

POPLEY MATTERS

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June 2012

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Issue 124



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 18-06-12) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- Another successful Popley Festival on 20th May, with about 8 to 10 thousand people coming together. It would have been nice if the sun had shone a bit but at least it was dry. I didn't win on any of the raffles and tombolas but I did pick up some real bargains at the boot sale. It was hard to resist all the food as the aromas were tempting, and as for the cup cakes they were amazing and must have taken hours to bake. What I like best about the festival is meeting so many people that I have known for years and so many new neighbours too.

June and the start of the main holiday season and I hope it is a warm and dry one. There are some hints from the Fire Service on page 18, how to be safe with B. B.Q's There is an article on using the 101 and 999 on page 1. On page 3 is a letter from Bill Ind once vicar of St Gabriel's and, until his retirement, Bishop of Truro, It brought many memories to me too and I am sure there are still thousands of people in Popley that will remember this amazing and caring Popley resident.

We continue to need more volunteers to deliver Popley Matters especially in the Popley Islands and Marnel Park. Just an hour a month would really help us to keep everyone informed in all parts of Popley. If you want to advertise your business, our rates are amongst the lowest and we are creeping up to nearly 5,000 distribution of the magazines. Whether you want to write a letter, article, advertise or deliver the contact details are the same editor@popleymatters.org.uk or write to Popley Matters 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EL or phone me Jane frankum on 819924.



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 Matters.

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Thank you for the support

What is 101?

101 is the number to call when you want to contact your local police - when it's less urgent than a 999 call. 101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When to call 101?

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, you should call 101 if:

- your car has been stolen
- your property has been damaged
- you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood

Or to:

- report a minor traffic collision
- give the police information about crime in your area
- speak to the police about a general enquiry

101 has been introduced as part of the government's wider work to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999, and help to efficiently and effectively tackle crime and disorder.

What is the difference between 101 and 999?

You should continue to call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened. To contact the police for any other reason, call 101.

What does it cost to call 101?

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone.

Why does it cost 15p to call 101?

The 15p cost of the call goes to the telephony providers to cover the cost of carrying the calls. The police and government receive no money from calls to 101.

Everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters now knows exactly how much a call will cost them, and can be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home landline.

Who will answer my 101 call?

Calls to 101 are answered by police officers and staff in the control room of the local police force. This ensures that staff with local knowledge can answer and deal with the calls and respond appropriately. You will not be put through to a large national call centre.

When you call 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the police force covering that area. You will hear a recorded message announcing the police force you are being connected to. If you are on a boundary between two or more forces, the recorded message will give you a choice of which force to be connected to.

I am deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, can I call 101?

Yes, you can textphone 18001 101.

What if English is not my first language?

Your local police have access to professional interpreters so they can quickly translate your call if you have difficulty speaking English.

What about reporting general nuisance or environmental issues?

You should continue to call your local council for things like:

- reporting graffiti
- dog fouling
- abandoned vehicles
- dumping and fly tipping
- vandalism

For more information on how to contact your local council please visit

www.direct.gov.uk



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Message from Bill Ind

A letter from Bishop Bill Ind, former Vicar of St Gabriel's in Popley and more lately Bishop of Truro before his recent retirement. Bill is receiving treatment for a serious illness and we sent him some get-well cards signed by many folk in the church and community. This is Bill's response.

Dear Arthur

Just a short note to say thank you to all sorts of people in Popley who have signed the cards which you kindly sent. All sorts of names and as a result memories keep flooding in. And all this 25 years since I left.

Popley remains for me the defining place; I remember the name of every Close and I could find my way around blindfolded. It was, and I am sure still is, a wonderful place to be – full of people of all kinds – and lots of laughter and tears. As you know Michael and his family are still there so we have living links with the place and are amazed at how much it has changed and how much it has remained the same.

Please give everybody my love and thanks and be assured that Popley remains for me the centre of the known world.

Yours with much thanks

Bill

Marnel Infant School May 2012

We were very lucky to be visited by members of Milestones museum. They brought along the newly restored steam lorry which was originally built in Andover in 1926. A member of Milestones was in character as Arthur Mason, the original owner of the lorry. The children enjoyed seeing the lorry in action and especially seeing the sausages cooking in the cab!

We recently undertook the Pro-Kick School Challenge run by Sports Connections Foundation. Paul came along to our school with his huge inflatable goal and the children were busy scoring goals. We would like to send a big thank you to all families and friends who so generously supported the event.

During 'Round the World Week' we were pleased to welcome members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra to school. They took the children on a musical tour of the world including a visit to Mexico which involved a whole school Mexican wave! The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and also learned about the sections of the orchestra including woodwind, brass, strings and percussion. A visiting dance teacher also came and taught each Year group different dances from around the world. Year 2 learnt a Polish dance, Year 1 an African dance and Year R learnt about South American Carnival dance.

We are now looking forward to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations which will begin with a visit from Jubilee Bear and a circus skills workshop. **B.Cole**
Headteacher

Councillors Page: The Kiln Farm planning application will go to committee on July 4th at the Civic Offices at 6-30 all are welcome to come to the meeting and though you may not be able to speak you can let the committee know you are against it just by being there.

Just a reminder that Abbey Road will be closed from the St Bede's end on 12th June for one day to work on the road it should be done outside of the peak travel hours. Over the next few months repair work will be done on several roads to repair after the bad winter damage we had.

The extension work to our Popley schools has started and will make some much needed places and facilities for our children.

I expect to be able to give you all some news on the Merton Rise by July or August. I think we all in agreement that the building should be finished before there is any thought of building 380 houses and 70 flats on the agricultural fields in Kiln Farm.

There is a proposal using some of the 106 developer money to increase route four to half hourly to the hospital but it will not surprise you to know that Stagecoach are objecting. I continue to fight for better bus services for everyone no matter where you live in the Basingstoke and Deane area. Jane 01256 819924

Popley West: Thank you for re-electing me to represent Popley West, Viv and David have joined Paul and me to make what I think will be a good hard working team for Popley. We are all working together on the objection to the Kiln Farm Fields planning application for 450 dwellings. It's not that we are against development, there are thousands on the waiting list. There are more suitable sites to build on and only 56 of people on the waiting list have said they want to live only in Popley. We already do not have enough school places for our children, though there is a massive scheme where extensions are being built at Marnel and Merton schools and it looks likely that Chineham Park school will be refurbished and reopened in September 2014. However there are no places for senior school. Hampshire County council is working with Spotlight to find new premises for them. We know that with over a 1,000 homes still to be built where there are already existing plans in Popley!

Popley East: As newly elected councillors for Popley East we wish to thank all those who supported us during the election. We enjoyed meeting lots of you as we visited all areas of the ward.

Many people spoke to us of issues concerning them, and we made a commitment to deal with these as soon as possible when elected. We are now gradually working through our list and will be organising petitions and the like on some of the community issues. For example an additional bus shelter on Carpenters Down opposite Falkland's Road is urgently required. The Council is starting a consultation exercise as part of an Environmental Renewal schemes programme for Tewkesbury Close and Popley Poets areas.

Whilst the proposals are fairly limited they will improve the areas concerned, provided they are carefully planned and meet with local residents' approval.

Flyers will be sent to all residents asking for input and ideas and the closing date for consultation is 11th June. Later there will be site meetings and we intend to get involved in these on your behalf.

Kiln Farm, we will continue to fight this application, working closely with Jane and Paul Frankum.

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088.

Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801.

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Shakespeare Community Residents Association

We cover the area around Shakespeare Road, including Hathaway Gardens, Chineham Park Court, and the new build on the old John Hunt site – Elevate and Everest Park. We are currently in the process of developing a questionnaire asking everyone for their views on the area we live in. Over the next few months, hopefully we will have answers from most households in our designated patch. Your answers will be used to develop a Community Plan for the council. We look forward to meeting old friends and new at our community events this summer.

We are always looking for people to join us and get involved in the community. If you are interested please contact Julie Johnson for information: jjohn957@aol.com

Blood Brothers performed by Spotlight L.A.M.D.A Students.

On Saturday 28th April and Sunday 29th April at Central Studio ,Queen Mary's College ,22 young people from the L.A.M.D.A drama groups at Spotlight centre ,performed Blood brothers.

The youngest student was 11 and the eldest 16.The youngsters performed a very powerful drama that involved many complex life issues and also humour .The enthusiasm and professionalism that emanated from the 3 casts was exceptional and I was honoured that 2 of them were my daughters .

It was the culmination of 5 months hard work by the casts and their drama tutors .The director was Matt Driscoll and he was ably assisted by Alex Proctor and Dexter Skipp. Once again ,the Spotlight centre produced the best from a wonderful group of local children .Please watch out for other delightful productions from the Spotlight crew. Penny

Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke & Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum hold their June Open Forum meeting on the 13th June 2012 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, 10.00am to 1.00pm. Guest Speakers will be Andrea Harman (Diabetes UK); Erica Frowd (The Macular Disease Society): and Brian Evans-Jones (Hampshire Poet 2012 - Writing Hampshire). New Members are welcome to attend. (cost £6). Membership of the Forum to date stands at 547.

Day trips are going very well and are being supported by our members.

I have 6 spaces available for the Forum's New Year Celebration at the Bayshore Hotel, Sandown, IOW, 30th December 2012 to 2nd January 2013. This includes all coach travel from Basingstoke, welcome drink, full board, 2 half day trips, entertainment every evening at £269 per person. What good value! £30 deposit and a monthly saving scheme has been arranged.

Please book with Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com Date for your diary variety show to celebrate the "International Day for Older People" at Queen Mary College on Saturday 29th September 2012.

Marnel and Merton Community Group

We received news these past few weeks that the planning application for the development at Kiln Farm has been postponed and I'm sure there will be further information elsewhere in Popley Matters. Check our website for details as they become available.

Questionnaires. leaflets have been dropped through most letterboxes in Marnel Park, Merton Rise, Orchard Grove and Speckled Wood Road, and we have been going out and knocking on doors with questionnaires in hand. It's rather daunting. The last time I was knocking on stranger's doors was for 'Bob a Job Week' in Scouts! All the answers are anonymous and you don't have to answer any you do not wish to. If you are not in, we will try again another day. If you think we have missed you, drop us an email.

Planning for the summer event on Sunday 26th August is coming along nicely. It will be held on the fenced green at the top of Appleton Drive, opposite Orchard Grove. Deciding on a name which does not include the word "Olympic" (because we're not allowed to) and which also conveys that it is for the whole community (not just residents with children) proved difficult. We went for "Summer Fun Day" in the end. Not the most exciting, but descriptive to a word :-).

As it is getting warmer and the periods between rain are getting longer, it would be a good idea for a 'meet' at the Swan in Sherborne St John. Just to get to know your neighbours, have a little grumble and find out news which you might have missed out on (the Kiln Farm development, for instance). There will be a date up on the website around the time Popley Matters gets delivered. Depending on attendance, we could make it a regular outing.

www.marnelandmertoncommunitygroup.org.uk
marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk



STOP PRESS NEWS

Chineham Park Paddling Pool and Eastdrop Park Paddling Pools will be open for use in July and August. On behalf of the pupils I met from The Vyne Community School and some requests from other people well done, for getting the council to open them and to clean up the boating lake and model boat pool too.

The pupils also told me about their concerns with street litter, the cemetery and people discarding cigarette ends on the floor. Thank you for making me so welcome.

Jane Frankum

Spotlight UK launch new website!

Come and visit our new site at www.spotlightuk.org and you can download the timetable including all the new classes for the summer. Read about our coaches and look up all the class descriptions, then pay for your classes quickly and safely all with the push of a button on-line.

You can find information about the Charity, becoming a volunteer or even donating a single or monthly amount as well as finding out about our charity shop and the new room hire rates.

From silence to performance and from fear to confidence!

A star shines at the Spotlight UK end of term show held at the Everest School in Popley.

Over 200 hundred parents, children and family members were treated to a two hour performance spectacular which saw most of the children from all ages and abilities sing, dance and act on stage.

Among all the terrific performers were a group of SEN students that put on some great moments, excellent performances all round. A particular stand out moment was provided by one of our children with special educational needs, Shardel who joined only two years ago. He started in the SEN Class lacking confidence, could not smile, very shy and introverted, he hardly spoke and had little eye contact. Since joining he has been taken under the wing of many mainstream children and has been well and truly welcomed into the spotlight family. It brought a tear to the eye of his mother to see his large beaming smile and confident persona, as well as being very emotional for all that know him and his story. He strutted his stuff with real enthusiasm and vigour, and gave a sterling performance in each of his three varying routines. His Mum comments "What a huge difference Spotlight has made to my son, it really has had a life changing affect on him. He is a different boy in so many ways".

Even the professional bodies, like doctors, teachers, social services and CAMS in particular have commented on his immense progress and can hardly believe the dramatic changes being made.

A big thank you has to go to Michaela, Jamie, all the talented coaches and the Spotlight family for their tireless work!

The show was a fantastic success and back at Spotlight HQ in Popley the hard work has already begun with the new term working towards the next big show.

Spotlight UK "Making a real difference in peoples lives"

Kind regards

Darran Clark- Sales & Marketing Manager

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Before



After



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Popley Youth: The ‘E’ Word

As soon as we reach Secondary School, we always have the word “exams” hanging over our heads. However, we just disregard them, knowing we won’t have to face them for the next few years. Then the time flies and we’re having to do them within the next week – indicating the start of our lives in “the big wide world”.

Ask any teenager, they will tell you that exams are hard. Not necessarily the tests themselves, but the preparation that goes into predicting what questions we’ll be faced with. We know that revision is important, that we’ll be more likely to pass if we ready ourselves for the onslaught of exams – but it can be *so* hard to keep focused.

Social life can affect our concentration greatly – we have friends we want to go and hang out with, we have Internet, gaming consoles etc. How are we to block out these temptations in order for us to make sure that we achieve all that we need to? Some of us may not notice in time that this period in our lives is *crucial* if we want to have great jobs in the near future. So, how exactly do we prepare for these exams entirely?

Many of us do our revision, be it reading a book that we are to write an essay on, watching educational videos that help us to, for example, understand Chemistry a little bit better and so on. The most difficult part of revising is finding the time to do it. Moments arise when you plan to revise for that one lesson you know you need to put some extra effort into – then we end up forgetting to do it completely. I have this issue myself – I know that I need to re-read a book I am studying for my English class, but then things come up, my friends asking me to come out and play football being an example. I come home afterwards and tell myself that I need to get reading, but I just *can’t* get into the mood to actually do it.

Then school comes along and tries to “help”. They set up revision classes that, sure, they help us in various subjects when we want to go to these “booster lessons”, but they just won’t work if students are being forced to go. Revision is all about self-discipline – you need to find the right time to revise when you actually feel like it; if you’re just not in the right frame of mind, you’re not going to remember anything that you try and put into your head. Try to motivate yourself with chocolate or sweets for every thirty minutes you spend revising, every chapter you read or every video you watch.

We all fear the exam period – the results we get determine how our lives will play out, meaning that revision is as every bit important. Anyone with exams coming up – good luck. (And wish me luck too!)

Adam Seal



BE WARNED: 1 in 5 wills are flawed



'The shocking revelation that 1 in 5 Wills are flawed, according to a recent report from the Legal Services Board, is scandalous' says Ben Holden, Wills and Probate solicitor at local Basingstoke law firm, Phillips. 'Many of the Wills in the survey contained 'basic errors' and a handful were so bad that they 'could not be executed'.

Why should that be? Well, currently anyone can help you make a Will, but beware: the Citizens' Advice Bureau has warned that increasing numbers of people have been conned by bogus Will writers with high pressure sales tactics offering cheap Wills in town centres or door to door.

'Making a Will is a must for everyone at some point in their lives' says Ben 'but selecting the best person is key to ensuring your assets go to the person(s) you choose.' Ben warns that low-cost or even free Wills could prove an expensive mistake. So if you are one of the 70% in the UK who hasn't made a Will, then Ben has this advice:

- **Do your homework.** Speak to friends and relatives who could recommend where they have received good service.
- **Check for qualifications.** It is surprisingly easy to set up a practice as a Will writer - you don't even have to be trained. So if anything goes wrong you might not have any come back. Solicitors are qualified, regulated and insured so you can always turn to the Legal Services Ombudsman if things don't turn out the way you want them to.
- **How much does it really cost?** If it looks too good to be true then it usually is, so be careful, many of my clients have been tempted by offers of a cheap Will predominantly from unregulated providers such as Will writers, only to come away having spent a lot more than they initially thought. So beware hidden costs!

'Families want peace of mind that their loved ones will be provided for' concludes Ben 'so it's in everyone's best interests that this report from the Legal Services Board calls for Will writing to be regulated to improve standards. If you haven't made a Will, now is the time to do so.'

Drop in at our '**Open Morning**' on Sat 16 June, 9.30-12.00. We'd love to meet you and there'll be coffee and cakes too.

Call Ben Holden, Associate Solicitor at Phillips Solicitors, on 01256 854618, email: bholden@phillips-law.co.uk, website: www.phillips-law.co.uk

Cornerstone Nursery News - June 2012

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way - 01256 840300

The children enjoyed celebrating Easter with an Easter egg hunt and a special Easter tea, they also had lots of fun making flags and displays for St Georges Day (some can be seen on our Cornerstone Miss Muffet facebook page so please take a look).

We also had a visit from the Fire Brigade and all the children had fun trying on the helmets and climbing inside the engine. The younger children have used a variety of materials including straws, feathers and wool to make collages. They have also helped to paint canvases which have been hung in the nursery hallway to brighten it up.

The Baby Room has enjoyed song time and playing with the tents and tunnels crawling through and playing peekaboo. With the odd sunny day that we have had it has made the children think about the beach and they have created beautiful paintings using different paints and materials. The older children have been learning about cars and how they work and also discussing numbers.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road - 01256 818118

It has been a very exciting month at Priestley Road with the redecoration and re-flooring of the hall and several playrooms, making huge improvements to the look and feel of the nursery. We have also spent a lot of time making improvements in the garden, and bought lots of new resources for the children to play with.

During May we have spent some time looking at growth and change. The children in Preschool planted some seeds and have been investigating and measuring the growth of the plants. The children have also been looking at photos of themselves when they were younger to see how they have grown and changed.

In the 2-3 year rooms they have been enjoying playing in the sand with all the new sand toys. They have also been investigating mark making using lots of colourful felt tip pens. The babies in Chrysalis room have been having lots of fun exploring lots of messy sensory activities which has included tea, cornflour and even jelly!

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

The older children have been learning about animals and have painted some lovely animals for the wall display, They were talking about the colours and which colours we need to mix to make secondary colours.

The children also have made a giant pirate ship in the garden out of crates and boxes. They also made a Jolly Roger to fly from the tall mast using a piece of material which had pirates on. Some of the children had to walk the plank, which was great fun. Some of the children have also been looking in the sand for buried treasure.

The babies have been doing some fluorescent paintings, blowing bubbles and exploring in the garden with the walkers. They have been working on feeding themselves again this month, and are becoming very good at this now. Singing Wheels on the Bus is still a favourite with the babies and they are learning some simple signing to help them with their communication.

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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Health and Wellbeing

Preventing Falls and Improving Bone Health

Falls can be a serious problem for older people. It is thought that each year 1 in 3 over 65s living in the community will have a fall, often resulting in serious consequences both physically and psychologically. In addition to bruising, fractures and in some cases more serious injury, a fall can destroy confidence, increase isolation and reduce independence.

Falls Awareness Week this year will take place from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd June 2012 and the theme is bone health. Age Concern and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will be holding a falls prevention and bone health themed coffee morning at Church Cottage, behind St Michael's Church in the town centre on Wednesday 20th June from 10.30am to 1pm. Visitors can have a coffee and a chat and find out about how improving the health of bones can help to prevent falls and fractures.

You Can Change for Life

Small changes to your daily routine can make a big change to your health. For some great advice and ideas on how to '**Eat well, Move more, Live Longer**', visit www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/change-for-life.aspx

Health Walks

Now the evenings have become lighter why not join one of the many health walks that take place across the borough. It is recommended that we take 30 minutes of moderate physical activity a day and brisk walking is an ideal way to do this.

Walking has many benefits it can help keep you flexible and improve your balance, reduce high blood pressure, the risk of diabetes, certain cancers, heart attacks and strokes. It also instils a general feeling of wellbeing and positive self esteem.

To find a walk near you please visit www.basingstokehealthwalks.org or contact Holly McAuley at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 845574.

Free NHS Health Checks Will Keep People in Basingstoke 'Running Like Clockwork'

Rebecca Wheeler

Vascular Prevention Programme Coordinator at NHS Hampshire

Basingstoke residents aged between 40 and 74 are now able to have a free NHS health check as part of national programme to prevent cardiovascular diseases. The checks, which are being rolled out across the country, will identify and help to reduce a person's risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease.

Basingstoke residents will have now received letters inviting GP registered patients who are not known to suffer with a cardiovascular disease to attend a health check. The health checks will be held in a mix of locations, some will be invited to their GP surgery; others will be held in community setting. The check will calculate their estimated 10 year risk and suggest simple steps that can be taken to prevent the onset of these conditions.

With cardiovascular disease being one of the main causes of death in Hampshire, the free checks are expected to reduce the number of heart attacks and strokes each year and save lives of people in the area.

Robert Pears, Consultant in Public Health at NHS Hampshire said: "Everyone is at risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes or kidney disease but, by taking early action, you can improve your health and help prevent these conditions from occurring. A health check only takes about 20 minutes of your time, and could really help you on the path to a more active, healthier life.

"We can recommend realistic and achievable steps that people can take which will make a difference to their lives. We can also suggest other support services that can help people to make simple, positive changes towards leading a more active, healthier life. However we do ask that people wait to receive an invitation letter about their health check, to enable Health Check services to manage demand."

The free NHS health checks, which will be offered to people aged between 40 and 74 every five years, take between 20 to 30 minutes and will involve a few questions about family history and lifestyle as well as a simple blood pressure and cholesterol test.

After the check, personalised advice about how to stay healthy and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease will be offered according to the level of a person's risk.

Have you heard of.....Community Independence Team in Basingstoke

The Community Independence Team helps people over 55 maintain independence and reduce the likelihood of needing help from Hampshire County Council's Adult Services.

The team can help by providing you and your family with:

- specialist help if you are experiencing difficulties around the home, or with managing everyday activities, or if you are concerned about your health and wellbeing;
- assistance with linking you into appropriate health and community services;
- support, advice and guidance on a range of issues such as keeping warm, safe, fit and eating well; and
- support to know what social or leisure opportunities are available and how to access them .

Community Independence Team is funded and delivered through Hampshire Adult Services as part of its preventative approach to promoting individuals' independence, although you may have to meet costs associated with any community resources and services you choose to access.

If you need assistance with any of the above please ring Adult Services on **0845 603 5630**. The Agents who answer the call are trained to assess your requirements and may ask you for more details of your circumstances to ensure that your details are routed to the correct team.

More information is available on the Adult Services pages on Hampshire County Council's website (www3.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/adultservices-professionals/aboutas/structure/community-independence.htm).

Quotes for the Quarter

'It is essential to our wellbeing, and to our lives, that we play and enjoy life. Every single day do something that makes your heart sing' – Marcia Wiede

'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity' – World Health Organization 1948

'Health can be squandered, but not stored up' - Mason Cooley.

My Journey Basingstoke

Introducing the “My Journey Basingstoke” Personal Travel Planning Project – coming to Chineham and East Popley in summer 2012

In 2011, Hampshire County Council was awarded funding from central government to deliver the Hampshire Sustainable Transport Towns project. This three-year project will introduce a package of transport initiatives and improvements within six towns in the north of the county, including Basingstoke. The “My Journey” travel awareness brand, shown above, has been developed for the project, and is being used as the public face of the various initiatives. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, local bus and rail operators are all project partners in the delivery of the planned transport improvements.

One initiative is to provide Personal Travel Planning (PTP) advice to households in target wards within three of the six towns. In Basingstoke we are planning to offer personal travel planning to 10,000 households over two years. This process involves actively promoting local walking and cycling routes, car-sharing and local bus and rail services to people that don’t currently use them, as well as advice on fuel-efficient driving.

Households who are willing to consider replacing certain car journeys with more sustainable alternatives will be encouraged to try using either local bus services, walking, cycling or car-sharing for a trial period, and during this challenge will be asked to keep a record of their experiences and feed these back.

This process will be delivered door-to-door by a team of trained travel advisors. The advisors will invite each householder to choose what sustainable travel information they would like to receive for journeys they regularly undertake. This information will then be provided to the householder along with some accompanying incentives, such as free bus tickets, to encourage them to try making the journey by local bus, on foot, by bicycle, by rail or by sharing a car journey or a combination of these.










Starting in June 2012, the County Council is planning to introduce this initiative in the north east of Basingstoke, initially to 4,650 households in the areas of East Popley and Chineham, under the name “My Journey Basingstoke”. The travel advisors will be working in these two neighbourhoods until late August 2012.

We hope the outcome from this project will be that more residents will consider the full range of travel choices available to them in Basingstoke, East Popley and Chineham, thereby helping households to choose the most suitable way of travelling for particular local journeys. The County Council has appointed WSP-PB, an experienced transport consultancy, to deliver this project.

Geoff Hobbs
Project Manager



BBQ Safety.

-  Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby in case of emergencies.
-  Only use barbecues in suitable and safe areas.
-  Set up your barbecue on level ground away from bushes, tents or other buildings and do not put it where you have to squeeze past it.
-  Wear suitable clothing and use appropriate long handled tools.
-  Make sure the coals are cool before you move the barbecue. Once cool, dispose of the ashes safely - never place them in dustbins.
-  Keep young children, animals and ball games away from the cooking area.
-  Be careful when cooking fatty foods, the dripping fat can cause the barbecue to flare up.
-  Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue. Use only recognised lighters or starter fuel, on cold coals and follow the instructions on the container/packet.
-  Never leave barbecues unattended.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



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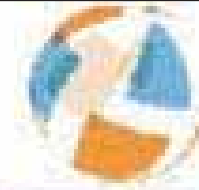
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Naomi House Fundraising Committee Needs You!!

Naomi House Children's Hospice are urgently seeking new volunteers to join their fundraising committee in the Basingstoke area.

Naomi House Children's Hospice are very proud to have an extremely dedicated and passionate group of volunteers within the Basingstoke area who form one of our most successful fundraising committees.

Organising anything and everything from charity dinners to bucket collections, raffles to tombolas, the committee are crying out for more volunteers to help sustain their current level of activity and continue raising as much money as possible for the vitally important local children's charity.

Volunteers play an extremely important part of Naomi House, helping to aid in the continual running of the two hospices and supporting the achievement of the annual fundraising target of £5.5 million.

The fundraising committees are an integral part of championing the work of the charity within the local community and also are a fun way to meet new people whilst supporting such a worthwhile cause.

Natalie Hargreaves, Community Fundraising Co-ordinator for Naomi House said; "The Basingstoke fundraising committee work tirelessly year after year, raising vital funds to support the continual work of Naomi House. We would be delighted to welcome new members to the group, and would really appreciate any time that people can give'.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Natalie Hargreaves, Community Fundraising Co-ordinator on 01962 843513 or email Natalie on Natalie.hargreaves@naomihouse.org.uk

Naomi House and Jacksplace hospices are based in Sutton Scotney just outside of Winchester and provide respite, end of life, hospice at home and bereavement care to life limited children, young adults and their families from across the South.

Each year approximately £5 million is needed in order continue providing these vital services free of charge.

Motor Vehicles in New Development

I have been asked to write a little piece to try and highlight the issues with SPEEDING and PARKING in Marnel Park.

Firstly just so you know a little about me, I am a resident of Marnel Park and a serving Police Officer although not locally..

First of all let's look at the

SPEEDING

Since Appleton Drive has completely opened there are a fair few drivers now treating it as their personal race track. The speed limit should be between 15-20mph depending on what Hampshire County Council set it as, but as a rule for a residential area it will be around that figure.....Some people can't seem to stick to this and are travelling in excess of 30mph.

Please bear in mind Appleton Drive is the main route for children walking to and from school. My question to the speeding drivers is.....How are you going to feel if you hit one of these children because you were 5 minutes late leaving for work?

How would you feel if it was your child hit by a car that was speeding? I have seen too many accidents, or collisions as they are called now, that could have been avoided if the driver(s) weren't speeding...IT COSTS LIVES.

Ask any Police Officer and they will tell you that they would sooner you drive safely and arrive late, rather than them have to go and tell a parent their child has been killed.

2nd Issue

PARKING

There have been several complaints from residents due to inappropriate parking in the area, especially around Appleton Drive, Gardner Close and Barrington Road.

For some reason residents would sooner park their cars away from their homes than use their parking bays, it is beyond me but there you go. Each property has allocated parking bays and/or driveways and in most cases this is for a minimum of two cars (depending on the size of property).

So why use the road rather than your bay? People seem to be under the impression that as it is a public road, then they can park where they like. WRONG....look up the ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988 and it clearly states where you can and cannot park.....CANNOT includes, BENDS, PAVEMENTS (especially not crossing points), ACROSS DRIVEWAYS and within 32ft OF A JUNCTION.

Even though the roads are at this time un-adopted it does NOT stop you committing parking offences. Pavements are for PEDESTRIANS and NOT CARS. As you will have noticed there are several pedestrian crossing points around the area with bobbled paving slabs, they are for partially sighted pedestrians...NOT FOR CARS TO PARK ON or IN FRONT OF. It is DANGEROUS.

If you have a driveway then PLEASE park on it. If you have to juggle the cars about for whoever is leaving first then DO IT....IT'S NOT DIFFICULT, PLEASE DON'T PARK ON PAVEMENTS THROUGH LAZINESS!

For those of you who park on bends, just be mindful, you are CREATING A BLINDSPOT for traffic and pedestrians.

My last point is a gentle nudge to drivers who don't use their bays. The first part of definition for a Road traffic Collision is "Owing To The Presence Of A Vehicle On The Road".....If there is a collision due to the fact 2 cars have hit each other after having to manoeuvre around your car....they could well be within their rights to drag you into their insurance claim if you have parked inappropriately.

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Dear Friends

Sitting here in my study writing this I keep glancing out of the window and looking over the church grounds. We're well into spring now and summer is swiftly approaching. I know this because the grass is growing at a speedy rate accompanied by the inevitable weed patch that forms the border of the church car park. We have plans to dig this out in a couple of weeks and plant some more border and bedding plants which I am certain will improve its appearance – or will it?

A couple of years ago when we first dug this bed out I threw in a mixture of wild flower seeds and this year in among the nettles and dock leaves we have some lovely wild daises and what looks like a wild fuchsia (I'm no expert on flower and fauna). In its untidiness there is a kind of beauty in this stretch of land that I find fascinating. God's wondrous creativity emerges not just at the Chelsea Flower Show or our well-planted parks and gardens but in the unruliness of weeds and wild flowers. He loves them too, they are part of his creation, and I have no doubt that the wildlife is also greatly enjoying the less cultivated areas of St Gabriel's.

Same for us really! We don't all lead neat and orderly lives. Sometimes circumstance and situation mean that there can be a wildness and unruliness about our lives that is beyond our control and can make us feel isolated or cut off from the stuff of life that others take as normal. Does that mean we're isolated or cut off from the God who created us, desires the best for us and has a plan for us? Not a bit of it! Jesus said 'I have come to seek and save the lost!' Whatever or wherever we find ourselves Jesus knows us and is alongside us ready and waiting to share with us.

The trouble is, left unchecked the weeds can choke the life out of the flowers and so, sadly, I need to take action in order to save the flowers! Maybe we'll leave just a little patch of weeds to serve as a reminder and to help the wildlife! God too acted to prevent the weeds of circumstance and situation choking the life out of you – he sent his son Jesus to live, to die and to be raised again for you. If you want to get in touch with the ultimate Gardener then come along to St Gabriel's any Sunday morning at 10.30am and we'll show you how.

As the extra bank holiday approaches I hope that we may all find great joy and celebration in the Queen's 60th Jubilee year and may I take the to wish you all great peace and prosperity and invite you along to meet the King of Creation.

Your Friend in Christ.

Arthur

Vicar of St Gabriel's



Join in and have your say

Residents in Popley Islands are getting together to form a new residents' group – and they need new members to join so that they can make a real difference to the community. So whether you're new to the area or have lived there since the estates were first built in the 1960's, don't be shy, come forward, make new friends and get involved. Meetings take place once a month at Popley Fields and cover a wide range of issues. For more information phone Steve Bate on 01256 844844 or email stephen.bate@basingstoke.gov.uk

BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

We would like to thank all the landlords and landladies of the pubs that raffled Easter Eggs on our behalf. Their customers raised an amazing £607 which is a very useful contribution to our local community work. Thank you all very much.

Our only other fundraising this month was for Naomi House Children's Hospice. We use our stall in the upper market square on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month to hold "bric-a-brac" raffles and to "sell" books. In fact people were invited to choose from a selection of books, which had been given to us by Lions and friends, and to donate whatever they consider a fair price for them. We collected £12.70. The book choice was excellent but the weather was awful. You win some, you lose some.

It was our 45th Birthday this month. To help us celebrate 12 visitors from the Alençon Lions Club joined us for a weekend of visits to local places of interest. For our Charter Night dinner dance at Test Valley Golf Club we were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke and Deane Councillor David Leeks and Mrs Amanda Leeks, and members of neighboring Lions Clubs. During the course of the evening we presented the Mayor with a cheque for £500 for his nominated charities. The culmination of the weekend was the traditional BBQ and Boules match which I am happy to say we won. We have won 4 out of the last 7 matches. I am very happy to report that our French visitors love Full English breakfasts and cannot get enough of English Cheese.

Remember you can always see what we are up to by visiting our website at www.basingstokelions.org.uk/

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Scout section: Andy Welham-Jones 07971 491 145

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 01256 346510

The Beavers are eagerly looking forward to a special Jubilee Party with friends from Popley Group and I know the leaders have some extra special surprises in store. Five of the older Beavers have been presented with Chief Scouts Bronze Awards recently having previously been disappointed at the St. George's Day Celebrations when the badges failed to arrive in time.



Six Beavers joined the Pack and were invested at the end of April together with three other new recruits.

Cubs are currently working towards their Map Reader Badge and once complete will be starting on the Navigator Badge.



District Cub Camp is at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre near Oxford at the end of June and fifteen cubs from the Group are expected to attend. Three cubs are currently linking to the Scout section.

The Scout section is working on a special display as part of the Hampshire Scouts' Celebration Parade and Service in Winchester on 15th June. Basingstoke Air Scouts is one of the few Air Scout Groups in the County.

Colin put his best apron on for Popley Festival and we hope you all enjoyed the burgers and chicken fajitas as a change to our more traditional menu.

New members welcome. 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 more information. Explorer section (for those aged 14-18) – contact Group Scout Leader.

Base 2000 is available for hire to community user groups and for private children's parties. Enquiries through bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559/ 07796 772 500. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends.

DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER.

Flaming June as we used to call it. I wonder on writing this month's Popley Matters will we start to see a hot summer or will it be much as we have been having cold and more rain? I hoped to get over to the Popley Festival in May but it depended on Her Indoors if she felt like a good walk to meet old friends, but sadly it was too cold for these old bones to go out. I have been locked up in our house since last October mainly due to ill health, and if not at home in hospital or visiting doctor's and hospitals etc. I have managed two trips out but both times I was so ill afterwards. I hope the better weather comes soon and I can get out and about more.



June and I reach another milestone in my life, but I will not dwell on it as Her indoors will start on me over how old I am. I was born after the war had ended Dad had just come home from service in the Navy and Army. I am still trying to find out why he was in both services? I wonder if any of the readers of Popley Matters knows of similar stories, and how to get more information. The country was starting to fight back and rebuild the many homes that had been destroyed in the war. Our family came from Poplar and West Ham all of which took a great pounding. As usual with the great British spirit they joined as one and rebuilt London and other cities across the country. We in this country have always united when we come under great pressure as in the Second World War, no more so in 1948 when our country staged the Olympics. They called them the austerity Olympics.

Funny how things turn out and this summer we will again be inviting the world to come to London as we again stage this great event, how proud I feel that they have achieved the building of the Olympic village on the side of the river Thames. It is a run down area but it will live on for years to come giving many people work in this hard hit area of the country, and I hope it will encourage more people to benefit from this.

My life over the years living in Popley and meeting so many people has given me great pleasure. But this once green part of the town has now turned into an urban jungle and yet our council still want to build more and more houses in the same area taking away the last of the green fields that we used to look over and enjoy long walks with our children to see all the wild life. The government say they want us to be more healthy and green yet we are soon to be able to see any see green we will need a car to get to the areas so far untouched. Over the years we have had so many trees cut down that our wild life are pushed further away from us and soon they will be gone forever. Our future generations will only be able to read about them in books. How can this be justified?

I had better stop or I will go on and on I hope you grasp my meaning on this. Till next month and hope everyone enjoyed Popley Festival. Take care From *The Old Codger.*
Ok, and Her Indoors





Merton Infant and Junior



Summer Fun Day

Friends of Merton will be holding our annual 'Summer Fun Day'.

on:

Saturday 7th July 2012, 11am - 2pm.

All the usual games and stalls will be there for you to enjoy i.e. tombola, raffle, stocks, lucky dip, BBQ, face painting, bouncy castle, football shootout, play your cards right etc...

We have stalls for hire and an opportunity for local business to advertise in a Programme / Booklet which will be handed out on the day. If you would like to hire a stall or want to appear in the programme please contact us.

We want this to be a real community event and encourage as many people to attend as possible. Everyone is welcome to come and join in all the fun.

Both schools are raising money towards really exciting projects. The Infant School is fundraising for our spiritual garden equipment. The Junior School is fundraising for ICT equipment to add to their e-pod.

We are looking for any stall donations/gifts/vouchers for the day; if you would like to donate to a good community cause, we would be very grateful. All donations can be dropped into either school. If you could offer any help or require further information please contact using the details below.

Contact details:

Lee-ann Dirienzo, FOM Secretary Email: friendsofmerton@hotmail.co.uk

Or either school:

Merton Infant School: Tel: 01256 324507 email: adminoffice@merton-inf.hants.sch.uk

Merton Junior School: Tel: 01256 326573 email: adminoffice@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk



ON a gloriously warm, sunny, weekend, a veritable oasis in this miserable wet spring we have all been enduring, MFC Popley Youth staged its biggest ever Tournament on Carpenters' Down Open Space on Popley Fields.

94 teams took part over the course of the weekend and the whole Club pulled together to ensure the event was a resounding success.

Ian Davies, Chairman of the Club and Tournament Director, was delighted with the outcome. He said: "We are so grateful to the Committee and staff of Popley Fields and to Luke Chatterton at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for allowing us to stage this event and for being so supportive. And I can already announce that Luke has given us the nod to do it again in 2013."

"Staging an event like this is a costly business for the Club but seeing the smiles on the children's faces made it worth it. Our Under 7s were able to enjoy the buzz of their first ever Tournament and our resurgent Under 8s did themselves proud. The Under 9s did brilliantly to reach the semi finals in a very competitive event and our two Under 10s teams were fab, both qualifying from the group stages and one reaching the quarter finals and the other the semi finals. Our Under 12s, Under 13s and Under 15s all had a lot of fun and our Under 11s did brilliantly, one reaching the quarter finals and only going out on penalties, and the other going all the way and winning the Trophy."

The Club will be having 13 teams playing in the Peter Houseman Youth League in 2012/13 and is about to send four more coaches on FA coaching badge courses, taking the number of qualified coaches at the Club to 20 from the current 16.

Davies added: "This Club has come a long way in the last two years. We are now Charter Standard, we have lots of qualified coaches promoting excellence throughout the Club, we are now hosting our own major youth tournament, and our Men's team just won their division of their local Saturday league in their very first season and are promoted to Division One. But that's not nearly enough for us. We're a very ambitious group of people at this Club and there will be more - a LOT more - to come from MFC Popley in the coming months and years. Watch....this....space."

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Changes to Income Support for single parents

Income Support is a benefit for people with no income or a very low income. Up to now, you could get Income Support if you're a single parent and your child is under seven years old.

This is changing. From 21st May, you can only continue getting Income Support if you're a single parent and your child is under five years old. This will also mean you won't be able to make a new claim for Income Support if your child turns five after that date.

If you're a single parent under 18, you'll still be able to claim Income Support regardless of how old your child is. You may be able to continue getting Income Support for a limited period if you're in a certain type of full time education or training. You could also continue to get Income Support if, for example, you're a carer or a foster parent.

Otherwise, if you're claiming Income Support because you're a single parent and your child is over five, your Income Support will stop sometime between 21st May and 18th November this year. You will need to claim another benefit instead.

If you're looking for work, you can claim Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). The Jobcentre Plus will write to you to invite you to an interview to explain what's required.

If you're not able to work because you're sick, you may be able to claim Employment and Support

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.

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at www.adviceguide.org.uk

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Beckie's Column

Bonjour! I've just finished my French exams and by the time you read this most of my exams will be over finally! It's been a long couple of weeks for the year 11s and I hope everyone gets the results they want in August. Good luck!

It's weird thinking how close we are to finishing school. I've spent the last 12 years in school learning about lots of different subjects, always knowing that I have another year of learning to come after the summer holidays. But that's not true anymore. In just a couple of weeks, it's all over and I get to choose what to do next. It feels so unreal!!

A couple of weeks ago, a group of kids from Merton Junior School took part in Rock Challenge. They danced on stage in front of a massive audience and they were brilliant! We cheered for them the whole way through and cheered some more when they were placed 5th! So well done Merton!!

Well, I'm going to go now, sorry this is shorter than usual, while I'm writing this I still have exams to revise for! Yay.

See ya soon,
Beckie



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.
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 next prize bingo will be on Friday 3rd of August. Doors open at 6pm eyes down at 7pm everyone welcome. Great prizes on bingo and raffle. Come along and join in the fun. Refreshments available.



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