

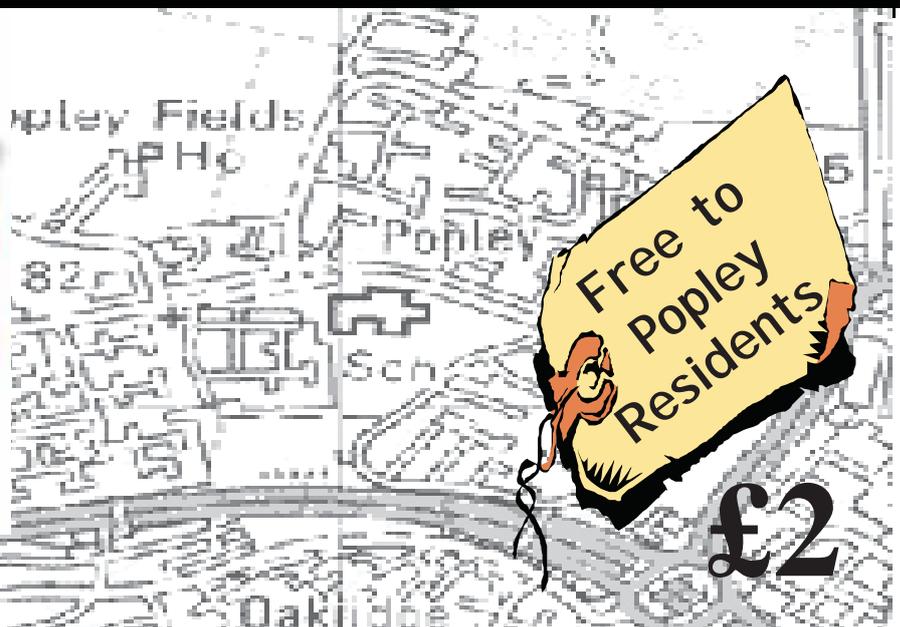
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

October 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 128



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-10-12) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-Here we are in October with Halloween, followed very quickly by Bonfire Night. And then comes Christmas! Well it must be near as I have already seen Advent calendars, cards and gifts on display in some shops. Please be careful with fireworks and read the instructions. When I worked on the Children's Ward at the hospital I saw some very nasty injuries.

A great victory for Popley in September the second planning application by David Wilson Homes for 200 more houses on the beautiful fields by Jersey and Guernsey Close was rejected and I hope we continue to see crops grown there for many more years to come. There was relief from residents all across Popley and residents in Marnel Park told me they had bought their homes because of the view and clean air that their families would enjoy. I am not against development as we need homes for our children and families, but the right type in the right place, and only when the infrastructure is in place. It was so wonderful to see the communities come together to fight for theirs and all our Popley families future. The next battle is for a decent bus service, so if you have any comments please let me know.

There are lots of things going on in Popley and Basingstoke: the Basingstoke Variety Show for the Mayor's four chosen charities (details on the oposite page) . Sherborne St John are looking for new members on page 7; there are reports from two of our Scout Troops on pages 16 and 21; and a report from Popley Islands Community Group on page 9.

Good news for Popley Matters, we have a volunteer new treasurer, A big thank you goes to Rhiannon Leaver, who as you read the magazine, is organising us, and bringing us into the current century with technology! We still need people to deliver Popley Matters so if you have some spare time you would be very welcome please contact us.

If you want to write to us or help then contact us at, 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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Lucky Escape for Man in Basingstoke Blaze

A Basingstoke man was led to safety by Hampshire firefighters after carelessly discarded smoking materials set his lounge alight while he slept.

Crews were called to Silvester Close, Oakridge, at 03.44 this morning (22 September) and discovered a fire involving the sofa in the ground floor living room.

The crews were able to wake the 25-year-old man, who was asleep upstairs, and escort him to safety and the fire was quickly extinguished.

The man was taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service suffering from smoke inhalation.

Station Manager Graham Howlett, who led the investigation into the cause of the fire, said: "The cause appears to have been the careless disposal of smoking materials and this man was incredibly lucky to escape from his house unharmed.

"There was no smoke alarm in the house so there was nothing to alert the man to the fire in his lounge. Luckily the lounge door was shut so the fire was confined to that room.

"A working smoke alarm should be fitted to every level of your property and the battery should be tested weekly.

"Smoking and smoking materials are the second biggest cause of fires in the home. Smokers should always check materials are properly extinguished when finished and avoid lighting up if they are feeling sleepy."

Crews from Basingstoke and Tadley used two sets of breathing apparatus and one hose reel to extinguish the fire, which was out by 04.58.

Basingstoke Variety Show

You may not have heard of, or even previously been interested in, the Basingstoke Variety Show.

So what makes it so special?

It is now an annual event at the Anvil in aid of the Mayor's charity appeal*. This year promises to be a real bumper event. Some of Basingstoke's most talented groups and soloists will appear in this one night only show. Even Councillor Martin Biermann, who is currently the Mayor, will be putting in a brief comic appearance.

Tickets are: Adults £12 and Concessions £8. Box Office: 844244. Web: www.anvilarts.org.uk.

SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER 2012 at 7.30pm

* This year's charities are: Radcan (radiotherapy unit in Basingstoke), Basingstoke Consortium (skills tree for young people), Camrose Centre (drop in centre for the homeless) and last but not least Age Concern Basingstoke (advice and support).

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Sentinel

Sentinel launches new HomeTeam maintenance service

Sentinel Housing Association is proud to announce the launch of its new in-house maintenance service – Sentinel HomeTeam.

Based at offices in Watson Way, Winklebury the new £5m business officially launched on Monday 3 September. The 40 strong work force, including three new apprenticeship positions, will look after the maintenance of its 8,400 affordable homes across north Hampshire.

Sentinel Housing Association’s Customer Services Director, Val Bagnall explains, “Providing our customers with a top class maintenance service is all part of our mission statement of being a great landlord. The new HomeTeam service will offer our customers a range of service improvements, whilst generating significant financial savings that will be reinvested in future service development and delivery of more affordable homes for the area.

We’re also delighted to be able to offer job security to existing local contractor staff, as well as creating 10 new jobs in a challenging economic climate for construction workers . The interest in the new job positions was tremendous and we are working with our other contractor partners to facilitate a further six apprenticeship opportunities.”

Sentinel HomeTeam will carry out around 500 repairs a week and state of the art IT systems will help minimise journey times and cut the carbon footprint of the HomeTeam vans.



Councillors Page: There was a "Roadshow" with representatives from the borough, Hampshire County Council, Stagecoach and the hospital that came to Popley but as it was on the 28th of September and we did not know about it when we were getting your Popley Matters ready last month we could not give you any warning. We had asked consistently of the council and the cabinet members for nearly a year for a proper open public meeting so everyone across Basingstoke and Deane could have a chance to speak to the "Powers That Be" to tell them how it has affected us in the town areas as well as in the villages. Though by the time you read this the bus "Roadshow" will have taken place and most of you will not have had the chance to get to St Gabriels car park on that day, and so did not have the opportunity to say what you feel about the cuts in the bus service, and how it has affected you, be it with no buses at night, or not much of a service to the hospital when you need it. The time keeping, buses not turning up at all and any other comments you have. Please contact me and I will make sure that your comments are given to the right people. Like the planning application where the community showed how they felt we have a chance to be heard. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: Good news for all of Popley the full planning application by David Wilson Homes for 200 more flats and houses was rejected at the planning committee on 19th September. They can appeal but I believe that even they must have got the message that the site is inappropriate for building on. It was so great to see the two communities of Popley and Sherborne St John come together to fight the giant developer and prove with persistence and a good case that you can win. Thank you every one that helped.

We continue to report where there are hedges are overgrown, walls are badly damaged, pot holes and dumped furniture etc. We identified where some trees roots are pushing against a wall on a bank of soil and grass and have called for the area to be made safe, NOW. If you have any concerns please contact us

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: We continue to fight the proposals for the development of Kiln Farm despite enormous pressure from the Developers David Wilson Homes and a detailed planning application to build 200 homes which will be followed by another 250 is being heard on the 19 September. We have organised the people of Popley to fight this application as they cannot cope with further mass development on top of all they have endured over the last 10 years.

Environmental renewal schemes have been prepared for some areas of Popley Poets and beyond and these are out for consultation. Popley Poets Residents Group will be meeting with council officers on the 24 September and we will contribute to this consultation.

These are small scale schemes but we believe they will offer some improvement to the landscaping and facilities in a number of places throughout this area of Popley.

We are raising the profile of the critical lack of parking in residential roads in Popley and are seeking to get some solutions to the most extreme overcrowded areas.

The Tory led Borough Council has a very limited programme for improving parking in residential areas which offers little relief for residents for many years ahead. We are pushing to get much more resources into the programme .

Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801.

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088

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Has Your Group Applied to Four Lanes Trust Yet?

The Four Lanes Trust has awarded over £1.1million for the benefit of the residents of our Borough.

Formed in 1974 by Christopher Makins, the Trust was set up to support groups and organisations in Basingstoke and Deane that bring benefit and richness to our community in the fields of education, the arts and social and community action. The Trust meets 3 times a year, normally in March, June and November to consider applications and award grants

All sections of the community have benefited from Four Lanes Trust over the years, though a glance at the award winners reveals strong support for youth and education; from mother and toddler groups, play and pre-school groups through all stages of formal education to include uniformed and other youth work.

The Arts too have been strongly supported, both encouraging professional groups to work with local people and in supporting our own local music, drama and arts groups.

Many awards have also gone to the voluntary and community groups who do such magnificent work in every neighbourhood and with the most vulnerable in our community.

Since 1974 over 1,350 awards have been made to over 750 local groups and organisations.

Most of our awards are in the £500 - £1,500 range, though we can give more. Please see our website www.fourlanestrust.org.uk for more information about our grants and how to apply. Basically if you are a voluntary, charitable or not-for-profit organisation working to improve the lives of local residents then you can apply. Please note that we do not give grants to individuals.

There is no application form. Groups who wish to apply should contact Bob Carr on (01256) 477990 or e-mail bobcarr@fourlt.fsnet.co.uk

Briefly outline your bid and we will arrange to come and discuss the bid with you. Simple as that! We're waiting to hear from you!

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Sherborne St John Club

As autumn approaches we've got a number of good events lined up.

Sat 13th October from 8pm –A Warm Welcome to the club to Ruth Jones.



Ruth is a local and versatile singer with a range of songs from the 50s to present day
Just £2 entry on the door on the night.

Other dates for your diary
Saturday 27th Halloween party night.
Saturday November 17th Quiz Night

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“The Villager”

Our own external club noticeboard

Facebook

Website www.ssjsc.org

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Or

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The 2013 subscription will be £16.00 for the year.

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- A meeting room which can be booked for regular or one-off meetings

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- Holds a very popular meat raffle every Friday evening
- Has a Bingo evening each Sunday
- Holds quiz nights with a cash prize for the winning team
- Holds different entertainment evenings each month e.g Race Nights, skittles, families always very welcome
- Has its own website www.ssjsc.org and a page on Facebook

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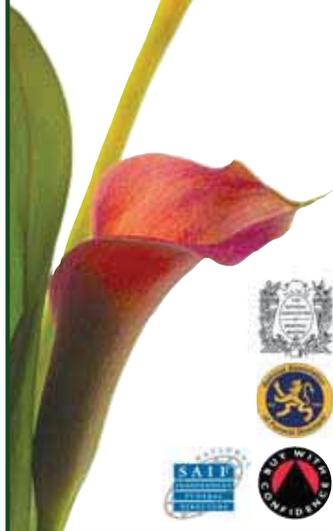
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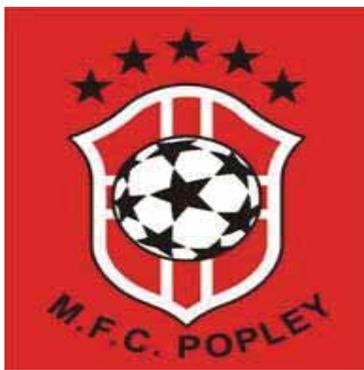
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THE month of September heralds the new grassroots football season and, at MFC Popley Youth, the 12 teams are shaping up well.

At U7s, Andrew Hopley and Peter Shearman's lads are showing great promise and did really well in their game against Tadley Calleva.

Andy Williams's U8s continue to look strong, and Warwick Sear-Jarvis's U9s are improving all the time.

At U10s, Lee Austen's excellent Knights outfit look set for a good season, while Tom Bartlett's Panthers are a progressive group who should also do well.

At U11s, the much improved team under the care of Russell Graves and Glenn Taylor are also looking like having an excellent campaign.

Hopes are also high at U12s, where the team recently were good value for a 3-3 draw with Winklebury Wizards, last season's Peter Houseman Youth league Premier Division champions. New signing Cameron Bradbury tormented the Wizards defence with his pace and skill, Taylor Ross had a fab game in midfield and other new signings John and Tom Black plus Joseph Woods shaped with promise as did the whole squad.

At U13s, Paul O'Shea's lads made a great start to their league campaign with a 6-4 win at Loddon Sports asnd, at U14s, Dave Wright has a strong squad and looks set for a good season also.

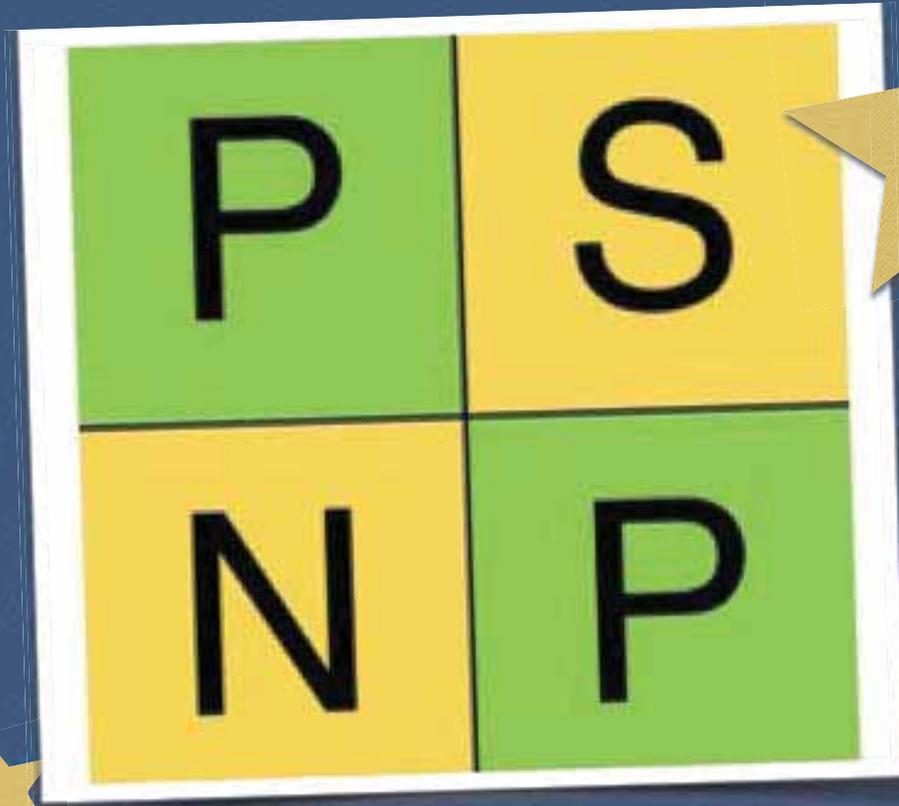
Off the pitch, Glenn Taylor has been appointed the new Vice Chairman of the Club. Ian Davies, Chairman, said: "Glenn's contribution to the Club this past year has been immense. I am delighted by this appointment. Glenn has plenty of drive and determination and will help the Club continue to move in the right direction."

Popley Islands Community Group BBQ

On Thursday 13th September the Popley Island's Community Group held a successful, early evening, free BBQ. About forty Popley Islanders (residents from the roads named after islands in Popley) attended and enjoyed a hot dog or burger at the Popley Fields Community Centre. The event was held to encourage residents to join the group and work together to influence local decisions and develop a vision for the Popley Islands Community. Anyone wishing to get involved with the group should initially contact Stephen Bate, Community Development Officer on 01256 844844 or 07500 987638. **Ms Suzanne Denness**

PSNP

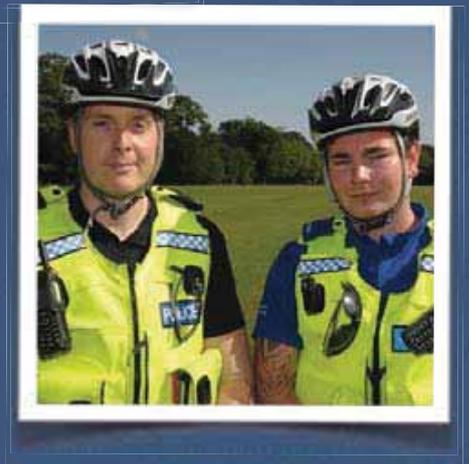
Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel



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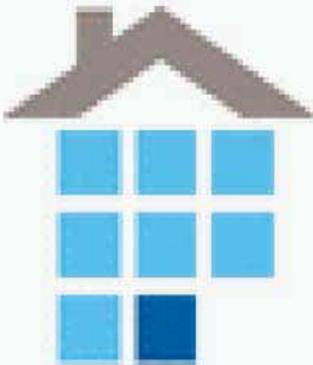
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Debi and Maggie

Hello we are Debi and Maggie and we are working as Young Families Workers for St Gabriel's Church in Popley under Rev'd Arthur Botham. We started working in June and what a whirlwind the last four months have been. We've known each other for seven years but never expected to be working together on the same team - it's brilliant we're so excited about the future of Popley.

Debi has been building relationships with some of the local schools in Popley, visiting local organisations such as Pebbles, the Spotlight Centre and getting to know the mums at the baby weigh-in clinic café on Wednesday mornings. Debi is a chatterbox and loves nothing more than a good natter with her neighbours in Popley. She has two young children and a husband of ten years. Debi is a musician and is passionate about using the Arts as a tool to help her when she's mentoring others. She has also started group singing lessons at St Gabriel's after school on Thursdays. Debi is passionate about making music tuition affordable and accessible to young people as she has been a qualified secondary music teacher for the past eight years. For more information give Debi a call.

Maggie runs two Messy Church sessions each month one at St Gabriel's on the third Friday of the month (we will be celebrating our first birthday on 21st September) and one at Rooksdown Community centre on the last Sunday of the month. The one at Rooksdown is a joint venture between St Gabriels and Wessex Christian Fellowship. Messy Church is a family focused event, one which the whole family can explore God in way that is messy and fun together. It starts at 4pm with refreshments, then moves into a time of messy fun followed by a short service finishing with a meal together. It's all FREE but donations are always welcome!

TAG is a Christian based Toddler group that Maggie started in September. It's a friendly group for the 0-5s and their carers who meet for free play, refreshments, Bible stories, songs, crafts and prayer and all for just £1.00. Maggie is really passionate about exploring the Christian faith with even our youngest members of our community.

Maggie is married with two children and has a passion for people to know that they are loved by an awesome God whose loves them just the way they are.

Upcoming events

31st October Saints and Sausages

3rd November St Gabriel's Fireworks & Facepaints

For more information please contact

Debi on 07807 688377 or Maggie on 07968 355353

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Moth Night at Popley Pond - Saturday 6th October

Popley Conservation Volunteers in association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust will be hosting an evening outdoors at Popley Pond Local Nature Reserve, Tobago Close, looking at autumn moths. Local moth expert Mike Wall will be there to explain the lives of these mysterious creatures and identify the various species as they arrive at the light. Bat detectors will be on hand to listen in on any bats flying around the pond. All are welcome to join them from 7-9 p.m. This event is suitable for all the family.

To book on the event or for more details email davidj@hwt.org.uk or phone 07896 398677.



Merveille de Jour, one of the moths we could see on the night.

Defuse the Danger: Electrical Fire Safety

The Fire Kills campaign and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) have joined forces with the Electrical Safety Council (ESC) to urge people to make basic visual checks in their homes to ensure their family's safety.

HFRS attends an average of 600 electrical fires every year. Many are caused by faulty appliances or overheating.

Research carried out by the ESC revealed a dangerous level of ignorance about the perils of electricity in UK households with simple blunders putting homes and families at risk. In 2011, almost one million people repaired an appliance while it was still plugged in, 12.2 million people knowingly used faulty plugs or sockets and 2 million people trailed cables near hot surfaces or cookers.

People severely misjudge the risks involved with electricity. Around 70 people die and 350,000 are seriously injured each year. Yet, those surveyed by the ESC considered an electrical accident to be an equal risk to being in a plane crash or getting struck by lightning. In reality, on average, only one person in the UK is killed by lightning each year and no one has died in a commercial plane accident in 11 years.

These electrical accidents are often caused by simple things that people could check themselves and rectify for little or no cost. By following a few simple steps, you can help keep you and your loved ones safe from fire:

- Don't overload plug sockets
- Regularly check for worn or frayed wires
- Unplug appliances when not in use – don't leave them on stand-by
- Keep appliances clean and in good working order
- Don't leave appliances like washing machines and dishwashers on whilst out of the house or overnight.

Station Manager Jim Clarke said:

“Electricity is such an essential part of all of our lives – from heating and lights to entertainment systems and beauty products. Half of all accidental fires start from faulty or misused electrical equipment so it is essential to be sure that your electrics are in good working order and are used properly. All too often, it is the simple things that people could check for themselves that can lead to a serious accident. So we are urging everyone to make basic visual checks around the home to ensure its electrical safety and to turn off appliances when they are not in use. Try to remember to turn items like televisions off rather than leaving on stand-by.”

Lorraine Carney, senior campaigns manager for the Electrical Safety Council, said:

“Our free App helps anyone to do a quick visual check on their home by highlighting the potential dangers in each room and explaining how to resolve basic problems in simple, non-technical language. It will also flag more serious issues, for which you should use a registered electrician.

“It is available for iPhone and Android phones – just go to the App Store or Android Market, search for ‘home electrical safety check’ and follow the instructions to download”.

For more information on fire safety, please visit www.facebook.com/firekills or speak to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's Community Safety team on 023 8062 6809.



Headquarters:

Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake 01256 410559

Scout section: Andy Welham-Jones 07971 491 145

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 01256 346510

Beavers re up to their usual 'crafty tricks' and are hoping to do a few more 'outdoor' evenings before the end of our 'summer'(!). Two more members of the Colony are expected to achieve the Chief Scout's Bronze Award soon. Parents of anyone of Beaver age (5¾ - 6years) are advised to put their child's name on the waiting list by e-mailing alexander.yvonne@sky.com

The Cubs began the autumn session with an evening on a paralympic theme with volleyball played sitting down and our version of bocca (botcha!). That was followed the next week by an evening based around the loss of one of their five senses – very challenging! In October the Cubs will be taking part in the District Sponsored walk to raise funds for both the Group & District. Unfortunately with one of the Leaders deciding to retire at half-term after 12 years in the role, the pack will not be accepting new recruits until a new Leadership team is established. Parents of those wishing to join the section will be put on a waiting list – e-mail baloo@thescoutingpages.org.uk

New leaders are desperately need for both the Beaver and the Cub sections which are very popular and subsequently over-subscribed. No previous experience necessary but a keen interest in challenging young people to achieve of their best essential. Anyone interested in taking up this voluntary role should contact the Group Scout Leader on 01256 410559 or mobile 07796 772 500. It is a requirement of the Scout Association for all uniformed leaders to have a valid CRB clearance before working with young people.

Beavers (aged 6- 8) and Cubs (aged 8-10½) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10½-14) on Friday. For details of Explorer Scouting for those aged 14-18- contact Group Scout Leader.

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



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Dear Friends,

I'm writing this as the end of a long and busy month approaches. September really seems to have whizzed by and our summer holiday is just a bunch of photographs on my PC and some distant memories. In a few weeks the clocks will have gone back and it will be getting dark around 5pm in the afternoon. I'm really not a great fan of the English winter, a series of seemingly endless grey, damp and cold days.

I remember my days in the RAF stationed in Berlin, where the temperature could drop to -20 degrees and everything was covered in snow. It was cold, but it was a crisp, sharp cold that you could wrap up against rather than the cold, damp air of the English winter that seems to penetrate through to the marrow. Do I sound depressing? In a perverse kind of way I also enjoy the winter – the anticipation of things like Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday and the run up to Christmas and New Year.

December 21st is the shortest day of the year, after that it starts to get lighter again (Hooray!), even if only by one or two minutes a day. There is a natural rhythm to it all. Summer gives way to autumn, autumn to winter, winter to spring and so on. The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible wrote about 'a time for everything, and a season for activity under the heaven; a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant, a time to uproot, a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.' (Ecclesiastes ch.3). It's a bit like the Lion King's 'Circle of Life'.

As this season of summer gives way to autumn with the anticipation of winter maybe you can find time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation that surrounds us and take pleasure in its many changing faces. Take time too, to consider the season of your life that you're in or perhaps going through. Wherever we are, whatever we are, wherever we've come from or going to, whatever we've done in life God knows and cares – if you want to know how much try reading Psalm 139 in the Old Testament.

Please do join us for one of our many services at 10:30am on a Sunday morning.

With warm greetings in Christ

Your friend and vicar

Arthur.



Phillips' Legal Corner



Are there any better ways to divorce than going to court?

'Splitting up can be an emotional roller coaster but there are two excellent alternatives to battling it out in court,' says Rob Parker, solicitor and collaborative lawyer at Phillips 'both of which can be cheaper and help couples to stay in control of their futures instead of leaving decisions to a judge in a courtroom.'

'**Mediation** involves you and your former spouse or partner in having confidential sessions with a trained mediator who will help both of you identify all the issues that need to be resolved, discuss the options and reach a settlement that is acceptable to both parties. The trained mediator helps you limit the conflict so that you can discuss things sensibly and make the right decisions over your own lives. It's a voluntary process and you must both agree on solutions, or there is no agreement. At the end of the process a detailed summary of the proposals reached will be prepared, which you can then have made into a legally binding agreement or court order.'

'The other great alternative is called **collaborative law** and this differs from mediation in that you and your former spouse each have your own specially trained collaborative law solicitor by your side and you meet together in four-way meetings. You can then talk things over face-to-face instead of conducting negotiations remotely by letter or phone. Solicitors trained in collaborative law adopt a conciliatory rather than confrontational approach. It's more amicable, especially important if you have children and you need an on-going relationship afterwards. It will help your children to cope better with your separation if they see that you are working things out together.'

'Both **mediation** and **collaborative law** can be cheaper and quicker because they are not driven by a timetable imposed by the court. They can help resolve issues such as arrangements for parents to each spend time with their children, property issues, what the financial arrangements are going to be and even the process of a divorce itself. But beyond that' concludes Rob 'they can reduce the emotional cost on couples and their children and most importantly the key decisions you make about your future are yours – they are not imposed on you by the courts.'

You can call Rob Parker on 01256 854676 or email at: rparker@phillips-law.co.uk

Visit Phillips' website for more information at: www.phillips-law.co.uk

For more information about local collaborative lawyers visit:

www.resolution.org.uk/northhantspod.

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I hope everyone enjoyed their break! It has been a great start to the term with numbers in each section at an all-time high. I would like to welcome Beaver Leader Jamie (Magpie) and welcome back Sarah Cub Leader (Bagheera) to our leadership team. We would also like to welcome Brian (Sheer Kahn) into the Cub section.

Following the success of last year's International Sleepover, we will be holding another group sleepover in October. The theme for this event is autumn and will hopefully involve a lot of fun outdoor activities.

Before the summer break the Cub section kindly donated two of the bird boxes they had all made to The Grange nursing home and St Michael's Hospice Both were extremely happy with these gifts.

Congratulations to Beaver of the year 2012: James, Cub of the year 2012: Reece

If you would like to join the adventure of Scouting Officers, we have plenty of opportunities in our committee supporting the group and as leaders providing exciting programs for our young people. If you are interested please contact Marty on 07854860895.



Boys & Girls 6-8

Tuesday 5pm-6.00pm



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½

6.00pm-7.30pm



Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15

7.30pm-9.00pm

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

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

Cornerstone Nursery News – October 2012

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way – 01256 840300

Cornerstone Miss Muffet nursery would like to say a warm welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us. Staff are helping the children settle in nicely and form new friendships.

In our preschool and 2-3 room the children have been learning about Harvest festival and collecting tins and packets of food which will be given to our elderly neighbours in Abbey Court and we even have a visit booked from Reverend Simmonds to come in and talk about Harvest festival. Afterwards the children will be taking part in a vegetable printing activity. Also with our 2-3 year old room we have been looking at people who help us and have had a fracture technician from the hospital come in to talk to the children. She brought lots of different plaster casts for the children to try on and play with.

Our younger children have had fun exploring their new baby area in the garden where they are able to play alongside the bigger children safely. They have also taken part in lots of different sensory activities using different items and materials and taking part in table top painting. We have been lucky with the late sunshine and have enjoyed lots of visits to the park where we had fun and even a picnic.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road – 01256 818118

During September in Cornerstone Nursery we have welcomed many new children into the baby unit and pre school. We have also welcomed new staff into the nursery.

The rooms have been busy developing their areas in the garden making them exciting for the children to learn and discover more about the outside environment. We have created a new fenced off baby area in the garden for the babies to explore and have fun outside. The 18 month to 2 years room has been spruced up with a new lick of paint and makes the room nice and bright. We have recently had Ofsted in and the report will be online to access shortly, please look out for this.

All the children in the nursery have been busy participating in lots of artwork for the walls. The preschool have really enjoyed looking at dinosaurs and making their own Dino World. The preschool have also had a lot of fun over the last month or so looking at the Olympics and creating their own fun competitions, including gymnastics, badminton and long jump to name but a few.

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College – 01256 356166

In the baby room the children have been very busy exploring different textures and using all their senses. They have had rice krispies and coco pops and were really enjoying the different smells and textures. The babies have been tasting new exoctic fruits during their snack times too. The story of the month is 'The Tiger who Came For Tea' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children have been singing Leo the Lion and The Sun Has Got His Hat On, which seem to be their favourites at the moment. The babies have been in the garden a lot pretending to mow the lawn playing with the toy lawn mowers and wheel barrows.

In the Family room we have been exploring the Green Cross Code and we have practiced it out on our zebra crossing in the garden. The children have been making traffic lights and cutting strips of white paper and placing on black paper to make their own zebra crossing which are on the display board all about staying safe when out and about. The children have made an exploding volcano, they used cherryade and Mento's as when you place these in the cherryade it fizzes up very high spraying bubbles out which looked like a Lava flow which they found such 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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Diaries from the Old Codger.

This month my youngest grandson started school, last week in the mornings now he is full time and, from what he said he loves it.

I don't know how many of you can remember going to your first school but back in my day I can still remember my first day. It was the most frightening thing ever for me at that young age. My mother took me to school the first day at Keston, walked me into the school and she was met by the most frightening teacher I have ever seen and I was dragged off kicking and screaming into this Victorian building and into the class room. I stood in this room and saw my mother walk across the playground and out of the gate. "That's it ,she has abandoned me, I will never see my mum and dad again. I wonder why they don't want me anymore?"



The toilets were out side and freezing in winter. The first day at the school went on, as a young child of 5 forever. Each class was made to go to the back of the building each day to get a crate of milk for the class. It took two children to carry them. Mind you ,over the years you got a bit crafty and if my mate and I went to get the milk we would pinch a bottle each out of another crate and down it before returning to the class. Bad boys!! As I have said the first day was the worst. We had benches to sit on and, were made to do as we were told. One boy got a ruler across his knuckles for messing around. "Boy! I am not going to like this place that's for sure". Then this almighty bell rang, school, was over. The sadist, called a teacher, said "I will see you all tomorrow". Not on your life. As far as I was concerned I had done the school bit and I was not going back. As I walk out of the gate there is my mum with a big grin on her face. Did you enjoy yourself?" was the first question? "NO, and I am not going back, so there". But of course I did and looking back to my school days I had the most enjoyable time. Then it hits you the word "WORK". I have been kicked out into the big wide world.

To make my living at the age of fourteen I got an apprenticeship in mosaics and finished it after five long years. Soon I got married and the rest is history. Well Her-indoors has been with me for two life sentences plus. Bless her.... We have children and now they have children. Four generations of the family live in the town and are all very close.

The one thing I have said in my column time and time again is. as long as you are at school never give up, work at it and you can achieve your dreams. Take a long hard look at what the Paralympians have achieved you can over come any adversary as long as you are all willing to try. I have, that's why I am still with Her-Indoors!

To every student be it the start of your first years or on to your secondary schools or college and university, always tell yourself:

"I can and will do my best to reach the top."

Till next month take care.

The Old Codger





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A New Road

The summer has been hectic these past few weeks – watching our great British athletes showcasing their skill in the Olympics, the amazing obstacles our Paralympians have overcome (as well as the feats they have accomplished) and a nerve-racking wait for exam results.

Both the Olympic and Paralympic Games are great encouragers for many people. We're motivated to get more active, work towards our goals in life and so on. I found myself encouraged to do more, work harder, to achieve the things I want in life. Determination was the main theme about the two major Games – if you put the effort in, you'll get the results you want.

Exams were a major concern for many of us over the summer, some of us worried about whether we had put enough effort in to get the results we so desperately yearned for. Some had to open that brown envelope by themselves - others with friends - whereas there were also a few who couldn't get to their school to pick them up; parents having to collect them and call their children in order to share what they had worked so hard to earn. I was in the unfortunate predicament of not actually being able to collect my results, but it felt amazing to celebrate what I had slaved over whilst on holiday.

I was proud of the grades I had achieved, and so were many others – unfortunately, there were some who didn't exactly get the results they wanted. There is always a second chance for these things, so for those of you worrying about your grades, you needn't be. There are re-sits you can apply for and, nine times out of ten, the College you want to get into will help you in order to get what you need.

And now there is a new challenge we face: College. I've not been there long, but so far I'm loving it. Meeting new people has been a great experience for me, as has it boosted my confidence greatly. I've found myself just talking to random students, whereas I'd have considered myself fairly shy around new people beforehand. I feel comfortable and I'm enjoying the lessons that I applied for – I'm even fine with being given homework! Truth be told, I'm rather looking forward to the exams and coursework; I want a bit more of a challenge I suppose.

So, new experience, new road, new journey. I'm not sure where I'll go from College, but I'll be thinking about that closer to the end of the year. I've had a summer of hard work, excitement, nerves and celebration. Now I'll just work hard and enjoy myself – make sure I get an understanding of what I want to get from these next two years. It's best to enjoy what you do rather than suffering with something you don't like.

Adam Seal

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BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

It's been a quiet month for us. So, we've been more social than business.

They say if you can't be smart, be lucky. Our President showed which he is when he managed to pick the only day of the year when the temperature stayed above 20°C until very late in the evening to have a BBQ in his garden. It was really enjoyable because we were able to mix and mingle freely throughout the evening. Great food and drink, and we were able to sit outside comfortably until well after 11pm. Our Secretary so enjoyed the event that he decided to replicate it a couple of weeks later. The weather was not as kind but, being a resourceful chap, he had one of these china chimney stove things at the ready to keep us warm. Thanks to a swirling wind we were well and truly kippered!!! But we still had a great evening of good company and good food and drink.

Lest you should think that we have been totally idle on the business front I can assure you that we have a number of welfare projects which are ongoing and a number of fresh fundraising ideas in development - but nothing worth reporting yet.

Lions Clubs International (our parent body) works closely with the United Nations to carry out major world health programmes. Two such programmes to which we have contributed are "Water Wells" and "Measles Eradication". They have been chosen specifically because they deliver maximum benefit for minimum input and are quickly deliverable with minimum political interference. Lions Clubs across the world are supporting these projects both financially and physically where possible. Please support them if you can.

A few tickets for our ABBA concert are still available, but we are now gearing up for our next major events which are a concert of popular and classical music by the Hampshire Constabulary Band on 17th November at Queen Mary's College followed on the 24th by one of our ever popular Quiz Nights at Cliddesden Millenium Hall. Full details available by contacting 01256 325280 or 421867. And of course it is all on our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk



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Friday evening-

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For details ring 01256 363156.

**Christmas prize bingo is on Friday 9th November 2012 at Popley Fields Hall on
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