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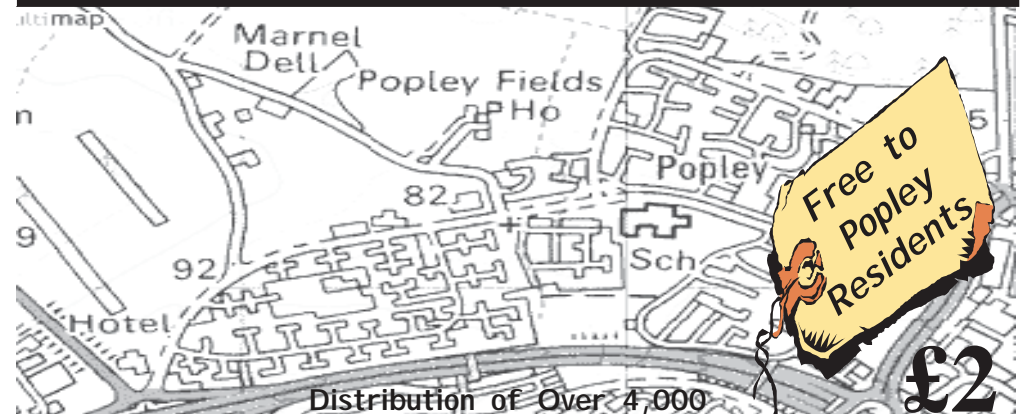
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

January 2009

Issue 83



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Popley Fields News	Page 20
Popley Matters Needs You	Page 1	The Old Codger	Page 21
Councillors Page	Page 4	CAB Advice	Page 22
Air Scouts Report	Page 6	Walk Your Way to Health and Fitness	Page 24
MFC Popley	Page 7	Disability Forum	Page 24
Pebbles SureStart	Page 8	The Hart Wildlife Centre	Page 25
Melrose Community Hall News	Page 10	Recycle Your Christmas Tree	Page 26
Fire Safety Driving	Page 12	Age Concern Information Event	Page 27
Enterprise Gateway Outreach	Page 13	Julie's Gardening Tips	Page 28
Arthur at St Gabriel's	Page 14	Neighbourhood Watch	Page 30
NHS Retirement Fellowship	Page 16	Letter to the Editor	Page 31
Police Surgery in Town	Page 16	Chloe's Column	Page 32
10 Places to Visit in Hampshire	Page 17		
New Youth Cafe	Page 18		

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-01-09)



Editor Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- We start another year with a mass of changes again in Popley. Soon the roundabout, we hope, will be finished, it does seem to have taken a long time. I wonder if they will resume building the houses later in the year as there are so many families that want houses to give their dear ones a settled home. By the end of the year Popley Poets should be nearing its finish, and Maldiva and Faroe start their regeneration. Residents that live in the flats can't wait to get their new homes. But there is still work to be done on redesigning around the shops and Barbican pub. We do have concerns that the new family park may be delayed as it was being financed from the development. I hope to have more details in next month's Popley Matters. I have asked Louise Hague to do us a report. Everest Community College has been achieving good results, much better than was expected, though it still has a long way to go yet. Please, if you could spare one hour per month to deliver Popley Matters it would be much appreciated. We have not been able to deliver to a few roads and it is really disappointing when we have managed for the last 11 years to deliver every copy. Phone Iris King on 411113 if you can help. Have you got any photos or stories of Popley in years gone by as we would like to feature some over the next year. Contact Jane Frankum Editor, 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 9EL. Can I thank all the wonderful people that have helped with Popley Matters over the last year and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

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Sub Editor Paul Frankum

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, PO.Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, email editor@popleymatters.org.uk. The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Acting Treasurer/Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;

Distribution Team: Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Iris King; Colin Karlake, Simon Leadbetter; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes Angus Miller; Elaine Dennis and Lisa Whitwell..

More Volunteers Welcome

<u>Advertising Index</u>			
Everest Health and Leisure Club	Page 2	PC Martin	Page 9
KB Carpentry	Page 3	The Ovencleaner	Page 9
Accountancy (Small Businesses)	Page 3	SE Solutions	Page 9
Paul and Lee Plumbing	Page 3	Sentinel	Page 11
Adam Window Cleaning Service	Page 5	Kingfisher Housing Association	Page 15
Kylie's Whipper Snappers	Page 5	1st Response	Page 19
MAD Academy	Page 5	Piccolo Pre-school	Page 19
Leak Seek	Page 5	Treasure Island Playgroup	Page 19
PKG Plumbing	Page 9	Return to Sport	Page 23
		Man That's Handy	Page 23
		Peter's Fish & Chips	Page 23
		Little Pearls Nursery	Page 27
		Guy Stevens Local Plumber	Page 29
		Personalised Print	Page 29
		Young's Chinese Food	Page 29
		Cornerstone Nursery	Inside Back Page
		Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
		Thank you for your continued support	

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Chloe's Column

Hello readers, I am happy to be writing for Popley Matters. I think it is important to try and get readers of all ages that live in Popley interested in what's going on, and the issues around us. I'd like to start by mentioning the bad reputation that us young people get. Just the other day I was out with some friends having a laugh and a man mumbled that we were a nuisance, although we were not causing any trouble and most of us are nice kind people like everyone else. Please do not think of young people as rude or troublemakers or intimidating. Anyway enough of my moaning, it's January, boring and cold outside, so what is there to do? Well if you're bored why not go to the cinema, and watch a new film? I think the cinema is good because it is warm, and suitable for all ages, and it's a good family day out. Or if you are into live performances the Anvil theatre is brilliant with lots of different performances on offer. If you would like to fulfill a New Year's resolution you could join the gym at Everest Community College as there are loads of different facilities to help make keeping fit fun and easy. There is also bowling which is good fun, especially if you are as rubbish as I am! Or if you like to stay indoors you can rent a DVD or have a go on the Wii, which is great fun, but can be dangerous as I nearly hit myself in the face with one (oh dear). But no one's perfect. To end my first article I would just like to say that it is a New Year so if you have any regrets from last year the good thing is to forget it, you get to start over again now it's 2009. Let's just hope summer 2009 comes quickly.

Till next issue,
Chloe.

Editor's Note Thank you Simone for all your articles last year. The Popley Matters Team wish you well and hope that you let us and the readers know how you are getting on from time to time? And welcome Chloe I hope you enjoy writing for us and bring forward some of the issues good and bad in Popley.

POPLEY MATTERS

Popley Matters needs help! We re-launched the magazine in 1997 and we have had a fantastic band of volunteers who deliver the magazine every month, but the number of houses has grown and we need more volunteers. If you can help in any area of Popley we would be very grateful. It could be part of your New Year's resolution to do more voluntary work, or simply to get fitter you can help the community by delivering Popley's own community magazine.

Please contact:-

Jane Frankum (Editor)
405 Abbey Road
RG24 9EL
819924

Iris King (Distribution Manager)
55 Tintern Close
RG24 9
411113





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Letters to the Editor.



Dear Editor, I am writing to you and the people of Popley to make them aware of an incident that happened to our family.

We had someone knock at our door on 9th December at 8.30 in the evening. It was a young man in his early twenties. My husband answered the door to find this young man asking for a cigarette. My husband told him politely that we did not smoke. This young man became very aggressive and put his feet into our house and waved his fist at my husband. Fortunately my husband and I managed somehow to push him back out, shut, and lock the door. We then called the police.

We checked on our elderly neighbour, this young man could of easily pushed passed and hurt her. Fortunately she was OK.

As you can imagine we are quite shaken by the whole experience, and I am very nervous/jumpy if some knocks at the front door at the moment.

This is probably a one off incident, however my husband and I would like to make people aware it does not matter if you are old, middle aged or young, always be very care full when you answer the front door. Look through the spy hole, and always keep a chain lock on and ask for ID.

Unfortunately we have almost been made to feel like prisoners in our own home now.

I am 38 and my husband is 40.

We have two children and we would not class ourselves vulnerable. But this letter to you and the people of Popley is not to scare people, but to make them aware, whatever their age.

Editor's reply: I would always abdicate that you are careful who you open your door to. I had a couple of very aggressive sales people and one nearly tried to get his foot in the door! I had a spy hole and chain fitted. after that. If you are disabled or a pensioner you can have them fitted free. I also have a Hampshire County Council sign that says I do not buy anything on the door. This stops some but not all. It seems the Utilities insist when they knock that they are not selling. But they want me to sign a form to change who I pay for my gas and electric! Yes, I agree Please ask for ID, close the door and phone and check they are genuine. The genuine people never mind you checking, in fact I have been complimented on more than one occasion for doing just that.

Editor's 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 cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.

Please send your letters to: The Editor, Popley Matters, PO Box 6727, Popley Basingstoke RG24 9GG or email: editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone 819924





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Councillors Page: I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. It will be a tough one but with our community spirit we will get through it.

The street lamp in Barrington Drive that was not working proved to be a little more difficult than replacing a bulb (which is what we thought was the problem initially). No one wanted to take ownership of the problem. In the end it was established that David Wilson Homes were the owners of the problem and promised to get it fixed. Imagine everyone's surprise when it turned out to not have any cables to it!! It is now fixed and I am sure the residents that live near will feel safer.

I spoke in Council to support that some help be found to help Naomi House. This is a wonderful place for children with life limiting illness and their families to get some help and respite. 500 families have been helped through all stages of the child's illness. There is a petition on line that you may want to sign to ask the government for some help.

My contact details if you want to talk about issues is 819924, email me at jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL.

Popley West: The first phase of environmental improvements in Abbey Road from 1 to 213 is nearing completion. It has created extra parking places; removed or replaced broken seating; and the hedging has been cropped or removed where it was overgrown untidy and affected sight lines for pedestrians and drivers alike. The residents there have told me how much nicer it makes the area look, and how much safer they feel.

We have had quite a few enquiries about Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Speckled Wood having to pay extra on their Council Tax as part of the parish of Sherborne St John, yet being part of the Popley West Ward. We will be arranging a public meeting in the early Spring to see what more of the residents think about de parishing.

The new play area in Marnel Park new development will at last be erected by the beginning of February 2009.

May I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. If you have any concerns you can contact me at 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL, or email cll.r.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or phone 01256 472496 or 819924

Popley East: December has been an eventful month, with the passing of the Planning Application for the Faroe and Maldive regeneration on Wednesday December 10th. This application had attracted a 1500-signature petition against the car park and loading bay proposals. We intended to get Sentinel to a public meeting before the application, sadly this was not possible, but we have had an undertaking from them to meet with the public and discuss changes to the plans in the New Year. We will let you know as soon as the date, time and venue are arranged. The planning permission has an informative expecting changes to the car park and loading area and Sentinel are now committed to making these changes which will lead to a better scheme.

We've had more issues with Longfellow Parade and the resurfacing works at Marlowe Close, which should have finished by the time you get to read this. We are now gearing up to engage Sentinel on the road and path proposals for the new shops - we intend to meet with them in the New Year.

I hope you've had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. Andy McCormick Popley East

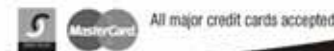
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Julie's Gardening Tips

OK Christmas has come and gone, and for most of us the garden looks miserable. If you planted bulbs in the autumn they should soon be poking through. If you have winter flowering pansies they might need a little tidy up, but apart from picking the dead heads off don't disturb them too much yet. I bought some prepared hyacinth bulbs a few weeks back in the cheap shop in town. They came with a special glass pot to stand them in, and apart from making sure the water level is just below the bulb, there is very little else you have to do with them. Hopefully when you get this magazine they will be in flower in the kitchen and giving off that lovely sweet perfume through the downstairs of my house. They can be planted in the garden next autumn, although they won't have such large flowers, but they will give a dash of early colour in the spring. I planted anemones in pots a while back too, and they have loved the mild damp weather and started flowering at the beginning of December. As I am writing this before Christmas, it is too early to say what sort of winter we are in for, but no doubt it will be wet and muddy in the garden if the weather is good enough to go outside. It's a great excuse to stay indoors in the warm and start planning your garden for the coming spring and summer.

Make a list of what you want to do in the garden this year, and what you will need to buy to do it. If you know what you want, and give yourself plenty of time to get it, you can look around for the best deals. Seeds will be appearing in the shops soon after the sales end, and most of the catalogues are available to order now too. If you can get online, most seed companies have websites that you can order from too. Again, look around for the best deals. You may well find that if you want a specific tomato seed, another brand sells it either cheaper or with more seeds to the packet. Most seeds have a shelf life of a couple of years, so you don't have to throw away any left-overs from last year. Check the date on the packets if you aren't sure. A good way to store seeds is in camera film tubs. Those plastic pots that your new films come in are airtight and small enough to keep lots of them, but make sure you know what is in them! They are also great for storing seeds you have saved yourself. If you were given a gift pack with seeds in it for Christmas, don't be tempted to try and grow them until later in the spring. Many of these gifts don't really give very good instructions, so it is probably wise to check either on the back of seed packs, online, or in the library if you aren't too sure what to do. Windowsills aren't really the best place to start seeds off as they grow too fast and too tall, and most won't get past that stage before dying off.

If you have a greenhouse, it should be all cleaned out by now. Get any repairs done before you need to use it, and check all your equipment too. That goes for all garden equipment too. Get the shears sharpened; make sure the hose isn't kinked or leaky; re-load the strimmer with new line after giving it a really good clean; and replace plastic mower blades and again give the mower a good clean. Plastic gets brittle over a period of time, so these parts should be regularly replaced anyway.

Watch out for green paths in the garden, these will be very slippery and need to be cleaned off for safety. You can get algae remover from garden centres and DIY stores, but hot water and a good stiff yard broom should do the trick without costing anything. You will have to do it more often though. Pick up any debris from trees and bushes as often as you can too. This is where bacteria and other pests breed when the weather is mild, and these will give you big problems later if they aren't kept under control.

So, while you have the chance, get yourself a nice warm drink, a pad of paper and pen, and start planning. It doesn't have to be elaborate, but if you have the enthusiasm you will enjoy your garden.

I hope all our readers had a great Christmas and wish everyone health and happiness for the year ahead!



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www.base2000.co.uk

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 - Jan or Pete Saunders 01256 410514



The Beavers had a great time at Paultons' Park. Once again they were blessed with a lovely dry day and, despite the cold, everyone had a super time particularly enjoying the 'cobra' ride and one of the first sightings of Father Christmas who had presents for everyone. Over 120 members of Basingstoke East District attended in company with Beavers from all over the county. Later in December, the colony performed a nativity play in St. Gabriel's Church in conjunction with Popley Beavers; made photo Christmas cards and key rings as gifts for family and friends; and collected 'goodies' to help fill

hampers for those in need at Christmas. True to their name Beavers are busy creatures!

The Cubs too have had a busy time starting off with a two-night 'sleepover' in Base 2000; spending time decorating the hall with Christmas cheer; making gingerbread figures and salt dough decorations; following a Christmas trail through Basing Woods; and making Christmas stockings and cards. On the Saturday evening they sat down to Christmas dinner with roast turkey, roast potatoes, carrots and brussel spouts followed by chocolate gateau, strawberry roulade or Christmas pudding all with 'squirry' cream! Father Christmas arrived some time during the night, drank a glass of milk and ate part of a mince pie and must have fed the reindeer with carrots left out specially (just in case!). There was clear evidence of sleigh tracks in the frosty ground the following morning (and half-chewed carrot). Several of the pack attended a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Haymarket Theatre.

All sections are closed until week commencing 12th January when meetings will start again. New recruits are always welcome but it may be that the Beaver section will need to reopen its waiting list until some older members move on to the Cub section at the age of 8. Give the appropriate section leader a ring or simply turn up for a free 'taster' evening to see what's on offer. All sections are open to both boys and girls. Subscriptions are £1.50 per week payable weekly or termly as preferred. Parents are urged to sign up for Gift Aid which enables the Group to claim back tax paid on subscriptions from the Revenue and Customs Department.

Base 2000 offers a venue for meetings, fund-raising events and sometimes parties for organisations other than Scouting subject to availability. Special rates for charities and non-profit making organisations. Enquiries/bookings to Pete Saunders or Jan Saunders on 01256 335260 (new telephone number) or e-mail bookings@base2000.co.uk Alternatively contact the Group Scout Leader, Colin Karslake.



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Eve Alexander 346510

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Elaine Devenport 323453

Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9p.m.
Colin Karslake 410559



INFORMATION EVENT - "LEISURE & EXERCISE"

WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY 2009

At CHURCH COTTAGE, BASINGSTOKE, 10.30 am to 1 pm

An opportunity to find out about leisure and exercise activities available locally for the over 50s to help keep body and mind active.

Various groups and organisations represented. Everyone welcome.

Refreshments available from the Age Concern Café, open every Wednesday.

For information about who is taking part please contact Age Concern on 01256 423874. Please note there is no public parking at Church Cottage.

Little Pearls

Based within Pebbles Children's Centre, in the beautiful grounds of Chineham Park School, the Nursery will provide a safe stimulating and fun environment for children to grow and learn.



Nursery

Education grants are available for children from the first term following their 3rd birthday. Unfortunately, there are no free places for children under 3.

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Places are available 5 days a week (8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday) all year round and the children have

either a full-time or part-time place, depending on the availability of places and the family's needs.

We are currently taking enquiries and booking places for September start.

For further information please contact 01256 464750 (incl over the Summer Holidays)

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

With residents across the borough beginning to take their Christmas decorations down, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is reminding them to recycle their Christmas trees.

Residents can leave their trees at one of the 21 allocated sites the council has set up across the borough from Monday 5 January 2009 until Saturday 17 January 2009.

In the UK, each year, eight million real Christmas trees are thrown away. This creates about 160,000 tonnes of additional waste. Last year Basingstoke and Deane residents recycled nearly 4000 trees through the council's drop-off points and stopped 37 tonnes of waste being created. Instead this was transformed into ProGrow soil conditioner and wood chippings for our parks.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment Cllr Anne Court said: "By recycling their Christmas tree, residents can make a real difference to the amount of waste we throw away in Basingstoke and Deane. Disposing of the tree after all the festivities are over can be a real nuisance. This service means residents can take their tree to a nearby drop-off point and know they are helping do their bit for the environment."



Was it worth it!

Well it's been 3 years since I started M.F.C Popley and lately I have been thinking what we have achieved in that time, and was it worth it? To be honest with you, it couldn't have worked out any better. We're not the most successful club around, but I wouldn't want it any other way.

The Tornados, who were the first team to be developed from the club's set up, have gone from strength to strength, with the likes of Fynnlie Judd, Cameron Grist, Jack Parratt, Nathan Parker, Gorden Mahoney, Ellie Dawber, Kallum Brown and Jacob Austen, the original MFC starting line up. Over the years the team recruited Billy Wagstaff and Gaiyain Barry and strengthened the side. We now have Dennis Brittain joining the Tornados and he is highly rated by his new team mates as one of the best defenders in the league.

Sentinel Housing sponsor the U10's (Tornados and Whirlwinds) and over the next 3-5 years will reap the benefits of this. The Tornados alone have had interest from Premiership and Championship teams with the likes of Jacob, Fynnlie, Gaiyain and Kallum having trials for Chelsea and Southampton. Jacob and Fyn are currently in the Southampton Development set up and continue to impress. Gaiyain and Jacob have been scouted for Reading and will be having trials in the New Year. Chelsea scouts continue to keep an eye on the U 10's and so they should! Scott Forder, Jack Parratt and Nathan Parker are also in contention as the Saints Scout has asked to come and watch them in the New Year.

We have had a lot of interest in the U8's Dynamos as well. D'Andre Brown and Blaise Ely are impressing the right people, with Reading and Portsmouth keeping an eye on Blaise and Saints, Fulham, Portsmouth and Chelsea watching D'Andre. Taylor, Cole and Aiden Lee are also showing signs of becoming very good footballers.

We now have over 90 kids involved in the youth set up with 15 highly dedicated coaching staff, 100's of supporters and the best football club in the world (*apart from United!*).

And this alone proves to me that it was definitely worth it.

Thank you for your support

Lee Austen.

Tel: 07932213310 Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk



happy new
year
from



Hi, I'm Janice the Manager at Pebbles Children's Centre. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Many people have now popped in to say hello now which is great. During the Christmas Holidays we had a Children's Party, a Sing and Dance Session and a Crafts Making Session which everyone enjoyed.

If you missed out this time, don't miss out in the future.

Pebbles will be running Family Sessions from Melrose Hall on a Tuesday 9.30am - 11.30am & 12.30pm - 14.30pm, Popley Fields on Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30am and Base 2000 on Thursday 12.30pm - 14.30pm

We have an Understanding Behaviour Course starting on January 16th at Pebbles 12.30pm - 14.30pm and Numeracy Course starting 14th Jan at Popley Fields 12.30pm - 14.30pm

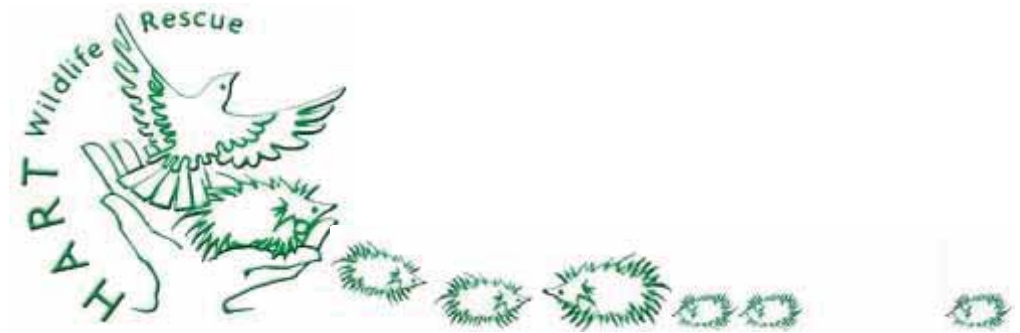
ESOL continues to run Friday 9.30am - 11.30am at Pebbles and a Nepalese group is starting Friday mornings.

Midwives will be running an Early Pregnancy Information Class (EPIC) on Monday am 2nd /4th weeks of month and Post Natal drop-ins on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Health Visitors will be holding annual checks on Thursday mornings and a baby group is planned to be starting soon.

Also Little Pearls Nursery will be running from the Centre in January.

For any of the above you just have to ring the Centre on 01256 357028 – Everyone with children under 5 years old is welcome. *Janice*



The HART Wildlife Centre

based in Dellands Overton

Has just re-opened it's doors to new admissions.

If you come across any injured wildlife locally, it's worth contacting Bob or June at HART to see if they can assist.

The Centre also has a fully equipped 'ambulance' and can come out to you if they are required.

HART Wildlife

If you find an injured, sick or abandoned creature please telephone **01256 770438**. Please note this line is not manned 24 hours and an answering machine is often used while staff and volunteers are caring for wildlife. Website www.hartwildlife.org.uk

East Hampshire Badger Group

Mick Neeve, 14 Sandown Close, Alton, Hants, GU34 2TG

Tel: 01420 87366 or 07774 700656

Email: MGNeeve@aol.com

In the event of an emergency call the RSPCA on 08705 555 999 or the RSPB on 01767680551

Walk your Way to Health and Fitness?

IS YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION IS TO GET A BIT FITTER OR TO LOSE A FEW POUNDS? Why not Walk your Way to Health and Fitness? Come along to the new health walk starting in Popley on 16 January. Join your local leaders Millie and Evadne for an hour's walk, followed by tea or coffee and chats. Wear clothes and shoes suitable for the weather. Meet at Shakespeare House Medical Centre in Shakespeare Road at 10.45am to leave at 11am. Get back at midday for a cup of tea or coffee at the Medical Centre. There is no charge to come along, just turn up on the day and when you can. You will soon feel the benefits!

For further details please contact Jane Wilding - tel: 01256 845574 or e-mail jane.wilding@basingstoke.gov.uk



DISABILITY FORUM

Did you know there is a DISABILITY FORUM for the Basingstoke area? Would you like to be a part of it and help to shape the way it works?

The Basingstoke Disability Forum was set up two years ago to raise awareness of disability issues and concerns locally and to start to address these. Building on the success of the original Access group we are working together to create a Forum, which will represent all disabilities, including Mental Health, Learning, Physical and Sensory. We are improving links with the Mental Health Forum and Learning Disabilities Partnership to create a truly inclusive Forum.

We have three special interest groups; Access for All; Learning & Employment for All (to include children); Independence & Wellbeing for All. We need your help! We want input from individuals and organisations working with Disabilities. We need people who are willing to commit time and energy to the groups to get them working well within our area. For more information please contact: Jane Halls at The Orchard, White Hart Lane Basingstoke, RG21 4AF Telephone: (01256) 423814 Email: jhalls@voluntaryservices.com

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Thank you to all who attended our Christmas sale, despite the awful weather, we raised a total of £88. It's the start of a new year and we hope you all had a great Christmas. For those of you who made the resolution to quit smoking, don't forget we have an NHS Quit Smoking clinic 9-11 on a Wednesday morning. You do not need an appointment, just turn up.

I am pleased to say the upgrade to the CCTV is now complete. This upgrade sees a major improvement in both the quality and range of images both around the hall and the front and back of the shops. The new digital DVD recording equipment will be giving live images to the police. We hope these upgrades will improve the safety for everyone using these areas and would like to thank the Police Commission who gave us a grant to be able to undertake this project.

Whats on at Melrose Hall

MONDAY: 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café
7.30pm-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistic

TUESDAY: 4.00pm-7.30pm Petite School of Dance
8.30am-3.00pm Marnel Early Years

WEDNESDAY: 10.00am-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
9.00am-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic
12pm-2pm Oasis Lunch club
7.15pm - 9.00pm Slimming World

THURSDAY: 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café

FRIDAY: 6.00pm-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00pm- 9.15pm age 11 plus.

SATURDAY: 9.00am-12.30pm Petite School of Dance

SUNDAY: MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, and Conferences. Please ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.

Return To Sport Advert

Want to get back to playing badminton?

Basingstoke and District Badminton League has organised a Return To Sport for ladies wishing to return to badminton.

The course will be held at the new Everest Community Sports Hall over six weeks starting Friday 16th. January 2009 from 7.30pm. to 9.00pm.

The cost of the course is £20.00.

If you are interested and want to know more contact Terry Firth on; 01256-471856 (answerphone) or email t.firth937@btinternet.com

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Monday	5.00pm-11.00pm
Tuesday to Saturday	12 noon-2.00pm 5.00pm-11.00pm

Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays Closed

All price include VAT Cheques accepted. Minimum £5.00 & with banker's Card

Telephone orders welcome

Important Customer Notice

Kindly inform us of any food allergies prior to ordering your meal
Some of our food may contain ingredients produced from GM Soya and/or Maize
Menu's Available at <http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/Adverts/Peters.pdf>

Our outreach service in Popley operates on a Monday afternoon from 1-3.30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley.



Christmas is meant to be a time of joy and celebration. But the celebrations can mask tension and problems in a family - which can then erupt once the festivities are over and the children are back at school.

If you're experiencing problems in your relationship, we may be able to help. As mentioned in October's edition of Popley Matters, our trained advisors can help you talk through family difficulties, be it with children or your partner. We aren't counsellors, but we can suggest counselling services such as Relate, Relateen or Hampshire Family Mediation for further help.

Debt can be a huge pressure on families, especially at this time of year. We can help work out which debts are priorities, negotiate realistic payment plans with creditors, try to maximise income, and advise on bankruptcy or other solutions.

No one should have to live with domestic violence. If you feel you or your children are at risk, we can help. We can make referrals to out-of-area refuges, help with court orders and counselling.

If it comes to separation or divorce, we can give information and advice about your legal rights in both situations, and especially the difference between couples who are married and couples who are living together. We also advise on the procedure for separation, the dividing up of financial affairs, including issues relating to housing, pensions, contact with children and debts. Our specialist divorce advisors can assist with the completion of paperwork in undefended divorce cases, and we can offer benefits checks and information on housing rights following a marriage break-up.

For more complex cases, we work with local solicitors who offer a 20 minute free one-off appointment for CAB clients referred by the bureau. The appointment is for advice only - no action can be taken unless a private arrangement is reached between client and solicitor.

Basingstoke CAB experiences high demand for its services year round, but we are especially busy in January and February. Our opening hours are as follows:

Monday 10am-3.30pm – drop-in session
Tuesday 10am-3.30pm – drop-in session
Wednesday 10am-3.30pm – drop-in session
Thursday 9.30am–11.30am – drop-in session
Friday 10am-3.30pm – drop-in session
Saturday 10am-12pm drop-in session

Our phone advice line is open at the same time, and the number is 01256 322814. We also offer face-to-face and telephone appointments during these hours.

Sentinel

Green light for £40m Basingstoke regeneration

NORTH HAMPSHIRE'S biggest landlord has received council backing for the latest project to replace 140 outdated properties with nearly 240 new affordable homes on a Basingstoke estate.

Sentinel Housing Association has spent four years putting together an ambitious £40m project to regenerate unpopular blocks of maisonettes in Popley's Faroe Close and Maldive Road.

On Wednesday last week, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's planners gave the green light to the plans, paving the way for residents to be relocated and the site to be demolished next spring.

Sentinel Chief Executive Martin Nurse said afterwards: "With more and more people in need of affordable homes, gaining planning approval could not have come at a better time.

"Most of the new properties will be family homes at affordable rents, and will be much more energy efficient than the 1960s maisonettes there at the moment. However, we're aware that some neighbours are not totally happy with the proposed redesign near the shops, so we'll be looking again at that aspect in the near future to see if we can reach a consensus."

Funding for the £40m project will come from a mix of government grants and bank finance raised by Sentinel, and the new development will be completed by 2012.

The redesign centres on a new tree-lined park and kick-about area, and will look and feel similar to Sentinel's award-winning regeneration of Oakridge – completed in 2006.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Housing and Health Cllr Cathy Osselton said: "As the Cabinet member responsible for housing, I'm delighted that this important scheme has passed this major milestone and now has planning permission. It will increase the amount of badly-needed affordable housing in the area, and will offer a much better standard of home than the existing out-dated maisonettes."



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Stay Safe On The Roads.

Don't drive tired –

- Plan in a 15 minute rest break for every 2 hours of driving.
- Avoid making long trips between midnight- 6am and 2-4pm when natural alertness is low.
- Share the driving if possible.

Don't drink drive –

- Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.
- The only safe option is not to drink any alcohol if you plan to drive and never offer an alcoholic drink to anyone else who is driving.
- Driving whilst above the legal limit or unfit through drink carries a maximum penalty of 6 months' imprisonment, a fine of up to £5,000 and a minimum 12 months driving ban.

Don't use your mobile phone while driving –

- On 27 Feb 2007, the £30 fine was increased to £60 and three penalty points on your licence. Penalty points = higher insurance costs.
- If you get six points within two years of passing your test, your licence will be revoked and you will need to re-sit the test.
- If the case goes to court, you could risk a maximum fine of £1,000, which rises to £2,500 for the driver of a bus, coach, or heavy goods vehicle.

Always buckle up -

- The law says that all children up to 135cm tall (around 4'5"), or the age of 12, whichever comes first, in the front or rear seats in cars, vans and other goods vehicles must travel in the correct child restraint for their weight.
- Adults travelling in the rear of a car must also use seat belts, if they are fitted. It is the responsibility of the adult passenger (not the driver) to ensure that they are using the seat belt.

Useful contact points and further information:

'Think Road Safety Website - www.dft.gov.uk/think
 Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
 Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809
 Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



Diaries from The Old Codger

Apart from our fun over the Christmas I would like to say sorry no one got cards this year. We sent out only a few, the rest we did by email and then donated a sum of money to Naomi House. They do a wonderful job helping children and families, but they lost so much in the Iceland Bank scandal, they need our help as much as we can give. I know by putting monies into these sort of banks are rewarding in interest but if they go under you are the ones that lose out. I maintain our British banking is the best as long as there are guarantees in place to protect your investments.



Again over the Christmas as the weather got quite bad, we have seen so many people killed on our roads, youngsters with their whole life in front of them snubbed out in fast cars and stolen cars. It is not that they will know anything about it, but the hole left in their families' hearts will live on forever. They will grieve their losses. The presents they had ready and put under the tree not opened, the plans they had made for the festive time lay in shatters. These are the people I feel for. Well what a depressing Old Codger! I feel it had to be said and I hope people and the youngsters take note of it. We are all looking forward in Basingstoke to many changes over the next few years. Let us hope that decisions made by all our council members will be the right ones for all of us and I would like everyone this year to put forward your views on how you want our town to grow. The changes in Popley over the last five years are going so fast you can't keep up with it. Popley is your home and you must have a say, not let others tell you what you want. We have seen a lot of good, and the new park that is planned will be great not only for the children but all the family to go along to when built. Then I hope they will do more for Chineham Park to encourage families back to it as it was when we first came to the town, a place to take the children at weekends for a day's fun. I was thinking about taking Her Indoors when it is finished but it would frighten all the kids off! We need our open spaces now, we have had enough of the contractors building house after house and standing empty. It is a new year, the old one has gone and we must look to the future for not just Popley, but as I have said, our town. Well I have said my bit for the start of 2009 and Her Indoors, and I hope you have enjoyed the Old Codger in 2008. Please remember Naomi House and all the good they do in helping families. Don't turn your back on them or say it is not your problem. Ok, I know its not really but just take a bit of time and think of ways to help, be it the staff at work or raffles and boot sales.

A Happy new year to you all. The Old Codger.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Popley Fields would like to wish all their customers and groups a Happy New Year

Aerotone

New for Thursday nights is Aerotone. Meeting weekly in the Large Hall, this is a fun aerobics class for all fitness levels which focuses on improving fitness, fat burning and toning up. The first class is 8th January 2009 7.45pm to 8.45pm. If you are in need of a winter wake up come and give it a go.

Family Fishing Trips funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

These are still taking place; anyone interested please contact Derek at Popley Fields on the telephone number below.

Free Computer Classes

Free Computer classes will be starting again at Popley Fields Community Centre.

They include: beginners guide to computing; internet and email; developing writing skills; spelling and grammar; and a basic guide to digital photography.

For details either call the centre on 01256 414494 and speak to Debbie or look out for the QMC Adult Education brochure, page 6 for the Popley courses/dates.

MAD Academy

This high energy dance group for under 4's is continuing in popularity but there are always spaces available. Come along on Tuesday mornings from 9.15am-11.15am and speak to Cathy.

Silverwings Line Dancing

There is a beginners Line Dancing class held here on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm-7.30pm in our Large Hall. A more advanced class meets on the same evening from 8.00pm-10.00pm. Come along and give it a try.

New Testament Church of God – Coffee Morning for over 50's

This popular get together is held here on Thursday mornings from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Come along with your old friends and make some new ones.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for Conferences, Meetings, Private Parties, Weddings and under 12's Children's Parties all at very reasonable rates. Call now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the Centre every week.

Tel: 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com

Enterprise Gateway Outreach

My name is Claire Cutler-Casey and I am the local Enterprise Gateway Outreach worker for NE Hampshire. The Enterprise Gateway is a FREE service provided by Businesslink and SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) to provide training, advice, support and guidance to unemployed, economically inactive or disadvantaged people in the South East.

Part of my role is to raise enterprise awareness among unemployed and disadvantaged groups and another, more substantial part of my role is to help clients to raise their confidence, boost their self esteem and improve their communications skills so that they feel more confident and comfortable engaging with the wealth or support agencies which are available to help them.

We also work in schools helping the students to explore enterprise and giving them a 'hands on' idea of what it's like to start and run a business.

The Gateways work out in the community to engage with groups and individuals who may find themselves in disadvantaged circumstances and we appreciate that the first step, for many in these situations, is helping them to raise their aspirations before they can feel ready to make any changes.

We use various methods and everything we offer is FREE. We provide group training sessions, one to one mentoring and signposting to other support available.

The Enterprise Gateway can provide FREE training sessions to help people increase their self confidence, improve communication and presentations skills and help them to think about making changes and how that might be achieved.

If you think any of your clients or groups might be interested to hear more about what we can offer then do please pass my information on to them. I am always happy to visit local groups and organisations to see how we can help raise their confidence, improve their communication skills and provide support and advice.

Please feel free to pass this email on to anyone on your contact list who, you think, might be interested in the work we are doing, either for themselves or for their clients.

I'd welcome an opportunity to meet with you or to write an article for an edition of Popley Matters to let everyone in Popley know that we are here to support them and how to get in touch with us. Do you think that's feasible? I'm often in Basingstoke so if you'd like me to pop in I'm happy to do that. Please give me a ring to arrange this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very many thanks and kind regards,

Claire Cutler-Casey
0754 132 0113

Dear Friends

It's hard to believe that we're into 2009 already! I do hope that your Christmas and New Year celebrations all went well and that it brought all you had hoped for. Watching the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year programme before Christmas it was fascinating to hear all our sports people talking about their hopes for 2012. Hope is important and I wonder what your hopes for the coming year might be? It seems many people would really like to catch a glimpse of what the future holds.

Did you know that 6 out of 10 men and 7 out of 10 women read their horoscopes everyday? No popular newspaper or magazine would dare to neglect them. Combine this with the growth in clairvoyance, mediums, crystal balls, Ouija boards and tarot cards, New Age religions and cults and you see what I mean. Yet none of these channels has ever been proved right more than 5% in their predictions – or put another way they're always **95% wrong**. There are two other methods I want to mention briefly:

Deduction from observation is the basic tool of scientific method. There is a technique called futurology that looks at present trends and attempts to project them into the future. Chairs have been established at many universities, especially those connected with technology and many corporate organisations and government departments have set up 'think tanks'.

Computer software programs have predicted the date for the end of the world as 2040 based on population growth, depletion of natural resources and deterioration of the climate – coincidentally it's a date which ties in with date for the extinction of Christianity in this country – so maybe there is something to it!

Nevertheless, while short-term predictions have been accurate, the long-term results are much less favourable. In fact **75% of the time they are wrong**.

The third method is the Bible. Declarations about future events are a major feature of the Bible. Over a quarter of the verses in the Bible contain a prediction about the future and altogether 737 separate forecasts are made. Now I want to drop a bit of a bombshell here.

Of those 737 forecasts 594 – which represent **over 80% - have already come true**. Those that have not, are all concerned with the end of the world, which obviously hasn't happened yet. So the Bible has achieved what science and spiritualism cannot – **that is 100% accuracy**. So where should we place our trust?

Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year I'll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year's resolution to discover God's plan for your life – you won't regret it!

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing more of you

God's blessings.

Arthur

(Vicar of St Gabriel's)

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Popley Fields Community centre, Carpenters Down
Basingstoke, RG24 9PY

NEW Youth Cafe

at O'Brien's Market Place
(near the Haymarket)

Every Thursday
Drop in between
4 to 7pm
from 4 December
(excluding Christmas Day and New Years Day)

Open to all
11 to 19 year olds
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available for a
trial period.



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NHS RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

Local branch aims:

- to promote the welfare and interests of retired NHS staff and provide a congenial venue for continuing friendships formed in working life and developing new ones.
- to encourage the establishment and maintenance of friendly contact and support between NHS Retirees and assist in alleviating loneliness.

We have a programme of activities including:
Presentations at meetings, Bring and Tell, Quizzes, Bring and Buy evenings, Car Boot Sales, Coach Outings, Boat Trips and Raffles.

We started with 7 members and now have 30.

New members are always welcome.

Please write to the Branch Secretary:
James Johnston, 21 Balmoral Court, Alliston Way, Basingstoke,
RG22 6SN or e-mail: jameswjohnston@btinternet.com

TOWN CENTRE POLICE MOBILE BEAT SURGERY

Wednesday 21st January
AGE CONCERN CAFÉ,
Church Cottage, Basingstoke

10.30 am - 1 pm

*An opportunity to meet local beat officers over
a cuppa and chat about your safety concerns.*

Everyone welcome. NB: No parking.

10 Places to visit in Hampshire

- 1.** Take a relaxing stroll by the Solent at Royal Victoria Country Park and visit the historical hospital chapel.
- 2.** Visit one of Hampshire County Council's community museums and discover the history of your local area.
- 3.** The Gallery at the Winchester Discovery Centre offers some world class art, historical exhibitions and events for all ages. 'Crafted' a brand new selling exhibition bringing together hand-picked contemporary craft makers from around the UK will be opening on November 29.
- 4.** Visit Basing House. Once the largest privately-owned residence in the land, Basing House was the scene of one of the most important sieges of the English Civil War.
- 5.** Walk in a beautiful section of the South Downs at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- 6.** Spend a few hours at Titchfield Haven enjoying its rich and varied wildlife.
- 7.** Travel back in time and visit Hampshire living history museum, Milestones, at Basingstoke. You can walk through Victorian and 1930s streets and meet some of the characters who would have lived and worked there.
- 8.** Aldershot Military Museum provides a fun day out for all the family. See and experience some of the weapons and vehicles that have been used by the British Army throughout its history, including big guns and tanks.
- 9.** Manor Farm. A working farm from a bygone age. Great fun for all ages. Meet the animals and experience what a working farm was like 100 years ago.
- 10.** And if the weather's just too bad to venture outdoors, curl up with a good book, a DVD or CD - borrowed from one of Hampshire County Councils 53 libraries.