

FASTFARE

Your Local Family Convenience Store

Open seven days a week

Mon-Fri 8:00am – 9:30pm

Sat 8.30am – 9.30pm,

Sun 9:00am–9:00pm

Abbey Road (Shops)

☎(01256) 323679

Grocery | Stationery | Off Licence | Dry Cleaning



Fresh Fruit & Vegetables | Fresh Flowers

Bake & Bite | Fresh Sandwiches | Pies

Ethnic Food & Indian Groceries



Rentals Video's £1.95 & £1.50 DVD £2.50

No membership fee Just two forms of ID required

All Latest Titles

We Accept Milk Tokens

Recharge your Gas Card, Electric Key, Northern Electric,

BT Bills, NTL, TV Licence and even Congestion Charge



All Phone cards available

Come into the store and



see our many special offers

If you don't see what you want in the store,

Ask and we will try and get it.

Faxing (£1.50 inland)

Photocopying (10p per A4 page)



Don't forget Fastfare Your Local Pharmacy

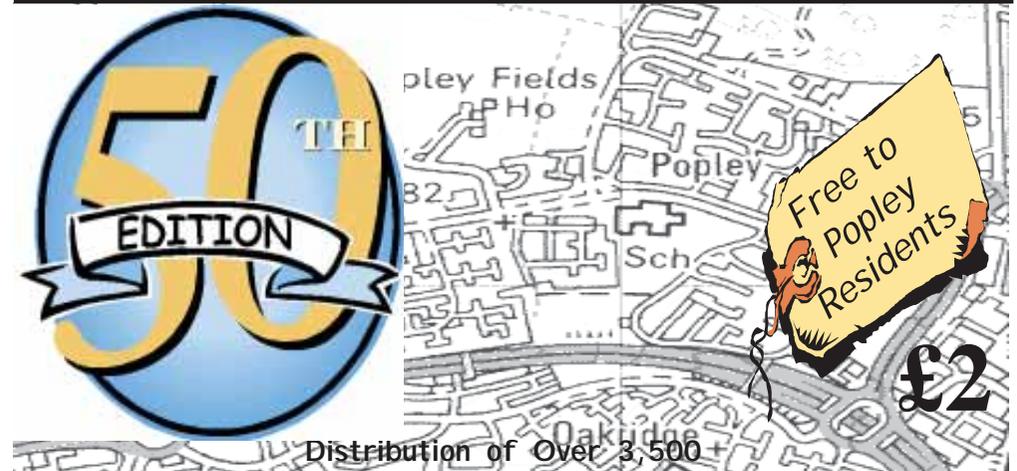
Printed by Personalised Print ☎352434 Email:p.print@virgin.net

POPLEY MATTERS

OVER TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2006

Issue 50



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	PC Paul Thorne Report	Page 13
Community Wardens Report	Page 1	"Nobody Nowhere"	Page 15
Football Legends Support 55's Forum	Page 3	Bermuda Community Hall	Page 16
Message From Arthur Botham	Page 4	Pharmacy Services	Page 16
Councillors Page	Page 6	Diary from an Old Codger	Page 18
MFC Popley News	Page 7	Merton Rise Update	Page 19
John Hunt Community News	Page 8	Basingstoke Air Scouts News	Page 20
Local MP's Surgery	Page 9	Popley Conservation Volunteers	Page 21
Smoke Detectors	Page 10	Quit Smoking	Page 22
Home Fire Safety Visit	Page 10	Letters to the Editor	Page 24
PC Matt Deery Report	Page 12		

www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & Adverts (20-04-06)

Message From the Editor

This is the 50th Edition Popley Matters and the 46th that I have done an Editors Page for almost ten years. When a group of us residents got together because we were so frustrated with the image Popley got, we felt didn't deserve. Little did we see ourselves all this time later getting a magazine out every month. When we decided to go monthly a few people said we would never find things to write about every month, and certainly not twenty four pages and a cover. Oh boy were they wrong. We have tried to keep you informed of what is happening in Popley. We have seen some massive changes with many more to come.

Popley is a great place with lots to report and be proud of, and it can only get better if the community all work together. Popley has such a wonderful sense of community where we help each other. You only have to think about some of the diverse times we have shown it; the Tintern Close fire, the new Air Scout building, Millennium Gardens, charity events like the tank pull and the Fire Service with the BBQ and gardens, Josh and his special wheelchair.

Sadly we say goodbye to Matt Deery after five years of being our "Beat Officer". Matt championed having a police office in the Popley area where he was much more approachable as it was on the John Hunt site. I will ask the new officer to write a bit about themselves as soon as we know who it will be, hopefully soon, Matt says in his report he will finish at the Popley Festival so if you want to say goodbye to him just go along there. There will be all the usual attractions plus much much more and as always a few surprises.

I hope you find this issue interesting, always feel free to contact me on 819924, or write to me as Editor at 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL or via Melrose Hall. You can email me at jane@popleymatters.org.uk Why not visit our website and if you would like to help we are looking for a voluntary "Contents Manager"

Jane Frankum Editor

Hits on popley.matters.org.uk website for month of March 2016

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:– Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke.RG24 9EL email editor@popleymatters.org.uk The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

Editorial Team:– Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Kevin Walker; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;
Distribution Team: Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Irene O' Brien; Madelin Major; Iris King; Colin Karslake; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Kim Taylor; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Alison Walker; Kevin Walker; Stuart Humphries; Kylie Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Ernie Pierce; June Pierce; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn;
Youth Volunteers: Nathan Barris; Alex Humphries; Laura Humphries; Ryan Humphries; Martin Stacey;

Quality, Flexible, Affordable, Childcare



We are a family owned nursery that believes in offering the very best in childcare

- Mature experienced staff
- A warm nurturing atmosphere where children feel happy and secure
- A quarter acre garden for children to explore, run and have fun in
- A self contained sleep room for when children need rest
- A focus on wholesome food – freshly prepared on the premises

Our focus is on

- **Affordability – we're cheaper than you think**
- **Flexibility – you can send your child for 4 or 40 hours a week**

Special Offer for children over 3

- **15 Hours per week totally free**
- **ONLY £3 for each hour after that**

* During term time. If your child is at nursery during lunchtime they will receive a full hot lunch at a cost of £1.60

For details please call **01256 81 81 18** – we're just
around the corner in Priestly Road (near the hospital)



Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; Can I use your magazine to say thank you to two wonderful people that helped my Mother when she had a nasty fall and hurt herself quite badly? Mum is 84 and fell backwards splitting her head open at the back. A really nice young man who is a pupil at John Hunt School rushed to her aid and got help from Mr Pearce a fellow neighbour, who is 86. The young man waited till he knew an ambulance had been called and Mum seemed OK then he went off to school. Mum came home but was taken ill again and rushed back to hospital. Thank you to the two heroes who took the time to care.

Editor's reply; I hope your Mum is much better now and how wonderful that we still have such kind and great people in Popley. I hope John Hunt School will congratulate this kind young man. He is a credit to the school and his family.

Dear Editor; I called in the oven cleaning man that advertises in Popley Matters in the week. What a wonderful job he made of it. The thing is I don't want to use it now it looks so new. His price was very, very good for the amount of work he did and I want to thank him and also tell the readers about him. The Old Codger

Editor's reply; It is always good to know when you get good service.

Dear Editor; I would like to call your attention to two matters, one: at the Marnel Park roundabout. The contractors (I

assume) have re-turfed all the area by the roundabout and cars are already parking on it and will make it unsightly and also very muddy. These people already have parking areas or garages, they are just too lazy to walk round the other side of their houses. Secondly, the Council have put railings round the swings (presumably for the safety of children and to keep dogs out). I have already seen a lady with two dogs walking them INSIDE the railings. What is the use of the Council etc. making efforts to make our environment better, when there are people doing things like this? Concerned of Guernsey/Jersey Close.

Editors reply; It only takes a very few people to have an impact on the enviroment where we live. I am proud of Popley and on the whole most residents respect where we live. We have a great community, and it is up to us all to look after it. My dear mother always told me that we were here to borrow the earth, then pass it on to the next generations and we should always try to leave the world a better place than when we arrived

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

Please send your letters to :
**The Editor, Popley Matters,
 405 Abbey Rd, RG24 9EL or
 email:
 editor@popleymatters.org.uk**



This is an exciting time of change here in the Community Wardens office. Due to the growth of the Community Warden Scheme, we've recruited eight new Wardens who will be out and about on patrol within the next few weeks. This means you may be seeing some new faces out and about around Popley. We'll keep you up to date on this.

We have some really exciting new projects for you to get involved in. First, there is the **Proud of Popley Awards**. This is a way of saying a big 'thank you' to someone you know who you think has helped to make Popley a place to be proud of. Nomination forms are available from our office from 3rd April, and the award ceremony is on 4th August at 7pm. The categories are:

- The Unsung Hero
- The Good Neighbour (3 awards: Under 18's; 18-60's and 60+)
- The Most Beautiful Garden
- The Volunteer of the Year
- The Community Builder of the year

Please be thinking of people you would like to nominate for an award, and call us for a nomination form from 3rd April. The last day for nominations is Wednesday 31st May.

Secondly, there is our **Proud of Popley Photography Competition**. This is aimed at the creative ones among you who fancy taking some arty photos around the area which capture what makes you proud to live in Popley. Please be getting snap happy and get your entry to us by 31st May. You can submit hard copies into our office, or e-mail your photo to community.wardens@basinstoke.gov.uk. The 12 winning photographs will be used to produce a bespoke 2007 calendar of Popley, and all the others will be included in an exhibition at Popley Fields Community Centre. Please note that we cannot return photos, so make sure you've kept a copy or a negative for your own use.

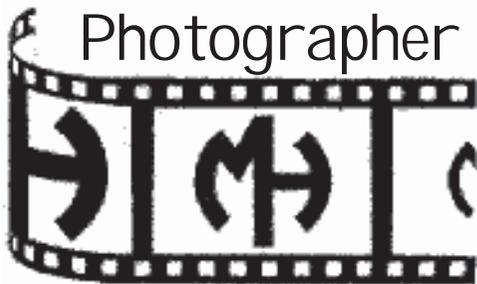
Thirdly, we are launching our **'Popley Gardening Project'** this year. The aim of this project is to help to make the area look more presentable and cared for, with the much needed help from the people of Popley. So if you would like to offer any of your spare time in helping us to succeed with this project, then please please please come along to **St. Gabriels Church, Tewkesbury Close on Saturday 6th May 2006, between 13:00 and 14:00 hrs.** If you would like to help but are unable to attend on this date then please do not hesitate to give us a call on the number below to have a chat about it.

Please remember that you can call us at any time if there is something concerning you, and we will do what we can to help. Our number is **01256 845508**. Also, why not pop along to see us any Tuesday afternoon from 3pm-4pm at Melrose Hall?

Have a great April
 Stephen & Sarah
 Community Wardens for Popley



Michael Herod Photographer



44 PITCAIRN CLOSE

POPLEY BASINGSTOKE RG24 9BD

Tel/Fax (01256) 468026

Mobile 07769-662917

Email: michaelherod05@aol.com

www.michaelherodphotography.co.uk

**Portraits, Weddings &
Industrial Photography**

1st Response

Heating & Plumbing
CORGI Registered
No. 212273



FOR

- Heating Installations
- Boiler changes/upgrades
 - Servicing
 - Breakdowns
- Landlord Safety Checks
 - Power Flushing

24hr – 7 Days a Week

CALL

Jamie Davenport

Tel No: 01256 335858

Mobile No: 07876 687422

DIRTY OVEN?

DOMESTIC OVEN CLEANING

Franchise successfully cleaning and re-cleaning
dirty ovens in the Basingstoke area since 2003

OVENCLEAN

NON-caustic, Biodegradable, fresh solution every time.
Ovens, Ranges, Agas, Hobs, Extractors/Hoods, Microwaves, BBQ'S.
Bulb, Seal and Hinge replacement service too.

PHONE 0845 600 2745

2 Buttermere Drive Camberley Surrey GU15 1QU

Your Country Florist

Chineham from A33 follow Indian Cuisine sign into Chineham
Village, we are next door to the restaurant

Plenty of free car parking available at the shop

*Traditional and
contemporary flowers*



Flowers for every Occasion

Home Visits if needed

Cathie Lloyd-Jones NCF

1 Reading Road, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8LN

Tel/Fax: 01256 840222 Mobile 07786310505

Young's Chinese Food

to take away

Unit 2

Carpenters Down
(Off Popley Way)

Popley, Basingstoke

Telephone Orders

841540

Opening Times

Sunday

5:00pm - 10:30pm

Monday To Saturday

12pm - 2pm & 5pm - 10:30pm

Tuesday Closed

Dulux Select Decorator

12 Month Guarantee

On All Work!

20 Years Experience

- Interior & Exterior • Dado Rails
- Special Effects • Paperhanging
- Clean Workmanship • Free Quotes
 - Fully Insured

COMPETITIVE RATES

Domestic & Commercial
Contracts Welcome

Dave Wombwell

01256 412324

Quit Smoking

0845 602 4663

Free specialist help for those who want to quit across North and Mid Hampshire

Benefits to stop smoking

Feel richer Quitting 20 cigarettes a day

=£1500 to spend every year

Look younger Circulation to skin

improves within a few hours of quitting

Feel fitter Lungs begin to work better within 3-4 days

Feel calmer Blood pressure returns to normal in just one hour

Be free from nicotine addiction

Go for it phone now

NHS

NHS



Basingstoke's

Mobile

Dog Grooming Service

A Friendly Caring Professional Groomer

Telephone

01256 356362

Football legend lends support to borough's over 55s

Former Southampton and Northern Ireland manager Lawrie McMenemy has agreed to be patron of the Basingstoke and Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum.

Lawrie, awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for services to football and charity work, said he would be happy to lend his name to the worthy cause.

The forum decided to approach Lawrie after he opened the Young at Heart Day they organised in conjunction with the borough council to mark International Day for Older People last October.

Endorsement from the high-profile TV and radio celebrity is just the latest coup for the forum, which has been going from strength to strength since its launch in September 2004 as part of the borough's Older Persons' Strategy.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet Champion for Older People Cllr Laura James said: "I'm delighted that Lawrie McMenemy MBE has agreed to support our cause. That we can attract a celebrity of his calibre shows we are moving in the right direction.

"We already have over 300 members but we want to encourage more of our older residents to come along and play their part in shaping what we as a borough have to offer them."

As well as discussing key topics with guest speakers at the regular bi-monthly forum, members will also have the chance to feed in to the forum's action plan, which it hopes will address the issues and concerns of the borough's older residents.

One of the benefits of the forum is the direct contact with service providers. For example, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service spoke at the forum's AGM in December and is encouraging all members to take up the offer of a free home safety check as well as free installation of a ten year smoke detector.

Forum Chairman Maurice Lay said: "The aim of the Basingstoke and Deane Young at Heart Over 55s Forum is to help make Basingstoke a better place to live for the borough's older residents. Most of us have been there, done that and so we have a wealth of experience and advice to offer organisations looking to improve their services with the older person in mind."

For further information on the forum and membership details, please contact Gerald Merritt, forum secretary on 01256 412119.

TILING SPECIALIST

Cedar Ceramics

Wall & Floor Tiling

Free Quotations!

10% Discount with this Advert!

Please contact

ROSS MABBOTT

Kingsclere: 299372

Mobile: 07790 226089



Ahead of Hair

Mobile Hair Dresser

A Professional Hair Care Service In Your Own Home

Contact Nicola

Creative Stylist

Mobile Telephone: (07771) 924 929



Business Hours: 9:00am - 6:00pm Mon - Fri

(Can be flexible, contact for details)

Dear Friends,

Sitting here in my study, shivering in the March cold, I keep thinking “Where’s spring got to?” I look anxiously out of the window each morning hoping for clear skies and warm sunshine but it isn’t! It’s the same old grey sky and biting cold east wind – what my mum used to call ‘a lazy wind – goes through you instead of round you’. I know that spring is just around the corner, but I wish it’d get a move on and get here.

It seems as though winter has lasted forever, but then, it always does feel like that at this time of the year, but if I look carefully around, I can see the signs of new life slowly beginning to emerge from the hard ground. There are daffodils just waiting to burst open, buds on the trees and the dreaded weeds starting to make their annual appearance in the jungle that is my garden! It’s a reminder that once again the seasons have come full circle from the new life of last spring, the flowering of summer to the dying and death of autumn and winter. Am I beginning to sound like Alan Titchmarsh???

Easter is almost upon us, the most important Christian festival of the year. We move from the new life in the birth of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, to the sacrifice of himself on the Cross on Good Friday and his bursting from the tomb on Easter morning that moves towards completing the circle of God’s plan to rescue all of Creation from, as St Paul puts it ‘the bondage that it is held in.’

The Christian way is about new life, it’s about the power of God to transform lives and situations. When Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning something had changed so completely and forever. The power of sin and death had been broken and it was now possible for everyone to be transformed and share in the new life that he had died to give us. This is what is at the heart of the Christian message. Sadly it all too often gets swallowed up in all the other messages we’re daily bombarded with that falsely promise eternal good looks or lives and we miss the one real opportunity. Jesus said that we’re pretty good at reading the signs for the weather but we can’t see what is front of our noses.

As we wait expectantly for the warm spring weather to burst upon us why not try reading the signs in your life that hint at the possibility of new life – new life in relationship with God through Jesus. I hope that you can celebrate Easter with us this year and that the sun shines on all of us as the Son shines on all of us!

Warm greetings

Arthur

Vicar of St Gabriel’s

Services at St Gabriel’s this Easter:

Good Friday 14th April	10.00 a.m.–10.45 a.m. Family Service 12.00 noon–3 p.m. Open Church
Easter Sunday 16th April	10.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

You To Could Be a Conservationist Popley Conservation Volunteers

Anyone working on the land would have realised a year ago that something was amiss. Instead of filling with water the Popley conservationist watched in some disbelief as the water levels in Popley Ponds dropped steadily from Christmas 2004 onwards. So much for the country saying, “February fill ditch”. The pond dried out in June. Locals who have known the area all their lives had never seen this happen before. A dry summer followed and there were plenty of people writing at the time that the situation was looking serious, but not to worry the winter rains would put everything right. The problem is they have not arrived and we are now in the driest 16-month period on record. No matter how much rain we get during March and April there is no chance of making up the deficit. Its official, in the southeast we have a serious drought.

The Environment Agency has issued a warning of water shortages this coming summer. Why did the water companies not see it coming? Environment Agency chief executive Barbara Young said both water supplies and the environment were at risk. “There is still time for rain this winter and spring to reduce the risk of drought, but water companies shouldn’t just hope for rain they must act now in case the weather stays dry,” she said. “If they delay introducing hosepipe bans, extreme steps to manage water supplies over the summer may be needed, such as standpipes and rota cuts.” The companies must have seen it coming, we did, but delayed taking action and now it looks as though we may be hit by the full panoply of water restrictions.

It would be good to think that our politicians have had foresight and addressed this problem. Yet in spite of the fact that the south east has less water per head than the Sudan and there is a severe water crisis, the government intend to see getting on for a million new homes built in the southeast. This could be seen as irrational and irresponsible. In spite of the fact water companies say they are pumping all they dare it is nice to know that the government seem to think they have a magic wand. Lets hope that the magic wand does not involve pumping so much water from the aquifers that streams like the Lodden are reduced to a muddy ditch. This is a price we should not have to pay.

In the end whether we like it or not we will all have to become conservationists. Conservation of water in the southeast may well be forced on us. We are a nation of water wasters. If you are on a water meter I am sure you are conscious of every drop you use, it affects your wallet. Why, you may ask should those who are not on a water metre, be allowed to use whatever amount of water they like at no extra charge, and if restrictions are imposed this year, deprive those who are on meters of the water for which they pay?

I wonder what Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council are doing to conserve water? It would be interesting to know. Then there is Oakfern Housing Association? They are very proud of their energy efficient new housing at Oakridge but what about water efficient housing? Are they addressing the problem? What are they doing to conserve water consumption in their old housing stock? It would be good if we got some answers. In the end it will be up to all of us to conserve our water supply but someone will have to make some informed decision and ultimately that will have to be the government.

I leave you with an interview with the Environment Agency chief executive Barbara Young on the Today programme. The interviewer “water shortage is not the problem of government”, Barbara Young “it will be if standpipes go up in London”!

Popley Conservation Volunteers always welcome help with conservation in Popley to help make Popley a greener place. If you would like to help contact: Lee Roth at Lee.roth@networkrail.co.uk or Phone 01256 330738.

Basingstoke Air Scout Group



Beaver Scout section (for boy and girls aged from 6 to 8 years)
 Meetings: Tuesday 5.30 - 6.45 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down
 Leader: 'Yellow Beaver' Eve Alexander 73 Falkland Road, Popley 346510

Lots of creative activities this month as we approach Easter and Mother's Day. The Beavers are eagerly looking forward to District Easter Fun Day on 1st April at Popley Fields Community Centre. Nationally, the Beaver section is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year and there is to be large Birthday Party at Hampshire Scouts' Activity Centre in the New Forest in June. I hope most of our Beavers will be able to attend but places are limited so we have to book early! Enquiries from new recruits welcome - telephone Eve (01256) 346510 - boys or girls can join but must be 6 years of age (we keep a waiting list for children who are too young to join immediately).



Cub Scout section (for boys and girls aged from 8 to 10½ years)
 Meetings: Tuesday 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down
 Leader: Elaine Devenport 87 Saffron Close, Chineham 323453

Akela has been missing for a few weeks this month but Bagheera and Baloo carried on an active programme as usual. The Pack enjoyed taking part in the District Football competition and two new recruits have been invested. Several of the pack are working to wards achieving Home Help badge, Naturalist and one is intent on DIY. Plans to celebrate our 90th Anniversary will culminate in a visit to Hampshire Scouts' Fun Day at Gilwell Park in Essex on 18th June and we hope everyone will be able to attend what promises to be very active and interesting day. New recruits welcome – contact Akela on (01256) 323453 – or come to Base 2000 on a Tuesday between 6.30 and 8.15 p.m..



Scout section (for boys and girls aged from 10½ - 14 years)
 Meetings: Monday 7 - 9 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down
 Leader: Colin Karslake 14 Gilbert Close, Popley 410559

The troop took part in the District Six-a-side Football competition and finished 3rd. Three 'hardy' members went to Winter Camp at Ferny Crofts and, despite it being a very cold weekend especially at night, they had a good time and were kept very busy. The troop also entered a team for the District Cooking competition when scouts from all over the District compete, with limited ingredients, to prepare cook and serve a three-course meal in a given time! Quite some challenge. New recruits (boys and girls) welcome – come to Base 2000 on Monday evening or telephone Colin on (01256) 410559

Enquiries: Pat Brown, Group Scout Leader (01256) 351366 or mobile 07716 855474

The Group Annual General Meeting will be held in June and I urge all parents and supporters to attend. More details later. We are always looking for more leaders, especially for the two younger sections. If you like working with young people or have a skill/interest you would like to 'share', please get in touch. All leaders and skills instructors are required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau clearance form before being permitted unsupervised access to young people.

Sunday Boot Sales continue at John Hunt of Everest School with each sale run by a volunteers from a local Popley charity and are well supported by 'booters' and buyers alike. 'Booters' are reminded that they must not obstruct the highway and must remove any unsold goods, boxes and litter before leaving their 'pitch'. The charge is £4 per car, pro rata for larger vehicles and vans.

The Group will take part in Popley Festival on Sunday 21st May when we hope to run our customary BBQ – the best in the area



A NEW APPROACH TO IMPROVING
 YOUR HEALTH & WELL-BEING!
ARTHRITIS BACKACHE
DEPRESSION
SMOKING WEIGHT
 BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION
0800 542 8640

Computer Services

Need Help? Then Call Phil
 on 01256 322590/07903 645674
 P C Martin, Computer Supplier,
 Upgrades & Repair Service.
www.pcmartin-computers.co.uk



NO CALLOUT
 CHARGES!

Fixed Hourly Rate

Computer Supplier, Hardware,
 Upgrade, Repair, Printer Supplies,
 Virus Removal & Protection, System
 Security, Wired & Wireless
 Networks.

Call now for all your computing needs



Treasure
 Isl and
 Play Group

Looking for a Popley Playgroup?
Come to us!!!

We also have a Parents & Toddler Group for
 more information telephone:

01256 414014

Registered Charity No. 282848

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

Mon–Fri 9:15am–11:45am
 Mon & Thurs 12:30pm–3:00pm

Councillors Page

We have some more great news for Popley from the County Council. We will have at last a Childrens Centre. Where it will be sited in Popley East is not certain yet, but we will have one of the only two-full time centres in Basingstoke.

The Fire Service is to stay in Popley, it has been such a success that other areas are copying this scheme. The engine being by Popley Fields has meant an average saving of five minutes in attending fires. I know I feel much safer.

I was pleased to hear that Hampshire will keep its own stand alone Police Force. There were lots of people who worked together, a petition signed by thousands finally won the day.

I have a meeting with the portfolio holder for education following the well attended meeting of parents, carers and support works of Different Worlds held in Oakridge Hall for All. Thank you to the wonderful organisers, Sandra, Lyn, Mike and Tony who chaired the meeting and to Mary Brian (Chair of the Hall for All Committee) and her team of committee members who made sure we were all welcome. The full report of the meeting and how I get on with my meeting at the County Council will be in next months issue.

County Councillor Jane Frankum 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley East Report

Congratulations are due to the Popley Conservation Group whos hard work has help to enable the area to become a "Nature Researve". I spent many hours working alongside these dedicated residents and the Popley Ponds is a great area to visit.

The play area in Jersey and Guernsey Close is due to be finished at long last.

There is a public consultation on the 29th of March about how we could improve the flats and area around Maldive and Faroe Close. Residents will be invited to look at some suggestions of what could be done. to improve the whole area. The scheme will be led by Sentinel and Basingstoke and Deane Council will be consultees. We will report back in the next Popley Matters and as we always try to do we will keep you informed.

I am on a small committee looking at what Basingstoke can do towards the 2012 Olympics. All your local Councillors think it could bring massive benifits especially to our children and schools.

*Councillor Andrew McCormick 419376
cllr.andrew.mccormick@basingstoke.gov.uk*

Popley West Report

We have a drop in surgery on the first Saturday of every month from 1 till 2 at St Gabriels Church. You do not need an appointment, just come along,

After numerous complaints, we are pleased to say that there will be meassures taken by this summer to make the part of Abbey Road, near the shops much safer for traffic and pedestrians.

As a school governor at John Hunt Community School I was pleased to receive the letter of congratulations to a John Hunt School pupil for his good efforts when an elderly resident had a nasty fall. I have kept in touch and Vera is now home but of course feeling very sore.

Don't forget Popley Festival on 21st of May. It is visited by up to 15,000 people and there is always lots to do for all the family and a good few bargains too from the very large Boot Sale. Last year there were over 200 boot stalls.

I hope you have all received your bus passes or travel tokens. Anyone over the age of 60 or who is disabled can apply. Tokens are £53 or £70 if you are disabled details can be got from the Council Offices or call Travel Tokens department on 01256 844844

*Councillor Paul Frankum 472496
cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk*

Merton Rise Urban Extension and Everest Community College, Basingstoke: Project Update

Since my last contribution you will have no doubt seen the progress that has been made on the new school site. We are nearing completion of the ground-works and principle foundations, and a start has been made on the key structural frame of one of the main teaching blocks. Over the coming months there is likely to be rapid progress in the construction of the external frame/structures for the new school to ensure that the building is water tight before the winter sets in at the end of the year. This will provide the first real glimpses of the how the new school will look, although the true impression will not emerge until next Spring, and of course its relationship with the proposed adjoining housing is a further 2 years or so away based on the current development programme for the wider Merton Rise site.

On the wider Merton Rise site we have made continued progress on a range of site investigations, including the initial trench sample survey work on the land between Sherborne Road and the A340 to the west. More detailed investigation on 3 or 4 key areas of this part of the site will follow in the summer and autumn this year and this will see the completion of the required archaeological investigations for those parts of the site that are to be developed.

On programme, we have also recently completed the final part of the ridgeline structural planting from the eastern shelter belt to Greatfield Farm and this will provide for the planting to mature over the coming years in advance of the development that will take place on the wider site below.

We are currently out to tender for the next phase of infrastructure works which will see the construction of the spine road between Chineham Lane and Sherborne Road and also the proposed light control improvement to the junction of Sherborne Road and Popley Way. This contract, which is due to start mid May 06, will also rely on the closure of either Sherborne Road or Chineham Lane (but never at the same time to ensure that local access and diversion routes are always available), and further advice regarding this will be sent to local residents next months to explain the arrangements, name of the contractor, contact details etc.

Finally, we are still in the process of marketing the first phase of development land on the Merton Rise site with offers due in shortly. The sale of land on the site is based on a design-led strategy and from the initial schemes of development we have seen so far from prospective purchasers, we are confident that we will be improving on the design quality we have already secured for the first phase of development on the existing John Hunt of Everest site. Louise Hague, Merton Rise Project Manager
March 2006

Diaries from the old codger

When back in the 1950s T.V started to get into households, my Grandfather got one. It was like magic, this small screen that put pictures into your home. His was so small that they had a second screen you slid in front of it to make the picture larger by magnifying it. It was great, all of us would hop over the wall and sit and watch the programs, what programs there were at the time. Not a lot, but we always loved the interludes. At the end of the day they played God Save the Queen then off it went with a small white dot, We even watched that to see how long we could see it for if we got the chance.

Then we started to get mass produced T.V's dad finally got one. We also started to get other channels coming out so more choice, again not a lot. When all this happened little did they know that the art of conversation would come to an end! The kids of today are straight in and on goes the box, most have their own in their bedrooms as well. When mum calls for them to have dinner they have trays and off they go. No sitting at the table for a chat to find out the news at school or what homework they need to do. I say this as I look back and remember all of us sitting at the table for dinner together, then home work had to be done and shown to mum or dad before we could go out to play.

I can remember at the age of 14 I had to be in by 8pm or my life was not worth living. Dad would whistle outside our back door and we had to come running. My father would not let my sisters wear make-up or nylons until they were 18 years old.

Remember the radio on Sunday lunch time, Uncle Mac and the overseas forces programs, I bet if kids are reading this they are saying how boring. In the evenings my sisters would tune the radio to Luxembourg good old Pete Murry, We had a record player the size of a small room my sister went through a stage of playing trad jazz. What the kids are saying now is "the Old Codger has lost his marbles". He has'nt This was the way we spent our lives strict, All five of us were loved very much and shared very happy childhood memories. Then in rolled the 60s and 70s. This month saw the last in the present series of Life on Mars, the costumes, the cars, the way police acted was one of the best programs I have seen for a long time. Did police act like that. Yes they did. If you stepped out of line then you would know a copper was a copper and God help you if you upset one. I do hope they bring it back on T V a clip round the ear and off you went, very little paper work to be filled in. Just do the job police should be doing catching criminals that prey on the vulnerable of the society we live in now. We are pretty lucky on the Popley's in so much as people all know who you are and most of the time will keep an eye out for you and try and find out what has happened if they do not see you around. Her in doors has been taking the dog for walks as I had a fall and hurt my ankle; it's also to lose weight she said. I am pleased about that. So one day off she went with the dog or should I say the dog went off with her! Half way round her walk two young girls stopped her "what are you doing with Georges dog"? It's my dog as well, is George o.k they asked. Her indoors came home in a sweat. That's what I need to do every day she told me as she sat down to a cup of tea and the biggest cream eclair you have ever seen.... I give up

The Old Codger

m.f.c. popley.

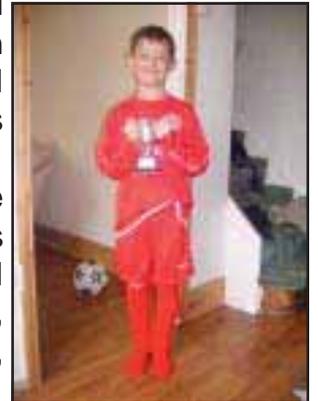
We have now started an under 9's football team and are in the process of looking for new players to join us. So this is how it works; if you are 9 years of age before the 31st of September 2006 you will be too old to play for the team. Don't hesitate because we can only take 20 players. Also in the very near future we will be starting our under 7's team. We are not sure on dates as yet but if we get a good response we will start sooner rather than later, so again do not hesitate.

If we are to succeed in what I want to do with the club we will need parents or family friends who want to get involved in coaching, Obviously we need people who know something about football and are free on weekends. Now if you are keen and show that you are capable and have the right temperament then we can put you through an FA coaching course. I just think it's a great idea if we have the parents getting involved as well.

Staying on the subject of parents, I'd just like to say keep up the good work, the under 8's support is fantastic. It really takes me back when I used to play as a kid to hear that high pitched, squeak of the female voice shouting shoot, shoooooot, shoooooooooooooot!

So if you want anymore info on the teams or you are interested in helping us out please ring me anytime on 01256 332124 / 07811 167791

Thanks for your support
Lee



This happy chap is called Chase, he played an absolute blinder against Sherborne St John and was chosen as Man of the Match. We drew 1-1. and the rain stayed away for a change

Community News - John Hunt of Everest Community School

It has been a busy month with lots to report and here are some early indications as to what we are planning for the summer term.

It was a really cold evening but thank you to all those who managed to come along to our Women's evening. The mock-tails bar was a good way to start the session and the food cooked by our very own School Meals Service went down a treat, but seriously the sessions on breast care, how to talk to your children about sex and keep fit were thought to be really useful. If you missed it, look out for another session in the near future. We have planned a series of family learning events for the summer term including family Spanish, some one-off evening workshops such as Learn a Dance Routine in 3 hours. Shopping on the Internet and a magic skills workshop. For those of you with teenagers you may be interested in our Supporting Parents of Teenagers course starting Tuesday 9th May.

The third conference on the Rights, Respect and Responsibilities agenda was well attended. The evening involved some of our young people giving their views on Popley and what they would like to see here in 20 years time. As a follow up we are planning a children's conference for the area. Part of this will be to launch a combined poster outlining the principles of the UN convention of the child.

The JHE student school council has just finished filming their entry to the Citizenship Foundation, they had to debate a political issue as if it was taking place in the House of Commons. The two teams of students did their homework really well and the debate was interesting and well researched.

The Community Office is busy planning the activities for the Easter holidays (3rd April -13th April). All activities are **FREE** and are open to all 11-16 year olds. If you are working we provide care from 8.30am until 5.00pm at a small charge. See below for details of activities. Contact the Community Office at John Hunt (338725) for booking details.

	Mornings	Afternoons
Mon 3rd	Theatre Group	Theatre Group
Tue 4th	Cooking	Make-Up
Wed 5th	Cooking	Make-up
Thu 6th	Cooking	Drum-runners
Fri 7th	Cooking	Drum-runners
Mon 10th	Cheerleading	Basketball
Tue 11th	Cheerleading	Basketball
Wed 12th	Cheerleading	Basketball
Thu 13th	Cheerleading	Bowling/Lazerquest

For any further information on any of the above please contact:
Suki Binning, School Community Manager on 338725 or
via e-mail on suki.binning@johnhunt.hants.sch.uk.



You are warmly invited to
WORSHIP WITH US



at

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:

Graham and Barbara on (01256) 363692

New Testament Church of God

www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk

Apple Blossom Catering



Planning a wedding, party or any special occasion?

Yes....you could do it yourself, but why bother when we can do it for you
We will book the hall, decorate it to suit, provide a beautiful buffet and best of
all clear up afterwards.

We can provide experienced security and bar staff if required.

We can also arrange the cars, the flowers, the photography, the disco and
much much more!

Call us to discuss your requirements and relax
01256 841996 or 07734 499193 email: appleblossom213@aol.com

Nothing for you to do but enjoy your day we will do it all for you!

Bermuda Community Hall

A few weeks ago a group of youths smashed every window round our hall. This is the third time we've had windows broken. Insurance companies will not cover for windows so the cost to us for replacement was in excess of £3000. More recently we have had lemonade poured through the letter box, followed by the plastic bottle and a tub of Pot Noodles tipped through. We have taken steps to find the culprit and it was dealt with in court. This hall is for the benefit of our local community. We are trying our best to keep it presentable and available for most events and functions.

There is a youth group in the hall on Fridays evenings 6-30 to 7-45, ages ranging from 5-10 yrs. We are hoping that somewhere out there in the community is a person willing to run a senior youth group.

Chattertots the Mums and Toddler group is up and running on Tuesday afternoons 1-30- to 3-30. So come on Mums bring your "tots" along and have a break from household chores and enjoy a natter and refreshments for more information call Janet on 363156.

We are holding a tabletop sale in the hall on Sat 29th April 1pm- 5pm. £4 per table. All enquiries or bookings 363156

Pharmacy Services for the Community

If you use any of the surgeries listed:- Bermuda (Shakespeare House), Gillies Health Centre, Bramleys Grange, Church Grange, Chineham, East Barn, Hackwood Practice, Lytchpit, Marlowe (Shakespeare House), Overbridge, Southern, (Paddock Road) you can get your prescriptions filled at FastFare Pharmacy in Abbey Road Shops. The opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm and Saturdays from 9am to 5pm. There is also a free collect and deliver service for your prescriptions. We can also take your repeat prescription collect and deliver FREE OF CHARGE. NHS or Private.

Other services include private consultation room for medical advice or for the morning after pill.

Free Blood Pressure and Diabetes tests

There is a stock of Motability Equipment for hire or purchase just ask and help us to help you. For further details ring ☎357637

Page 16

Countywide Travel

By Joining Countywide Travel's Excursion Club you receive discounts on all excursions and the opportunity to take part in our occasional exclusive outings and other functions. Membership costs £10 or £15 for joint membership, which lasts for any consecutive 12-Month period. Application forms are available from the Tourist Information Centre.

APRIL

Wed 5	0900	South Kensington Museums	£ 16.00	£ 15.25	£ 10.50	£ 14.50
Thu 6	0830	Weymouth (Market Day)	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25
Sat 8	0830	Worthing	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25
Sun 9	0730	Ironbridge Gorge	£ 21.50	£ 20.50	£ 14.25	£ 19.50
Mon 10	0900	Portsmouth	£ 12.00	£ 11.50	£ 8.00	£ 10.75
Wed 12	0900	Chichester (Market Day)	£ 15.00	£ 14.25	£ 10.00	£ 13.50
Fri 14	0830	Greenwich	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25
Sat 15	0900	Lymington	£ 12.50	£ 12.00	£ 8.25	£ 11.25
Sun 16	0830	Cheddar Gorge	£ 18.00	£ 17.25	£ 12.50	£ 16.50
Mon 17	0830	Bournemouth	£ 18.00	£ 17.25	£ 12.50	£ 16.50
Sat 22	0900	London (Knightsbridge or Oxford St)	£ 16.00	£ 15.25	£ 10.50	£ 14.50
Sun 23	0830	Duxford or Cambridge	£ 21.00	£ 20.00	£ 14.00	£ 19.00
Sat 29	0700	Spalding Flower Festival	£ 23.00	£ 22.00	£ 15.25	£ 20.75
Sun 30	0830	River Exe Cruise & Cream Tea *inc	£ 27.00	£ 25.50	£ 18.00	£ 24.25

MAY

Mon 1	0830	Stratford - upon - Avon	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25
-------	------	-------------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------

‡ on all trips abroad pickup are restricted to our depot in Oakley, Bstoke Churchill Way Coach Bay And Hook, Old white Hart (a30) only
Full details and bookings available at the tourist information centre, Willis museum. Telephone 817618

Basingstoke Parliamentary Constituency

If you need help or advice, contact your Member of Parliament

Maria Miller MP

Maria represents all those who live in the Basingstoke constituency, regardless of how they voted at the General Election.

Contact Maria at: **House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA** Tel: **020 7219 5749**
or: **149d Pack Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 5HN** Tel: **01256 322207**

or email: millermp@parliament.uk

Advice Bureau sessions are held in the constituency regularly. Appointments can be made by telephoning 020 7219 5749

Promoted on her own behalf by Maria Miller MP, 149d Pack Lane, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 5HN





Fit a smoke detector, it could save your life



**At least one smoke detector should be fitted to each level of your home;
Positioning of Smoke Alarms**

The next question you may have is “where do I put them?”.

•They should be put in every room except for the Kitchen and the Bathroom!

•The smoke from cooking and steam from hot water can cause “false alarms”.

•The minimum should be one smoke alarm on each floor level.

Maintain it properly and test it regularly:

The battery in a smoke alarm should be replaced on an annual basis.

The alarm should be tested regularly once a week.

Vacuum inside the alarm casing once or twice a year.

Never remove the battery from your detector, even for a short period.

Home Fire Safety Visit

Every year Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is called out to approximately 4,000 fires in the home, of which 350 result in injury or death.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) can provide a **free** home fire safety visit, fit smoke alarms where necessary and give advice on the action to be taken in the event of a fire and the points to consider when making a home fire escape plan.

To arrange your **free** home fire safety visit please complete the online form at <http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/yoursafety/athome/homesafetyvisit/frm-homesafetyvisit.htm>, alternatively you can contact the Community Fire Safety Department on **023 8062 6809** and we will contact you to arrange a convenient time to carry out the visit. Please be assured that HFRS will not use your details for any other purpose and will not provide any other organisation or company with your details without your permission. You may opt out of this scheme at any time by e-mailing opt.out@hantsfire.gov.uk or writing to:

Marketing and Communications
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire SO50 9SJ



“Nobody Nowhere” Author Donna Williams comes to Different Worlds

Different Worlds, the Basingstoke Support Group for Parents of Children with Aspergers Syndrome or Autistic Spectrum disorders, have the Internationally renowned public speaker, consultant, sculptor and composer. Donna Williams coming to give her lecture “Clashing Normalities” at Dove House School on Tuesday 30th May 2006 at 6.30pm.

For such a respected authority on autism to fit us in at the end of her short tour in this country, the day before she returns home to Australia, is a real coup, and is by far the biggest project Different Worlds has ever undertaken. In addition to her lecture, Donna has also agreed to a Book Signing.

Donna, an Australian, was born forty years ago in the days when ‘autism’ was unheard of. She spent most of her first 24 years with undiagnosed allergies, and was labeled emotionally disturbed and tested for deafness a number of times. She was nine before she could understand the meaning of three sentences in a row, and had no idea why anyone did anything and appeared like someone very behaviorally and emotionally disturbed, as she sang and chattered to herself most of the time. But she loved life and the sensory world and was fascinated by the streets, which were her playground. At nine Donna was put on zinc, vitamin C and multi-vitamins and by fifteen her estranged family could no longer cope and she was forced to fend for herself.

By 24 due to a series of chronic infections, from the age of nine, her health finally collapsed completely into M.E. and was finally diagnosed with severe digestive and immune system problems. Amidst this chaos Donna wrote her autobiography, “Nobody Nowhere”. The book, the first of nine, became an international bestseller and the first mainstream publication of an autobiography of someone who came to be diagnosed “autistic”. Donna is a consultant to schools and does workshops and lectures, catering to governmental agencies and Autistic Societies as well as to the general public.

In her lecture “Clashing Normalities” she discusses the assumption that the ultimate goal is to help people on the Autistic Spectrum to fit into Non-Autistic structures and much time and money is poured unquestioningly into that goal, and questions if teaching any human being to suppress or ignore their own natural systems in favour of those of the social majority might be ‘functional’ or ‘practical’. She questions whether regressions, meltdowns and the ongoing need for ‘behaviour management’ have to tell us about the cultural ignorance of the non-Autistic social majority, about the long term picture regarding one-size fits all approaches, and about what it means to really ‘connect’. Donna asks what are the systems and structures of communication, socialising, learning and employment from the perspective of someone with an Autism Spectrum Condition, how do some of these clash with those of the non-Autistic social majority and what can be done about it so that people reach out and embrace their place in the world and not just ‘put up’ how others define what that place should be?

This lecture takes the audience beyond the symptoms and inside of the labels, to the cognitive systems, personality differences and chemistry states underpinning the natural systems and structures of people on the Autistic Spectrum and where these differ from those most common in ‘the host society’.

Entrance is by pre-paid tickets only and these or additional information can be obtained by

- Ringing Sandra on 01256 474972
- E-Mailing Lyn at ls.fusion@virgin.net
- Visiting the Different Worlds Web Site at www.differentworlds.org.uk

You are warmly invited to a
Fantastic evening of Gospel music

Featuring the renowned

ARIA INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL CHOIR

Saturday 13th May @ 6.30pm
Admission Free

Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down
Popley

For more information phone Graham or Barbara on (01256) 363 692

Welcome

New Testament

Church of God

Basingstoke



Popley Fields Community Centre - Sunday 10.30 till 12.00



107.6 Kestrel FM Community Breaks

Community Breaks are there to tell people what's going on in their community. They provide local clubs, schools, groups and charities with an opportunity to promote their fund raising and community initiatives on air reaching local listeners. Without them some events would not get the profile they need to raise money and awareness for local projects.

Sentinel have stepped in as a sponsor to help promote some of our events such as Get With activities and Pride in your Place Walkabouts, but to also enable all sorts of people from our communities to promote their events, such as MacMillan Coffee mornings held at Sheltered Schemes, school fetes and so forth.

If you have an event that needs some awareness then contact Kestrel FM on 01256 694000.

So for the 'Word on what's on in your community' tune into Kestrel FM!

Sentinel



PC Matt Deery is leaving Popley



After nearly 5 years of working in Popley I will be leaving the area in April.

At the time of going to press it is not known who my replacement will be but the new officer should be in place before I leave. PC Paul Thorne will continue to work in Popley East and my replacement will look after Popley West.

I have greatly enjoyed my 5 years here and would like to thank the residents, schools, shops, councillors and community Wardens for their continued support. I have found Popley to have a very positive and supportive community and I am sure you will give my replacement the support they need.

I am still working hard planning for the Popley Festival on 21st May. I will be at the event and will have a stand with the Community Wardens. This is likely to be my last day in the area so please come over and meet my replacement.

CRIME UPDATE – POPLEY WEST

Popley West has had lots of problems in the last month with vehicle crime. The main problem is breaking into cars by smashing windows. Cars with Satellite Navigation systems are being targeted as are car stereos, wallets and other personal belongings left on view. The whole area is being targeted and we have had recent thefts from, Fountains Close, Romsey Close, Abbey Road, Melrose Walk, Tobago Close and many thefts in Pershore Road.

We are working hard on this problem but I need residents to be careful of what they leave in their unattended cars on view:

- Remove Sat Nav systems from vehicles (including cradles!)
- Remove fascias from removable car stereos (don't put it in the glove box!)
- Remove personal belongings from view (coats, handbags, filofax's etc).

These thefts are happening during the day as well as overnight so please be careful. Worryingly a car was broken into during the day to a car parked in a Popley Junior School car park.

We have had 3 mopeds stolen in the last month. One of these was from a secured garden. Moped owners please ensure you lock your moped to something solid. Just taking the key out is not enough and the thieves will just wheel your moped away. Even if it's kept in the garden or garage it still needs to be locked to something solid with a good chain.

If you see anything suspicious or need to report an incident then please call the Hampshire Constabulary switchboard on 0845 045 45 45 or I can be contacted directly via Email matthew.deery@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.



POPLEY – EAST



With the onset of the New Year, things have been busy through out Popley East. Unfortunately there has been an increase in damage to, theft from and theft of vehicles. Please remove any valuables from your vehicle when left unattended. This includes stereos, phones, bags and satellite navigation systems etc. Please pay extra vigilance to car parking areas. The offences are occurring throughout the day and night.

There has also been a spate of dwelling burglaries. The offenders are entering through unlocked windows and doors, removing accessible items. Many of these have included handbags or vehicle keys. Victims of burglaries have then had their vehicle stolen. Please ensure all windows and doors are secured and place items and keys out of sight. Reducing the opportunity and temptation will play a part in reducing crime.

There is still the ongoing problem of anti-social behaviour outside the local shops, in particular the One Stop in Maldivie Road. I have witnessed on many occasions groups of youths and young children entering the store, gathering outside the store and cash point. There have been several crimes reported as a result. It is also very intimidating for those using the shop especially the more vulnerable residents of Popley. Any offences committed will be dealt with robustly.

Please continue to report anything which you believe to be suspicious. Or if you have any concerns please contact me. 0845 045 45 45

PC23234 THORNE