th January 2012 For more information contact Hazel on 07796158098.

## **Family Prize Bingo**

A big thank you to all those that attended and supported the Xmas Family Prize Bingo night last month.

## **Aerobics**

We have an aerobics class which takes place on Tuesday evenings 7.30-8.30pm. Zumba, also takes place on Thursday 7.30 till 8.30pm in the Large Hall

## **Silverwings Line Dancing**

Wednesday evenings 8.00 to 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 from 5.00pm 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 from 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](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)

## CAFÉ DOME OPEN FOR BUSINESS – WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT

Café Dome is the name of the community café managed by The Café Project. It is located behind Gillies Health Centre next to the Driving Test Centre at Brighton Hill.

The Café Project is a charity trust with the primary aim of supporting learning disabled people with training and employment in Basingstoke and the surrounding area.

We maintain our funding through individual, public, and corporate grants and donations; however we heavily rely on volunteers to support the training of our students in food preparation, cooking, cleaning, customer service, and online trading.

Your custom is much appreciated and helps to support the ongoing work that we do. It will help to maintain the longevity of this facility for learning disabled people in the area. A huge thank you to all our customers who come along for meals, snacks and drinks and make Café Dome a community charity on a mission to support some of the more vulnerable people in our town.

Our volunteers who have undertaken training in Food Health & Hygiene and Learning Disability Awareness, and are now supporting our students in food preparation, cooking, cleaning, and customer service.

Our community café is open from 7.30am to 2.30pm Tuesday through to Friday for breakfast, lunch, cakes, snacks and drinks. We aim to provide customers with freshly made, fair trade, locally sourced and free range product choices at a great value, such as a Full English Breakfast for £3.95, homemade soup and a roll for £1.95 and homemade cakes from only £0.50.

As customer demand grows along with our student and volunteer capacity, we expect to extend or change our opening hours and even include a Saturday opening, along with some seasonal events.

Please check our notice board or website for further information.

Something of interest to our local residents is the fact that we now have a very smart venue facility that is available to hire at evenings and weekends from only £10ph on a Sunday.

Critical to the success of our charity is supporting our students in the activities of the café and we continue to need the help of volunteers who can commit a minimum of 3 regular hours a week to buddy up with one of our students or help out at peak periods such as lunchtimes.

The trustees continue to need help with things such as designing marketing materials, delivering café flyers, help with getting our online trading initiative up and running, and other fundraising activities.

If you are interested in volunteering, becoming a student, or hiring the venue, please drop in to the café, call or email Alison Pritchard on 01256 816375 [alison@thecafeproject.co.uk](mailto:alison@thecafeproject.co.uk) . If you would like to volunteer to help the trustees, please email [admin@thecafeproject.co.uk](mailto:admin@thecafeproject.co.uk).

Thanks again for all your support.

John Wright  
Chairman

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We work within the EYFS guidelines to make your children's time with us as beneficial to them as possible.

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 Burton, and our Group Deputy Manager Elaine Gibbons and Lorraine Perry. The staff team are supported by a strong parent committee who are dedicated to helping with the smooth running of the group and fundraising.

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**



# Popley Speed Limits

I have been asked about the speed limit changes both as a councillor and as the Editor of Popley Matters so I asked officers, and checked the Highway Code myself. The officers answer was “The Traffic Signs Manual from the Department for Transport clearly states you shouldn't use speed limit reminder signs in a 30mph zone with street lights (for example the whole Popley area) as "it would be impracticable to place 30mph repeater signs on every road. To do so in some cases, but not others, would result in inconsistency and driver uncertainty. This is therefore prohibited.”

So unfortunately, we cannot put speed limit reminders in a 30mph zone with street lights, as doing so would invalidate that speed limit and make it unenforceable by the police. It would also create uncertainty for drivers, as on some roads they were being reminded, but on others there was nothing. The street lights themselves are the effective 30mph signs, unless there is another sign telling people otherwise”.

Please see below details below for extract from The Highway Code.

It is 30mph down Popley Way and Carpenters Down and there are signs at all entrances. Popley Way and Carpenters Down was the last residential road to get formal 30mph. However I have asked for some gateway features as you come into Popley Way so that more noticeable 30mph signs can be erected on them.

## Highway code section on speed limits

### Speed limits and speeding

There are different speed limits for cars, vans and towing vehicles on different types of roads. Make sure you know the legal speed limits for your vehicle, the penalties for speeding and when to slow down to suit the road conditions.

National speed limits for different vehicles and types of road

You must not drive faster than the speed limit for the road and your type of vehicle.

A limit of 30 miles per hour (mph) or 48 kilometres per hour (km/h) usually applies to all traffic on all roads with street lighting. This applies unless you see signs showing otherwise.

Table of national speed limits

Type of vehicle	Built-up areas	Single carriage-ways	Dual carriage-ways	Motorways
	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)
Cars & motorcycles (including car-derived vans up to 2 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)
Cars towing caravans or trailers (including car-derived vans and motorcycles)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (under 12 metres in overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Goods vehicles (under 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112) If articulated, or towing a trailer, limit is 60 mph (96 km/h)
Goods vehicles (above 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	40 (64)	50 (80)	60 (96)

Web link to section of Highway code

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Roadsafetyadvice/DG\\_178867](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Roadsafetyadvice/DG_178867)

# Celebrate Safely

## Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service urges everyone to celebrate safely this Christmas

People often get distracted by the hustle and bustle of Christmas and are unaware of the potential fire hazards and toxic threats that can lurk in fairy lights, candles and flammable decorations.

Latest figures from the government fire safety campaigns show a rise in the number of accidental fire deaths and injuries over the festive period. In recent years there were 33,000 accidental house fires, 10% of which occurred in the run up to Christmas Day.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service wants everyone to have a happy and safe Christmas this year and is urging the public to take fire safety seriously - plan escape routes, install smoke alarms, and test them weekly.

Assistant Chief Officer Bob Rattcliffe, Head of Community Safety at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, says:

“The risk of fire in the home is an all year round issue - however people are particularly vulnerable at Christmas for many reasons ranging from unsafe electrical decorations, unattended candles, through to cooking whilst drunk.

“People also vastly underestimate the deadly strength of toxic smoke and overestimate how long they have to escape should a fire break out. The reality is that just two to three breaths of smoke in a fire can render a person unconscious. Christmas should be a time for celebration rather than tragedy and for this reason we’re urging people to be fire aware and stay fire safe.”

Here are Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service’s top tips to stay safe from fire this Christmas:

- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm installed on all levels of your home. Test your smoke alarms weekly and never remove batteries to power presents!
- Never leave cooking unattended and avoid cooking whilst drunk. The majority of fires start in the kitchen so this is a high risk area. Always turn off kitchen appliances when you have finished cooking.
- Never leave candles unattended. Keep decorations, cards and wrapping paper away from candles, fires, lights and heaters.
- Ensure you switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed, or leave the house. Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard (BS EN 60598).
- Always use an RCD (residual current device) on outdoor electrical equipment (a safety device that can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault).
- Don’t overload sockets - ensure only one plug per socket. Always turn off plugs when they are not in use, except those that are designed to be left on, like freezers.
- Make sure cigarettes are extinguished properly and never smoke in bed. Put it out, right out.
- Check on older relatives and neighbours this Christmas, as they are at greater risk from fire.
- Ask the experts - Fire safety in the home is the primary concern of Hampshire Fire and Rescue’s Community Safety department. Visit our website at [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk) for information on how to protect yourself and your home from fire.
- And finally, in the event of fire: get out, stay out and call 999.

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# When to Use 999 and 101 Numbers

## When you should use 999 instead

You should call 999 if:

- violence is being used or threatened
- there is danger to life
- a crime is in progress or offenders carrying out a crime have recently been disturbed
- there has been a road accident where people are injured, or there has been an accident that has affected traffic

If you call 101 but you are reporting an emergency, you will be directed to the 999 service.

## What you can report using 101

The 101 phone line can help you with advice and information on community safety and anti-social behaviour issues. The service is different depending on where you live.

In Wales, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, call 101 if you need to:

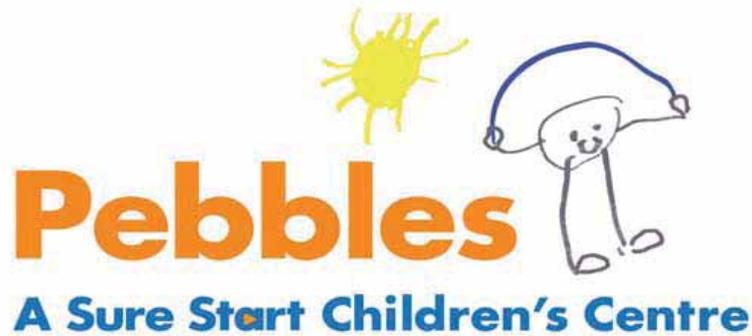
- report a non-emergency crime
- report anti-social behaviour
- report drunken or rowdy behaviour
- report dangerous driving
- speak to the police about a general enquiry

---

## Tips and Advice on Clearing Snow and Ice

- Start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.
- Be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property.
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels.
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on.
- 'Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming'
- Table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it.
- Pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients.
- Use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight.
- If there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

**DO NOT USE CAT LITTER** The clay granules in cat litter soften when they absorb moisture and turn into a watery sludge. Although this sludge may freeze at a slightly lower temperature, the clay content acts as a lubricant with the ice, making the ground more slippery and longer to thaw. It also walks into your house and stains and rots your carpets.



## ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

Don't be bored at home doing the same things everyday because at Pebbles Children's Centre there is fun to be had. In the last issue we told you about our very busy Half-Term week, with Fun Day, a Family Trip and Spooky Craft activities. We have our weekly term time drop-ins and groups that are full of fun and learning for both you and your child. (MUMs and DADs) They are also not far from your door, with activities running at Melrose Hall and Popley Fields as well as the Children's Centre.

Christmas will soon be upon us now and there will be a Christmas Party for the centre's registered families. To find out more about this please contact us (as below).

During the past month we have had some changes within the staffing at the centre. We have sadly said goodbye to Brenda Watson, but we have welcomed Hannah Sylvester to the Admin Team. We wish them both good luck in their new jobs.

We will be taking a break with the usual groups over the Christmas period but you can still drop in at the Centre and play.

Here are the Dates for your diary:

w/c 5 December – last week of groups before Christmas ( except Literacy Class – last day 15.12.11)

13 December Christmas party for registered families

23 December - Centre closes for Christmas

3 January – Centre re-opens

w/c 9 January – groups re-start and we will be starting a new session of courses and should you wish to take part in any of these, please contact us (as below).

So if you have a child under 5 years old, make Pebbles Children's Centre part of your New Years Resolution

Just ring us on 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) or drop into the centre on Shakespeare Rd

**Janice and all the Pebbles staff team would like  
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Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake 01256 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510 07790 018 171

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 07971 491 145



It's been even more busy, busy just lately with Hallowe'en Parties, Bonfire night, JOTA/JOTI Communications and spaghetti pioneering! The Beavers have completed their 'Passport to India' challenge and the first of the medals for good behaviour have been presented. The Cub section has finished their 'Rugby' Tournament of activities and enjoyed an evening of team games. The Scouts had a good time making a large cardboard model bi-plane - and then celebrated it by putting it on the bonfire.

All thoughts turn to Christmas in earnest now as the Beavers finish off their special project. What did they do with all those ice cream cartons - maybe a picture or two next month to let you in on the big secret!

Some of the Group will be making a Christmas visit to Planet Ice Christmas Show in December. A visit to the 2012 Gang Show in February is also planned.

The Group has been appointed to be Host Group for the Basingstoke East Scout Districts St. George's Day Parade next April which will take quite a bit of planning. More about that in the New Year.

If we had more leaders we could expand our programmes so if you think you've got what it takes (enthusiasm, an active mind, the odd skill or two and the ability to encourage young people to achieve their full potential in this busy world) contact the Group Scout Leader for more information. All leaders are required to complete a CRB clearance check before taking up appointment. Training and ongoing support is provided.

New members welcome (but be prepared to wait a bit if you want to join the Beaver section as it is currently full until some of the older ones move on to the Cub section). All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5¾-8) 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](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 shortly return to the building to start Course 14 for the 16-25 age range..

**... want a new challenge? - come and join us!**

# Cornerstone Nursery News - December 2011



## Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way - 01256 840300

Throughout November we have been looking at fire safety with the 3-5s and how to be careful around fireworks on Bonfire Night. We celebrated the Hindu festival of Diwali with the children by making a Rangoli pattern and we had a parent come in to talk to the children about their culture and how they celebrate. We had some fun activities on 18th November for Children in Need, all the children brought a bear to nursery for the day. The children and parents had a chance to buy some cakes which were made by the children and all the children made some Pudsey Bear pictures. All the children have started to practice their Christmas songs for our Carol concert, and are doing really well learning them.

## Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road - 01256 818118

We have been looking at Autumn recently and creating interest tables for the children to explore. Some of our tables included a different variety of pumpkins and lots of creepy crawlies.

We also celebrated Halloween with a tea party, which included ghost shaped sandwiches, Monster Munch crisps and slimey green jelly. Many of the children arrived at nursery dressed in their spookiest costumes. Children took part in pumpkin carving and decorating whilst also exploring the textures of the insides of the pumpkins during sensory play.

This month's theme day was Space Day which we all thoroughly enjoyed, especially our pre-school children who looked at the different planets and were able to create their very own space ships.

## Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

Our babies have made some photo boards that the children can take on and off the wall to look at. The Children have made lots of things to hang from the ceiling for the little babies to watch move around and have made a new wall display about 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught A Fish Alive.

The Main Room have been learning about the Firework Code which Penny has been going through with them on a daily basis. The children have been having wonderful texture play and have made some sparkly firework pictures. The children have made lots of different types of dinosaur landscapes using wood, soil and materials and had great fun.

**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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Dear Friends

Just trawling through some of my 'Facebook' friends comments the other day and the number of them that were quoting the words of the Christmas advert of that famous fizzy drinks manufacturer "holidays are comin' holidays are comin'" just made me think how close we are to celebrating once again that incredible event we call Christmas – have you noticed it begins with Christ?

The tree is up in Festival Place and looking splendid, the shops are beginning to decorate their windows. No doubt there will be school Christmas Concerts and Church Christmas Fairs and as the days grow shorter and it gets dark earlier and earlier the Christmas lights will begin to appear on houses and streets – don't you just love it?

During the week of the 19<sup>th</sup> December the churches in Basingstoke will be celebrating Christmas in a special way by wandering around Festival Place in Nativity costume inviting you to come and hear the greatest story once again. On the afternoon of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-4pm I will be dressed as a shepherd and telling the Shepherd's Story. This is particularly challenging for me as I was traumatised as a child when playing a shepherd in my Infant School nativity I tripped over my gown and fell to the floor, an incident greeted with gales of laughter! I have never got over it!!

Of course all this is just here in our own little corner of the world and it is worth pausing to remember the very many people and places where 25<sup>th</sup> December will just be another day of surviving. The economic woes of the world particularly impact on the poorer countries as they struggle to produce enough to live on and to meet their nation's debts to the first world countries. There are, too, around 23 areas of conflict and wars taking place with many losing their lives, being displaced and losing homes and livelihoods. We especially remember all our troops serving in Afghanistan.

At the start of his adult ministry Jesus visited the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth and said *God's Spirit is on me; he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!" He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place."* And is still coming true today!

Not so very long ago another man said "*The hinge of history is to be found on the door of a Bethlehem stable*". It is for this reason that God sent his son to become one of us that we might be saved from ourselves and experience the fullest of joys as did the shepherds, the kings, Mary and Joseph and all the angels of heaven on that first Christ filled night. May your Christmas be a blessed and joy filled- one and I hope that you will be able to join us for one of our Christmas celebrations.

**With every prayer**

**Arthur**

**PS: Please see our advert on page 29**

Dear Popley residents,

The "Popley Team" have been working hard to keep Popley safe. November was a busy but exciting month for us. There has been a recent shift with the CSPOs (Community Safety Patrolling Officers). David Mason has moved to the South Ham area. Dan White and Paula James-Bailey have now joined the Popley Team. I am sorry to see Dave leave, however I'm really happy that Dan and Paula have arrived.

On 1st November, I had an unexpected surprise when an American author and journalist, crewed up with me to patrol Popley! Peter Moskos is a former Police officer from Baltimore. To find out more about Peter, please visit his website: <http://petermoskos.com/>

Also in early November, I received "drug training" at Police training college. This training will allow me to test for class A drugs without the need to send them off for analysis.

Once again, the Popley Fields Community Centre has been broken into and cans of drink were stolen. I cannot believe that a community centre that gives so much to the community, is once again a target.

As you may already be aware, the Popley Team are all members of the PSNP (Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel) The panel formed in 2007 to vote on, and tackle, long term community issues. The PSNP have a website, a twitter site and a regular blog that I update in a timely fashion. I think it is important to be transparent and also provide information to the community on our work.

Please visit our website: <http://psnp.zapd.net/>

Please follow us on twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/PopleySNP>

you can also type, PopleySNP, into google and you should be able to find us. For those of you that don't know what twitter is... twitter is an easy way to share with you, anything relevant to Popley, and our work. I am able to post stories/links/photo's/ etc in live time. If you follow the PopleySNP on twitter, you will receive all the latest information! Get involved if you can.

I hope you all have a great Christmas this year. To ensure you have the best chance, I would suggest a few things. If you are going out, or on holiday, try and leave some lights on in your address or perhaps use a timer. Ask your neighbour(s) to keep an eye on your property. Ask a friend to visit your address and open and close curtains to make it look like someone is staying at the address. Don't leave presents or any valuables on display at your address. This also applies to your vehicles. The Popley Team will be patrolling over the Christmas period as always. If you see us then please stop us and say hello.

I have noticed a lot of graffiti in Popley East lately. There is a regular theme, and the tag that looks like a stylised dinosaur. I would be interested to find out who is responsible. Get in touch if you know the artist! call 101

In other news: I have been invited to the Melrose Hall Christmas party this year. I look forward to good food, great company and ridiculous hats!

If you would like any information on our work, or you would be interested in joining the PSNP then please get in contact with me direct: [daniel.carter.20686@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:daniel.carter.20686@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

**The PSNP wish you all a safe and happy Xmas**

Graffiti in Popley East.

*PC 20686 Dan Carter*

Popley West

Safer Neighbourhood Team Manager

*(Meet The Team)*



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# Marnel and Merton Community Group

Marnel and Merton Community Group held their first family Halloween party on Saturday 22nd October at the Chute Pavilion in Sherborne St John. Members of the steering group dropped fliers for the event to all homes in Marnel Park and Merton Rise so everyone was invited. After putting in much hard work by volunteers the hall was decorated with hundreds of black and orange balloons, scary coffin lids, grave



stones and lots of other spooky things and looked amazing! We have affiliated to Basingstoke Community Transport and they laid on a mini bus to transport people to the event from the Orchard Grove end of the estate to Chute Pavilion. We were really thrilled to see the first minibus arrive with 16 people all in fancy dress!!

We had an amazing response to the party and on the night about 100 people, most of whom were in brilliant spooky fancy dress, came along to join in the fun. We had a brilliant disco, provided by Dayz Disco (call Tom on 07795 467467), a bar from Southern Bar Services (thank you Peter) a hog roast as well. We had lots of games for the kids including apple bobbing and games where the children put their hands in a box and tried to work out what was inside - that was a

little scary!!

We had a brilliant night and we measure that by the number of people came along but also by those who asked us whether we were doing anything at Christmas! We are not doing anything for Christmas however we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this year including Carole Ruse and Stephen Bate from Basingstoke and Deane Community Development Team and also Jane Frankum for her support and encouragement throughout what has been a very difficult year for her.

Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and very happy and healthy 2012.



# Diaries from the Old Codger

Actually this is not from OC but “Her Indoors”, the Old Codger at time of writing is starting his fourth week in hospital, one of which was on High Dependency Unit. We as a family have gone through a tough few weeks and, as OC often writes about, it is our family that have helped us both through this difficult time. Either directly or indirectly but it is those strong family ties which always come to the fore in times of need.



Our next hurdle is to get the OC back to strength again. He has lost a stone in weight, much needed I might add, and is wobbly on his pins. The physio and Occupational Therapists are working hard with us to achieve this. We are hoping that the wheelchair assessment will happen very soon as he needs to get a much better-suited chair. Over the last 16 years we have adapted our home to suit OC's need so the additional aids will not be major but should help to make life a little easier for him and those that have to care for him.

Week four and still in hospital and although he was improving, his seizures have started again. The “good” news is that his brain scan does not show any cause for concern and there is no evidence of a bleed. The bad news is they cannot get the seizures fully controlled. His medication is being reviewed and OC still has the fighting spirit and humour we all know and love

I am sure the OC will have a lot more to say in the next edition and, if I may, I would like to add to this, my thanks for all the staff in ED, E1, HDU, E4. and the various departments involved. The care and attention OC has received has been excellent on all levels



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## Phillips' Legal Corner

### Do I need a lawyer?



Not always is the answer - having said that, if you have a problem that involves the law then it really is best to speak to a solicitor. There are many ways to resolve legal problems and most of those thankfully don't involve going to court.

The benefit to you of seeing a solicitor early is that they will be able to advise you on your options, what the consequences of inaction are, and of any deadlines that you must meet. You won't be under any obligation to use their help further, following your initial meeting, but at least you'll know where you stand.

Many people feel that the prospect of consulting a lawyer is daunting - the legal system is confusing, complex and changing. So before you take the plunge, take a close look at your problem and work out which area of law you think you need. This may be obvious in the case of a divorce, a property transaction, a Will or a business matter (you will need a family lawyer, a property lawyer, a Wills and Probate lawyer or a commercial lawyer).

If you're not sure you could take advantage of advice centres such as Citizens Advice which will help you free of charge. These services will often advise you to consult a lawyer, but they can be a useful starting point to steer you in the right direction. Don't forget you may have rights and duties that you are unaware of, and a solicitor may be able to help you with these.

Always bear in mind that it can be more expensive not to instruct a lawyer than to instruct one and have the correct advice. For example, buying a DIY 'will writing kit' could seem a cheap option but may not be suitable for you if you have remarried or have complicated financial circumstances and might leave your family in a mess.

Remember that solicitors are strictly regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, and have a professional duty to advise you of your options, including likely costs and the risks involved with any course of action. After that the decision on what to do is yours.

**Our team of expert solicitors would like to wish readers a very Happy Christmas.  
Call us at Phillips Solicitors on 01256 460830. Visit [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)**

# 2011! A year in Pictures



We have had a brilliant year and look forward to 2012! Please call GSL Martin Lee on 07854860895 if you would like to join the adventure! Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Boys & Girls 6-8

Tuesday 5pm-6.00pm

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

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



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½

6.00pm-7.30pm



Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15

7.30pm-9.00pm



# Christmas at St Gabriel's

We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate CHRISTmas! St Gabriel's is your parish church in Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way.

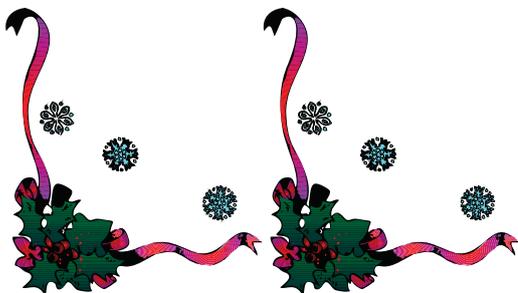
Christingle for all the family  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm and again at 5 pm

Carols by Candlelight  
a service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Crib Service  
At 4pm. Please come in costume

Midnight Communion  
Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m.

Christmas Celebrations  
A Service for all the Family



Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m.

Please contact the church office on 324734 for further details or information on these or any of our services.



## Avoid being caught up in a loan scam

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is warning people to watch out for companies offering to lend you money who ask for fees in advance. This often turns out to be a scam. You pay the fees and you never get the loan.

Look out especially for companies which call you out of the blue, don't ask about your credit history and ask you to send them upfront fees by money transfer.

The OFT has the following tips to help you stay out of trouble:

- **never send money up-front** before you get the loan
- **never send upfront fees to a loan company by money transfer**  
don't get taken in by adverts offering a **guaranteed loan**
- **check out the loan company's details** – ask for their landline number and full address to be sent to you in writing
- **check that the loan company has a licence to give loans.** This is known as a **credit licence** – you can look it up on the government's Consumer Credit Register at: [www.offt.gov.uk/ConsumerCreditRegister](http://www.offt.gov.uk/ConsumerCreditRegister). Don't go with a company which doesn't have a licence
- **don't give out your credit card details** 'for security reasons' as they might use this to take money from your account without you knowing.

If you've been approached about or tricked by a loan scam, you should report it to Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

### 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 0844 245 1283.

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)



## **BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE  
BASINGSTOKE HANTS  
RG24 9PE

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.

The table top we were holding on the 3rd December 2011 has had to be cancelled and will now be held on the 21st January 2012 11am-2.00pm.

I would like to thank everyone who came to the prize bingo on the 11th November. Once again a fantastic night. Great success. Thanks to everyone who helped.

See you all again at the next one, date will be in the next issue.

On behalf of every one at the Bermuda Community Association

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

---

## **Marnel Infant School**

We are pleased to welcome our new families to school and are happy to say that all the new children have settled well into school life. We recently celebrated Harvest Festival and the generous collection of food was donated to the 'Basingstoke Besom' charity, who distribute all the donations to families living in need. A big thank you to all who sent in donations.

Year R children spent the first half term learning lots of songs and rhymes as part of their 'Move and Groove' project and performed a small selection for their parents in the hall. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to see how well the children had settled into school.

In Year 1 the children had a very exciting outcome to their project 'Whose Suitcase?' In class the children were able to plan and pack a suitcase for their bear and then take their bear on a camping trip! The children spent the day camping on the school field, enjoying outdoor challenges, singing around the campfire and eating delicious hot dogs. The staff put up many tents for the children who really enjoyed the outdoor experience. We are sure they will want to go camping again!

Year 2 have been learning about outer space and had a stimulating visit from the mobile planetarium. They were all able to enjoy a 'Moon Party' with their parents during which they wrote postcards from the moon, tried alien jelly and space food and even shopped for space souvenirs. We have been really pleased with the parental attendance at our project outcomes so thank you for your support and interest. We look forward to welcoming you to our outcomes in the coming year.

**Mrs B. Cole Head Teacher**

## No man is an island

Residents of Sentinel Housing Associations new Popley Islands development looked on as an “optical puzzle” art feature called Parallax was erected in pride of place in November.

Local people were part of the whole design process, from helping to shortlist and interview the artists, to meeting them, hearing about their ideas and making the final decision about awarding the commission.

Last year as part of this project, Popley schoolchildren got a chance to have a go at the traditional art of blacksmithing. Sentinel Housing Association’s commissioned artists – Anwick Forge – set up a mobile forge at Marnel Junior school where pupils got some hands on experience working with metal.

The sculpture, forged in steel, is based on the quotation “No man is an island...”, and now forms part of the newly created area of open space in the centre of the new development. We hope this sculpture will be a focal point for the community for many years to come.

The £40m regeneration of the area began in January 2010 with the first keys handed over to new residents just a year later. The new community is expected to be fully established by March 2012.

Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you and your families.



# Sherborne St John Parish Council

At the October Meeting PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Ben Howard, who will be working the Tadley Beat, reported that, following break-ins, a new burglar alarm has been fitted at the Dancers Meadow's garages. He also advised there had been a theft of building material from a house in Spring Close. A discussion regarding Speedwatch, a facility to enable communities to monitor traffic and report speeding motorists to the police, concluded that as local volunteers are required it may be difficult to set up in the village.

Following the letter from BDBC to all parish residents regarding the future make up of the parish wards and boundaries, two **BDBC Governance Review** roadshows were arranged at Everest Community Academy and The Chute Pavilion. Apart from Paula Chatterton of BDBC and two parish councillors, there were no attendees at the ECA meeting. Approximately a dozen residents and some councillors attended the Chute presentation. Ms Chatterton advised that following evidence received she will be recommending to BDBC that the parish of Sherborne St John be split from Popley Fields ward. Residents of Popley Fields will now receive a further letter summarising their options; to form a parish, or to become part of Basingstoke town.

Despite numerous written representations by parish residents and speeches by our councillors at BDBC offices, development approval has been granted for BAS104, the **land north of Marnel Park**. To avoid a future 'Governance' problem the PC is requesting that the BAS104 land is transferred from SSJ Ward to the Popley Fields ward.

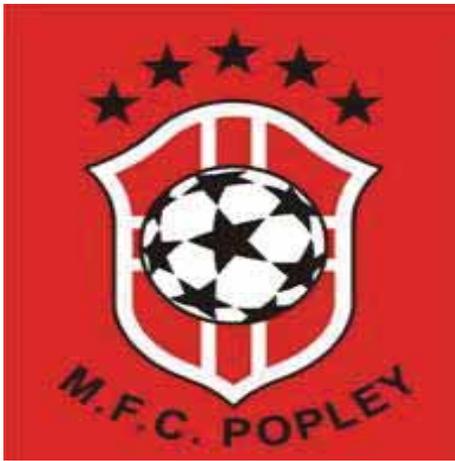
In view of the considerable pressure for more **development south of the village**, Cllr Golding (BDBC) has offered to meet with both Cllr Leek and Julian Crawley with regard to the release of development sites in and around Sherborne St. John. Cllr Leek reported that David Wilson Homes have registered a scoping request for the land on the old Park Prewett golf course and additionally he advised that HCC has a potential buyer for the Merton Rise site.

The tenders for the installation of **solar panels on the Chute Pavilion** were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Abrahams would chair a small sub-committee to review the specification and confirm the preferred bidder. At the time of writing the project is on hold awaiting an imminent government announcement which may effect the rate of feed-in tariffs and the financial viability of the project.

The PC has received an independent report on the poor state of the **Chute tennis courts**. The Council agreed to support the proposal to complete long-term remedial repairs to the courts and make available a sum of £6,000 from current and future reserves, which together with SSJ Tennis Club funds and receipt of grant funding would allow the project to proceed.

And finally, I am sad to report that after seven years Clover Morgan is to stand down as our **Parish Clerk**. On behalf of the Council I should like to thank Clover for her helpfulness and dedication during this time. We have all enjoyed working with her. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested in this position (a paid, part-time roll) – please respond to the advertisement within this copy of the Villager magazine.

**Chris Cooke – Vice Chairman and Treasurer, SSJ Parish Council.**



“While satisfied with my own performance, the real credit lies elsewhere as this could not have happened without the tireless help of a great many people. First of all, Cllr Jane Frankum, for helping us source the funding to get our coaches FA qualified in all age groups, then Andy Williams (U7s), Alec Matthews (U8s), Russell Graves (U10s), Danny Oates (U11s), Paul O’Shea (U12s), Dave Wright (U13s) and Chris Gordon (U15s) who gave up yet more of their time to go on the FA courses at QMC.

“But most of all this could not have been achieved without the influence and support of Lee Austen (U9s), who founded this Club and yet has selflessly, and for the good of the Club, taken a step back and handed me the opportunity to drive the Club even further forward.”

On his new role as Chairman, Davies added: “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.”

“I brought my son to MFC Popley Youth because it is a great Club with an awesome reputation. The sheer will to win among the kids in Popley is legendary and has been for many years.

“But at this Club Lee also promotes playing the game ‘the right way’ and the focus is as much on technical excellence as it is on exhibiting the hunger, passion and desire to win every 50/50 challenge.

“This Club has already produced some outstanding players, notably D’Andre Brown, who we are proud to say is now at Reading FC Academy, and we are committed to giving each and every player at the Club the chance to be the very best they can be, not only as footballers but also as people, meeting new friends, expanding their social circles, and broadening their horizons.

“Gaining FA Charter Standard status gains us access to additional coaching support from the FA and the chance to take the kids on trips to Wembley to see international games. It also helps us conduct our Club the way all football clubs should be conducted.

“We have an FA-approved Club Constitution, an FA-approved Code Of Conduct for Managers, Coaches and volunteer helpers, an FA-approved Code Of Conduct for the players and an FA-approved Code Of Conduct for parents and spectators, all of who will need to sign and adhere to these going forwards for the good of the Club and of football generally.

“We also have a separate new and thriving Men’s team - which Club youth players will be welcome to trial with once they end their youth football careers - and we have exciting (and very ambitious) plans for that Men’s team going forwards.”

The Club currently has ten youth teams, two at U7s, one at U8s, two at U9s, one at U10s, one at U11s, one at U12s, one at U13s, and one at U15s but, going forwards, Davies wants to fill the vacant age slots and develop the Mini Soccer (U7s-U10s) age groups to two teams each. He would also like to see Girls teams at the Club too.

Davies said: ‘We want more players and more coaches. So if you are a Year Three (U8s), a Year Five (U10s), or a Year Nine (U14s) and rate yourself as a football player, we want to hear from you. Similarly, if you are an FA-qualified coach and fully CRB checked and want to get involved in volunteer work as a youth football coach, feel free to get in touch and we will sit down and have a chat with you.’ (Contact details - Mobile: 07884 185 693, email: [ian\\_davies\\_@live.co.uk](mailto:ian_davies_@live.co.uk))

Meanwhile, out on the pitch, the existing teams have been representing the Club with credit.

Manager Andy Williams’s U7s continue to go from strength to strength and they recently went to Water End to face Basingstoke Town Colts. They drew the first game 1-1, taking the lead through a Kai Saunders goal. They won the second game 7-0, in which a very strong first half performance saw Affie Mosdell and Daniel Ballard score three goals each giving MFC a 6-0 half time lead. And in the second half a well-taken goal from Koby Collingwood rounded the game off nicely. In the third game they won 5-0, goals coming from Luke Davies 2, Kai Saunders and a first MFC Popley goal for Archie Oliver. And they won the fourth game 2-0, with goals from Daniel Ballard and Alfie Mosdell.

Alec Matthews’s U8s continue to make progress while, at U9s, Lee Austen’s team are, at time of writing, second in the league table after winning 4-0 at home to Basingstoke Town Colts then winning 5-0 on the road at Barton Rovers Rebels.

Russell Graves’s U10s have also been in great form, winning their most recent game 5-0 at home to Chineham Tigers. Danny Oates’s U11s are showing signs of a return to form while, at U12s, Paul O’Shea’s lads hit form with a vengeance with a 12-2 home win over Chineham Tigers.

At U13s, Dave Wright’s boys recently notched a creditable 2-2 draw at Westwood Wanderers while at U15s, Danny Oates’s boys went fourth in the table after a 4-3 home win over Sherborne St John.



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# Beckie's Column

Hello again! How is everyone? It's only weeks until Christmas now; I'm starting to get really excited!

October half term holidays went really quick. We went to Chessington World of Adventures. It was great fun, although, we did get stuck on the Vampire Ride! It broke down and we stopped just before the loading bay and had to wait for someone to come and let us out manually, which seemed to take forever because we were right at the back! Just glad that we were not hanging in the middle of nowhere. We had a good laugh on Dragon's Fury too. No matter where we sat, it was guaranteed to swing around so we were always going backwards! Halloween was a good time to go because they stayed open late and you got to go on the rides in the dark.

While I am writing this we are planning for our Children in Need fund raising events at school. We will use the hall to raise some more money for the charity. This time, Evie and Isra have come up with "I'm a Teacher get me out of here!" Where some teachers will have to do a couple of trials. It was really hard to choose which trials to do; we had so many good ideas!

Next time you'll be reading Popley Matters, Christmas will have passed and it will be 2012! This year has gone so fast; it's like a blur. So, enjoy your holidays, the snow (if it snows) and the New Year!

Talk to you soon

Beckie

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## Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke & Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum last meeting of the year will be on 7th December 2011, which will include our AGM, guest speakers Jane Hogg (Project Director) BNHNHSFT talking about the acquisition of the Winchester/Eastleigh & Andover hospitals. and Jane Gulliver (Hampshire Trading Standards- Cold Calling and Scams. At 12.20pm with have the Barfield Handbell Ringers performing for 20 minutes or so. 10.00am start- finish 1pm. Members interested in joining are welcome to attend.

A new list of trips as been drawn up for 2012 and they include Viewing of the Olympic venues with a chicken lunch included. 2 trips 5th & 9th March'12; The Big Pit (coal mine museum. (South Wales); 25th March; day trip to London and finishing off the day with a tour of the Royal Albert Hall and possibly a cream tea; and many more. A full list of trips can be obtained from myself.

**Gerry Merritt ☎412119 Email: [gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com](mailto:gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com)**

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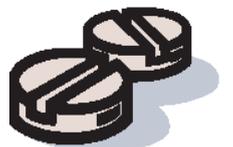
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