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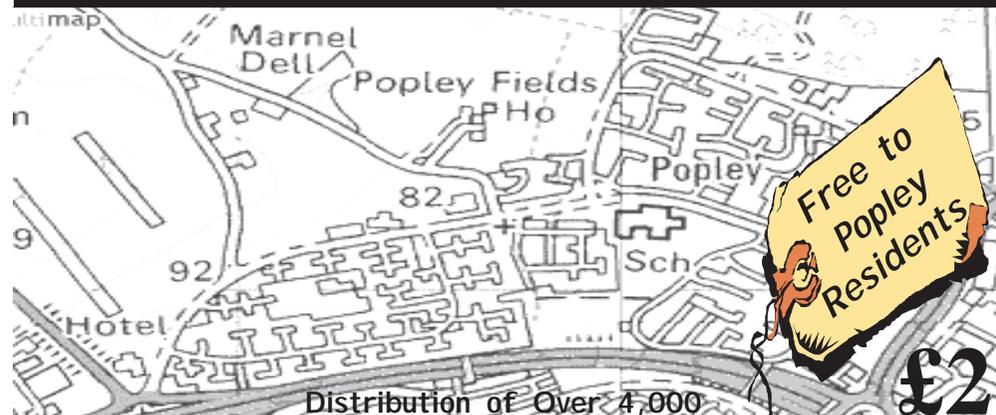
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

February 2009

Issue 84



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-02-09)



Editor Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- Valentine’s Day! Is it still celebrated? I have seen very little advertising for restaurants or even TV adverts, bearing in mind Christmas ads are months ahead and Easter Hot Cross buns and chocolate eggs advertised or on shop shelves even before the New Year is out? Has romance died? I hope not. Maybe you can tell us of special stories?

Well done and congratulations to the Tornados Team of Marnel Football Club, plus all the players (and there are around 100 of them). Lee Austen and his fantastic band of helpers also deserve our

congratulations. We hear so much about the few youths who cause trouble and distress that we don’t often get the chance to see that many more are doing so well. I have been told you can watch the teams play via YouTube. The 1st Popley Scouts who are based in st Gabriel’s Church have been having some great days out see the pictures on page 30 as they say a picture shows a thousands words. I know they are looking for more members so why not try it instead of being bored or just hanging around?

If you have travel tokens (purple this year) and you have some left over perhaps you would consider donating them to Basingstoke Neighbourcare? They are a great group of people who help people in all sorts of ways, from taking them to hospital appointments, going round to sit and talk over a cup of tea, helping with shopping, and getting prescriptions for the housebound. Quite frankly I wonder how we as a society would manage without so many wonderful volunteers doing such vital work in our area. If you would like to volunteer you can contact Basingstoke Voluntary Services on 423822 or write to them at The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF or contact Popley Matters PO Box 6727, Basingstoke, RG24 9GG.

We are still in need for volunteers to deliver the Popley Matters especially in Falkland Road, Jersey and Guernsey, Melrose Walk. Merton Rise, Marnel Park and Elevate. If you can help for just half an hour a month you would be really welcomed by the rest of the Popley Matters Team. Please contact Iris King on 411113 or me on 819924.



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;

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More Volunteers Welcome

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Thank you for your continued support			

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Chloe's Column

Hello again I couldn't believe seeing my column in Popley Matters as lots of people read it and it was really exciting and quite embarrassing (especially with a friend of mine saying how proud she was of me!). I am genuinely pleased. The weather in Popley is getting really cold. It's been snowing but there is mostly ice. This is a bit of problem because it can cause accidents. My friend fell over whilst going to school. Although it was quite funny at the time and she wasn't hurt, someone could get hurt and we must all be cautious of the dangers of ice. Another problem at the moment is the bus service. It is too cold to walk and the buses either don't turn up or there are two at once. Something should be done (it's cold at the bus stop you know!). OK, well that's my moan of the month done. It's February and still as cold as ever, but will be



Valentine's Day soon so it might be nice to go out for a meal with loved ones to celebrate. If not, there are plenty of other things to do in your spare time although the weather outside is off-putting. The January sales are still on and it's worth going into town and seeing if there's anything good left there. Another idea for the month ahead is visiting a friend, or relative's house. You can have a good gossip and a chat and you will be inside in the warm. However, if you're not feeling up to that why not just stay

in? It's a chance to pamper yourself and catch up on anything you may have been meaning to do (perhaps a letter, or very early spring cleaning).

Or you could even do what I'm doing and write to Popley Matters as I'm sure they could use more writers or people to deliver the magazine. I hope everyone enjoys my column and has a good February.

Until the next issue,
Chloe

Popley People's Park

Developer's contributions totalling £122,367 have been received for open space and play from the development site at the junction of Aldermaston Road and Priestley Road. The reason for requesting the contributions is that as there was to be very limited open space and play provided within the site, a financial contribution by the developers should be taken to enhance existing facilities within the close vicinity of the new development. The Neighbourhood Park planned for Aldermaston Road Open space is close to the development site and it is intended that the money should be used towards implementing the first phase of improvements. The initial proposals went out to public consultation last summer at an event held in Melrose Hall, Popley and via local schools.

The first phase will be for a new safe access across the road on which other facilities hinge. Toddler and some junior play equipment and the zip-wire will be installed first. There will also be refurbishment of the existing street furniture and more benches. There will also be some changes to the grounds maintenance to create more interest and revitalise and enhance the wildlife areas.

The whole scheme for the park will cost in the region of £ 360,000 and further phases will be started as and when building continues in Merton Rise. I have asked that we are kept informed at each stage so that we can let you all know in your Popley Matters.

As many of you will know it has been a dream of mine since I moved into Popley 38 years ago, that we would have a family park that residents of all ages can enjoy. I am determined that we will have a park that we can be proud of. Popley Conservation Group have offered to work in partnership with the council to develop the nature area.

Thank you to the officers and consultants that have been working so hard to get us Popley Park.



The Friendly Cafe

The Friendly Café is just as the name says. It's friendly and welcoming. The café is run by Iris and Ann with a lot of help from Joan and Geoff. We make a great cup of tea or coffee and Iris makes a mouth watering bacon or sausage sandwich. We hold a weekly raffle that is run by June. The profits go back into occasional fish and chips lunches in the hall, lunches at The Beech Arms and outings. Last year we went to Monkey World and we all had a great day there. The previous year the highlight of the year was the trip to Exbury Gardens and some of us bought plants back. Our youngest is two years old and the oldest is 86 so all are welcome.

Why not pop in and give us a try. We are having a special "Open Day" on Monday 23rd February from 10 am to 3 pm. All young visitors will receive a cuddly toy and Mums and Dads a free cuppa.



Travel Tokens

PURPLE tokens are not valid after 31 March 2009.

Please DONATE any unused ones to a local charity that helps older people and the disabled.



Charity No 1067729

BASINGSTOKE NEIGHBOUR CARE would be happy to receive any PURPLE tokens not used.

Basingstoke NeighbourCare can provide transport to attend medical appointments (hospital, doctors, dentists, chiropodists etc).

Drop them into Melrose Community Centre, Abbey Rd or to Iris King 55 Tintern Close, Popley (tel 411113) before Wednesday 15 April 2009.

Alternatively contact Basingstoke NeighbourCare on

01256 423855 (Note new telephone number)

Letters to the Editor.



Dear Editor; You did not put the contact numbers in your last issue to have safety chains, spy holes or for the notices. Please could you put the numbers in this time as I did find out and contacted them? I now have a safety chain and spy hole fitted which makes me feel so much safer. I also have had the notice sent to me to say I do not buy at the door. I don't know if it is the sign on the door now or the cold miserable weather that has stopped salesmen knocking on doors but I have not had to go to the door to answer to these unwanted callers. Thank you.

Editor's reply; Sorry that was a silly mistake and here are the numbers for everyone for chain and spy hole call 01252771350. It is done by Southern Focus. The consumer direct on 08454040506 is the number for the not buying on the door. There are also notices for "no cold calling". I have a few of the "I do not buy goods at the door" notices if anyone wants one. Please contact me on 819924 or call at 405.Abbey Road.

Dear Editor; My friend who lives in Buckskin said the people who leave the blue bags that give you the impression that they are a charity have been around their estate. I expect it is only a matter of time before they are back in Popley. I thought you might want to warn people?

Editor's reply; Thankyou. Yes, it is a matter of choice but they are a profit making company, not a charity. If you look at the small print by the logo

that looks like a world globe and hands you will see it says company number not charity number. I prefer to send my items to Save the Children (via Iris King or Melrose Hall), or a charity shop.

Dear Editor; Why do the buses tear along the roads at excessive speed? It is especially dangerous on our estate roads. On 22nd January a neighbour's cat was run over. This in itself is distressing, but what if it had been a child? I travel occasionally by bus usually to town via Oakridge, but I now avoid it if I can. The journey often seems to throw you from side to side. When the buses hit the kerb it shakes all the passengers. What is it doing to the tyres, suspension or any mechanical part?

Editor's reply; I can only agree that a minority of drivers do not seem to think about passenger safety first. However, have the management set unrealistic schedules and profit before people? This is no excuse I know. Have other residents got complaints or compliments that they would like to let us know about?

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.





1st Popley Everest Scout Group

Meetings are held at St Gabriel's Church Hall, Tewkesbury Close.
Popley Way, Basingstoke.
Tuesday evenings, (term time only).



Boys and Girls 6-8 yrs
5pm - 6.15pm

Boys and Girls 8-10 1/2 yrs
6.30pm - 8.00pm

Boys and Girls 10 1/2-14 1/2 yrs
6.30pm - 9.00pm

Brigitte Cleall 01256 412307, John Talks 01256 414168
(cubs) Sarah Wallington 01256 325819



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Councillors Page: I went to the Open Day for stakeholders at Basingstoke Fire Station as I am on the management board for Hampshire Fire and Rescue. We were shown displays of many of the things they do, from cutting victims out of crashed cars to their work with youths, especially in Popley with the Princes Trust and Young Firefighters. There were County Councillors from across Hampshire and there were many very complimentary remarks made. It certainly made me feel proud.

As Paul has said in his Councillor report we went to the PSNT meeting. We heard about some burglaries and thefts from garages. Please be careful and make sure you lock up after yourselves. There is always a public meeting where residents can come and talk about any issues. You don't have to wait till then if you do have any concerns. You can phone 0845 0454545 and ask to speak to a beat officer, or you can talk to a Community Warden on 01256 845508 or call me on 819924.

Popley West: Good news at last with the play equipment to be erected in Marnel Park. By the time Popley Matters is delivered it should be nearly finished. It is just a shame that it took so long and a possible enforcement order to get it done. Cllr Jane Frankum and myself attended the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting where we discussed with other residents and agencies what the priority should be for the next three months in Popley. Priorities decided were in the Tesco Express (Carpenters Down), Jersey, Guernsey, and Trinidad and Tobago areas where there are antisocial problems for residents. There has also been an increase in burglaries and the police have mounted a special operation. By the time this article has reached you we may have had the Neighbourhood Watch meeting arranged for February 3rd to set up a scheme in Merton Rise. 70 residents have shown an interest in setting one up there. This is an excellent scheme and if any other residents want to be involved in their area call PC Paul Green on 844844.

You can contact me at 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL, or email cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or phone 01256 472496 or 819924.

Popley East: As we enter the New Year, the recession is starting to bite deep. I was very sorry to see Woolworths go, it once was the biggest store in Basingstoke taking up the whole of Chiswick House in the Town Centre. We've also lost the Farmers Market and this makes me fear for the future of the Saturday/Wednesday market, which has been going since the Domesday Book in 1086.

Against this backdrop, the Council should be doing all it can to help people. The Council Tax increase is expected to be in the region of 4%, but the Borough Council's component has risen by the greatest amount in 10 years. And fees and charges are also going to be hiked by an average of 10.4%, with 33% increases in burial charges, new charges for Sunday and evening parking, and a 100% increase in bulk collection charges.

A recession is no time to kick people in the teeth like this and I am ashamed that the Council I am a member of has decided to act in this way. There is no justification for these increases - the Council is the 3rd richest in the country and is in the enviable position of having 160m of investments tucked away.

Rest assured, I and your other Popley Councillors have voted against these huge increases and will continue to speak out against them.

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We are currently taking enquiries and bookings
For further information please contact 01256 464750

Julie's Gardening Tips

The really cold snap seems to be over for now. I know I have lost a few of the more tender plants I had left outside in previous winters, but that's what happens when we get a prolonged frost. The only thing to do is throw the plants away and get new ones.

I have some hyacinth bulbs in glass jars indoors which have been really slow to start rooting. That may be because the house has been too warm, or I didn't keep them in the dark long enough. They should flower in a couple of weeks though. Next autumn I will stick to my usual potted daffodils as they are much more reliable and also quicker to flower.

There are some good offers currently from seed companies that are worth checking out, both seed and young plants. And, now the sales are over, shops in town that stock garden items are getting their new season stock in, sometimes with special offers. Check them all out before making your purchases. Some seed companies are a lot cheaper than others yet sell the same variety, otherwise maybe try something new and save a few pennies.

We are all short of cash now, so make sure you get good value for money on everything you buy. Perhaps this year mix a few vegetables in the flower beds to save a little money on fresh food. You can't beat the taste of home-grown, and you know exactly what has been used on it. If you have left-over seed from last year, don't throw it away as it will most likely be fine again for this year as long as it has been kept cool and dry. If you can't find a use for it, then give it to a neighbour or friend.

I would normally have started my first lot of seeds by now, but the cold weather and cost of heating has put me off. It will probably work out cheaper this year to buy some bedding plants as seedlings as by the time they are available the weather will be a little warmer. The amount of plants I get for my money may well turn out higher. If you do decide to grow from seed, make sure you follow the instructions on the packet.

While you have the chance, finish cleaning off any garden equipment and sort out any rubbish from the shed and greenhouse too. If you haven't made your garden plan for this year, get it done soon if you want to stay organised. I say that, but as I am hoping to move house soon I will be taking the greenhouse down and stacking it in the garage until I can rebuild in the new garden. I am quite excited about it because I will have a blank canvas to start with, although that will mean less plants and more hard work for this season. I don't have a plan made as yet because I don't know for sure when the move will happen. I might start to write this section as a diary of how it goes at that point. I am sure I will have a few disasters as well as successes and maybe we can all learn a few lessons from my mistakes!

In the meantime, stay off the grass, be careful on green paths and do what you can indoors.



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Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

www.base2000.co.uk

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 Colin 01256410559



Congratulations to Daniel Blisset on achieving the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. This is the highest award a Beaver Scout can achieve and represents a lot of hard work and regular commitment. Well done Daniel. The award was presented by the District Commissioner, Andy Cullen. The colony raised £110 by completing 26 'good deeds' in response to the Cheeky Monkeys' Appeal for 'Children with Leukaemia'. Most of the colony attended Basingstoke East Districts Beavers' New Year Party at the end of January. At the start of the spring session the Beavers spent an evening having fun with magnets as part of the Experiment Activity Badge. The programme for the next few weeks will be aimed at completing both Experiment and Health and Fitness badges and achieving Outdoor and Friendship challenge awards. The colony is trying to build a link with a group of young people in Kenya as part of the 'friends in far-away places' requirement.

Some of the Cubs attended a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Haymarket. Recent meetings have been concerned with recycling in conjunction with visitors from the Borough Council Recycling Team. Currently the Cubs are filling 'smartie' tubes with loose change to raise money to help a group of young scouts in Africa. Other aspects of the programme include Personal Safety and Fitness Challenge Awards.

The Scout section's programme for the spring term includes a session of air rifle shooting, a 'sleepover' and a visit to RAF Odiham (operational duties permitting).

All sections are open to both boys and girls. Subscriptions are £1.50 per week payable weekly or termly as preferred. Give the appropriate section leader a ring or simply turn up for a free 'taster' evening to see what's on offer. 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. We are in the process of appointing a new Bookings Secretary so in the meantime please use bookings@base2000.co.uk or speak to Colin on 01256 410559. Thank you.



Boy and girls 6-8 years
Meetings: Tuesday 5.30-6.45p.m.
Eve Alexander 346510



Boys and girls aged 8-10½
Tuesday 6.30-8.15p.m.
Elaine Devenport 323453



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

Children and Young People in Care Need You

Jane fosters 14 year old Elliott who is challenging but always rewarding. For the past seven months she has been helping him to build his self confidence through a range of activities, including sailing. "To see improvements in his behaviour and the laughter and excitement in his eyes, especially after sailing, is my reward, and makes it all worthwhile – it is what fostering is all about," she said.

At any one time there are around 1,000 children in the care of the local authority with almost 700 currently living in foster families. Foster carers are highly valued members of the community and play a vital role in supporting children in care across Hampshire.

A bus campaign is currently underway across Hampshire acknowledging the excellent work our foster carers do but also encouraging those with an interest to find out more about the profession. Whilst the focus this year is on teenagers, the campaign hopes to recruit an additional 65 foster carers.

Commenting on the new campaign Councillor Patricia Banks, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Children and Families, said: "Fostering is all about making the lives and futures of children and young people better. If you enjoy working with young people please do contact us and find out more about fostering.

"There are different types of fostering. These range from providing vital respite care, emergency foster care, short term placements to providing long term placements, where a child will stay with you until they live independently. Whatever type you are interested in doing you can rest assured that it will make a real difference to a child or young person and their family."

Foster carers come from all walks of life. If you can take on the often challenging role of a foster carer, have the time and space in your life to care for a child, have an ability to understand how a child or young person feels when their life may not be going smoothly and enjoy being and working with children and young people, then fostering could be for you.

Full training and support is available as is an allowance to cover the cost of caring for the child or young person placed in your care. You will need to be able to work with children, their families, schools, therapists and social workers. Young people come into care for a variety of reasons and in most cases the aim is to get them back with their own families as soon as possible. Fostering can become a career with some foster carers undertaking further training; able to take on more challenging placements and therefore they attract a skills fee in recognition of their contribution.

If you would like to find out more call Hampshire County Council's foster line on 0845 6011895 or visit www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk.

STAYING INDEPENDENT AND AT HOME!

As people get older, many things they've always taken for granted can start to become more difficult. Getting out and about, getting jobs done, and just getting by can be increasingly challenging. For many older people having a little bit of support to get those every day things done can help them stay independent and remain an active member of the community in which they live.

Recognising the importance of that support, Hampshire County Council, the Primary Care Trust and local Councils for Voluntary Services have launched an innovative project aimed at supporting older people who are beginning to lose their independence and linking them back into their local community. Bringing together a team from health services, the voluntary sector and adult services the project can provide advice and support on a range of health and care issues as well as information on local activities such as lunch clubs, shopping trips and interest groups.

Under the project a Community Innovations team has been set up in Basingstoke and Deane, which serves the town, Overton and Oakley. Working closely with GP surgeries and voluntary/community organisations, the team can provide support in the form of a home visit to talk things through and suggest ways of making life easier. These might range from home adaptations making moving around the house easier, to information on local lunch clubs or social activities. Having talked things through, a member of the team will make the necessary arrangements to put the support in place and then keep in touch to enable them to happen.

The team is also linked to older people's groups and other organisations in the community. Through local charity Basingstoke Voluntary Services it is working with them to raise awareness of existing community services and help develop new initiatives where they're needed.

If you, or someone you know is beginning to find things more difficult and would benefit from some support, the Basingstoke Community Innovations Team would be happy to hear from you. Please contact Rachel Hall or Lisa Beadle on 01256 810532.

If you are an organisation that provides services or activities to older people in Popley, please contact Philippa Secretan at Basingstoke Voluntary Services on 01256 423828 or email psecretan@voluntaryservices.com so that we can promote your group.

For media enquiries please contact:

Louise Glyde

Media Communications Officer - Adults and Children's Services

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01962 847363

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WAS IT WORTH IT?

From my point of view, yes it was! Lee has done a fantastic job of setting up MFC Popley, but over the last six months things have really begun to change.

The club is so big now with almost 100 children and 10 management and coaching staff that we have made new appointments to ease some of Lee's stress.

We welcome firstly, **Damien McKeaveney** as our new club **Secretary**. Damien brings a wealth of knowledge to the club and is now a major contact for the club's paperwork including: sponsorship, transfers, complaints and day to day

running.

We also welcome **Claire Morris** as the club's **Welfare Officer**. Claire has been on several courses over the past few months and joins us to ensure fair play and conduct.

Of course she is also here to watch over the children.....and Managers for that matter!

I have become the club's **Treasurer** and now look after the finances in addition to running the Dynamos

We have promoted **Lee** to **Chairman**. Lee has enjoyed his new role and has not let it go to his head too much. Although we have still yet to hear the end of it!!!!

SEASON TO DATE

The weather has been a key factor and has, needless to say, been very disappointing. Over the last two months all the teams have really suffered. The Dynamos have only played two games in the last eight weeks and training has suffered also.

All the teams have done well so far with the U 12s improving every day.

The U 10s having cracking wins and good results in both Whirlwinds and Tornados, the U 9s – Spurs, having a good cup run and U 8s having not lost a game all season and nudging 100 goals already.

From a Manager's point of view, can I just say that we are all working hard towards achieving our own goals with our teams? We try hard to please everybody but we all make mistakes. If you do have a question or an idea then please feel free to ask.

We want your input too!!

NEW PLAYERS

As always, new players are welcome to join in and they don't have to be from Popley. We currently have children from all over Basingstoke. The club is gaining in reputation and players are slowly coming to us to improve their game.

We would also like to welcome **Denis Brittain** to the club. Denis joins us following a successful transfer from Sherborne FC.

I personally had the pleasure of meeting both Denis and his family last Sunday at the Cup game with the Tornados and Barton Rovers. Having refereed the game, I have to say that I was so impressed by the attitude and the way in which the Tornados play as a team. The result – 9-1 victory. On to the next round boys. WELL DONE!

This having been the first game for Denis, you would have thought he would stand out. Sure enough his reputation did not disappoint. For me alone, he was without doubt the Man of the Match. Not bad start at all Denis. WELL DONE!

On a final note I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Osh O'Shea** for all his hard work standing in and training the Dynamos, in my absence. Unfortunately I have been working for the last few months and have missed almost all the training. Osh has worked the boys very hard and they have continued to show good discipline and have respected all his decisions. Thank you Osh.....

Thanks for your support

Justin Taylor

Tel: Lee 07932213310

Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk



Pebbles now has some more new staff. Alison Tebbs is the Children's Centre Teacher who ensures quality of provision for all our activities. She will be visiting schools and nurseries and advising our Early Years Practitioners. Pam Verdon and Lisa Holmes are the Administrative Assistants and will be in Reception to meet you when you call into the Centre. Sue Giel, the Finance Officer is also in

Reception.



We are holding a holiday event during February Half Term on **Wednesday, 18th February**. This will be a **Messy Play Event**. This session is aimed at children under 8 years old and all children must be accompanied by an adult. It will be held from 10.00 to 12 noon at Popley Fields Community Centre. Places are limited for this event so to book your place please ring 01256 357028.

Our drop-in sessions are growing. We have a monthly Jobcentre Plus session which starts on Monday 2nd February. This can offer you help and advice on making or maintaining a benefit claim, job hunting and extra support, childcare, training and financial help.

We also have a Contraception and Sexual Health session. These run on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

We have two courses running at the present time – Understanding Behaviour for the 0 -5 year olds, and a Numeracy Course. Both courses are full and have waiting lists. We hope to run further courses soon.

Our English language course for speakers of other languages (ESOL) is going really well and with a waiting list already growing we will be continuing these sessions for anyone who needs them. We are also about to start a Nepalese group on a Friday morning.

We are open at the Centre from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm and can now offer internet access as well as a place to drop in and have a drink and meet our team.

Residents of multi occupancy dwellings or flats should be mindful not to grant entry to people via an entry phone system if they do not know them, and to be cautious of people seeking to 'tailgate' them into buildings.

The question is, are the occupants in?

- milk bottles or parcels on the doorstep
- newspapers and mail in the letter box
- unlit houses after dark
- all windows shut in very hot weather

These are signs telling the burglar that he is unlikely to be disturbed in the course of his work. Naturally, circumstances may arise when such situations may be unavoidable. If we can take measures that tell the burglar that this building is too difficult or too risky a target, he will hopefully move on.

Are you leaving a thief the key to your house?

- never leave a spare key concealed anywhere near the front door - burglars know all the hiding places
- prevent letterbox burglaries by storing keys away from the front door
- do not label your house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands.

Remove temptation

- where possible, try to keep valuables out of sight from windows.

Make it look as though your house is occupied

- install timers which switch lights or radios on and off automatically.
- have a neighbour or friend pop round to clear your letter box or doorstep.
- encourage a neighbour to park on your drive.
- if going out after dark, draw the curtains, leave some lights on and a radio playing.

If you are away for extended periods.

- cancel the delivery of milk and newspapers
- disconnect the telephone answering machine, or re-word your greeting message to give the impression that you are only temporarily unable to answer.
- enlist the help of a neighbour, friend or relative to keep a regular eye on your property and keep the front door clear of deliveries.
- if you are prepared to leave a key with a willing neighbour/relative, ask for curtains to be drawn and lights to be put on at night. If snow is on the ground a few footprints will make the house appear inhabited.
- check your insurance policy. Some insurance policies for contents don't cover you if you are away for more than 30 days.
- set your burglar alarm.
- if you do not have an alarm, consider investing a few pounds in a dummy alarm box. It may well deter the opportunist thief.

Phil Rapley

Police Community Support Officer **13284**
 Popley East SNT
 (T) 0845 045 45 45
 Internal Extension 626126
philip.rapley@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/basingstoke/town/Popley.htm





Dear Residents,

I hope you have had a good Christmas and New Year. Sadly some Popley residents have suffered from an increase in Dwelling Burglaries over Christmas and into the New Year. Some of which have been in this area.

Usually most areas do see an increase in Dwelling Burglaries over the festive period but we have been very unfortunate in the way these are continuing almost on a daily basis.

Over the coming weeks you will see an increase in Police presence. This is due to the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods team decision to use the area as part of Operation Nemesis.

Operation Nemesis is a force wide Operation designed to "shut out" burglaries in areas being constantly hit and to prevent further burglaries from occurring. The decision was made to do this in Popley as previously stated properties in your area are suffering.

Police, PCSOs, Community Wardens and ACSOs will be patrolling these areas throughout the day/night providing a highly visible presence which will hopefully prevent any burglaries occurring. The patrolling Officers may also speak with you about any obvious home security defects you may have if they see them.

Another key part of Operation Nemesis is that residents work closely with the Police to prevent burglaries occurring. Hampshire Constabulary is encouraging residents who see or hear anything suspicious to report it to 101 (non emergency number). By providing the Police this information we may be able to use it as intelligence which could catch the potential criminals or stop potential burglaries.

I would also like to take this opportunity to urge any residents who may have seen/heard anything over the festive period to come forward to the Police. Any information you may have could be vital so please call 0845 045 45 45.

Please read the home security advice below. This advice could be beneficial as it could prevent a burglary occurring at your property. I would urge you to take a few minutes in reading this.

Many thanks for your time.

Phil Rapley -
Police Community Support Officer 13284

Paul Thorne
Police Constable 23234

Burglary victims often wonder why the burglar picked on their house. To find out you need to consider:

"How does a burglar's mind work?"

Burglary, on the whole, is an opportunist crime. A burglar will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. A building that presents itself as unoccupied and insecure is far more likely to be targeted than one which is properly secured:

- side gates open
- accessible windows open
- ladders left out, allowing access to otherwise inaccessible windows
- garden tools available to force entry
- untrimmed hedges or high fences preventing natural surveillance

Each of these makes access to the building far simpler and is an indication to the prospective burglar that it's worth a second look.



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I am pleased to be able to tell you all that we have again this year entered into the South and South East In Bloom competition. Judging takes place in July so we will have a lot of work to do between now and then. Our plans for this year include a wild flower meadow, water butts and a compost heap to name but a few projects. Merton Junior School will be taking on one of our new beds,

designing and planting it as part of their curriculum studies. We will be starting our Gardening Club again soon so watch this space for dates and times if you want to be a part of our community garden.

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 5to10 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.**

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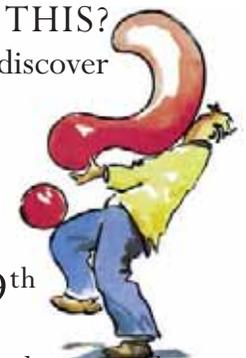
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Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way

Call 324734 for a free invitation or pop into the church and pick one up!

Managing your debts How the Citizens Advice Bureau can help



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.

As the credit crunch bites, keeping up repayments on credit cards and loans becomes more difficult. Many people manage debt well while they are employed-but with redundancies increasing, managing debt can become a problem. The Citizens Advice Bureau is seeing more and more clients who are having problems paying rent, mortgage payments and fuel bills. While we can't make your debts disappear, we may be able to help you manage them more efficiently.

There are two types of debt. Those which affect your home, essential services and your liberty are called **priority debts**. This means you could be evicted, repossessed or ultimately imprisoned if they aren't paid. This would include rent, mortgage payments, secured loans, some utility bills, your TV licence, council tax, court fines and CSA payments. These should be paid before anything else is paid, even if other creditors are calling you up or writing frequent letters.

Overdrafts, store cards, credit cards, unsecured loans, mobile phone bills and some utility bills are **non-priority debts**. It's unlikely you'll go to prison or lose your home for not paying these. Whatever money is left after priority debts have been paid should be used here.

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau helps hundreds of clients each year manage their finances. And though we're a charity, we won't charge you for it. First we review your current position and work out some options for you. These might be managing your debts, bankruptcy or possibly an IVA. We help you take any action needed to stave off an emergency. We look at increasing your income and cutting your expenditure. We work with Payplan, a debt management company who won't charge you for their services either. They can devise a plan in which they take one monthly payment from you and distribute it among your creditors.

For some clients, we can work out a debt management plan – working with your creditors to make payments affordable each month. We can help you consider the pros and cons of bankruptcy – and then help you fill out the forms. In rare circumstances, an IVA might be suitable for you, and Payplan can help you with that.

So if you're struggling under a mounting burden of debt, don't keep ignoring it. It won't go away. Come down to the CAB-our drop-in service is open 10am-3.30pm Monday-Friday (except Thursday, which is 9.30am-11.30am) and Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm. We'd be delighted to help.



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These properties are also advertised on a rental basis. Priority will be given to those applicants who wish to purchase the property.



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- ✓ Where possible, they should always be mounted on the ceiling not the walls as they don't work so effectively on the walls.
- ✓ Smoke alarms should be fitted at least 12 inches from walls, corners or light fittings.

Testing and Maintenance:

- ✓ You should test your alarm once a week by pressing and holding the test button until the alarm beeps for approx 2-3 seconds.
- ✓ Once every six months when vacuuming, use the nozzle to clean in and around the detector to remove dust and insects.
- ✓ If the smoke alarm beeps intermittently, this means that there is either a fault or the battery needs replacing (refer to manufacturer's manual).
- ✓ You should change the battery every year. Pick a date that's easy to remember, i.e. an anniversary or birthday.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809
Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

Diaries from The Old Codger

Well, what a start to the New Year. With this cold weather I hope you are all safe and well. Mind you, on saying that, plenty of colds and flu going around at the moment! Way back when I was a kid and you got flu or a cold my Grandfather would cook us eggs with God knows what in it. It was more of soup than scrambled eggs and he would make you eat the lot! Well I was the only one in my house that liked it. My Gran would stuff molasses or black treacle down you every day. No wonder I have bad arteries with that every day. I liked it but my sisters would run a mile. I hope I have not told you this story before, if so I am sorry. If I have, just put it down to my age. My Grandfather had greyhounds, two of them. He and Dad would take them over the marshes night and day training them and getting them to chase after a teddy bear tied on a bit of string. Dad would run or if my aunt was there, they made her do it. Boy could she run. Grandad would let the dogs off and after my aunt they would go. Grandad would also take the dogs swimming down Bow Creek, a real smelly little river. Mind you, there were some big eels in it. You could catch them with a bent pin, worms and a bamboo stick. When you hooked one you flicked it out onto the bank and chased after them. My Nan would cook them. Only Grandad, my uncle, dad plus me would eat them.

I digress, *again*, back to the dogs. West Ham had a dog track and Grandad and dad put them in a race. I don't know how many of you have seen a dog race but they put the dogs in boxes then send around what is meant to be a hare. It goes past the boxes, they let them out and the dog runs around the track to the finish line. So there were our two dogs in the boxes, the hare was off, the traps opened, our dogs flew out chasing the hare. But were they? No! They jumped over the fence across the inner track and out of the stadium lost forever. My Grandad and dad resigned themselves to this indignity. When they got home the two dogs were asleep on the door step, so that was the end of my families small try at dog racing, We decided to stick to the pigeon racing. I think they did it all wrong because I know today if I were to race them and change the hare for Her Indoors they would. No! I suppose not. They would run the other way, That would only be a dream. History lesson time; it is 2009. One hundred years ago old age pensions started in Britain; Bleriot made the first flight across the channel; Henry Ford started the mass production of the model T; and Peary reached the North Pole. What have we achieved and how far have we come since then! We have put men on the moon; sent space ships to Mars; we still climb Everest; go to the North and South Poles; but no one has yet managed to explore the deepest depths of the oceans on our own planet. You never know, one day soon they may find another specimen like Her Indoors. Ouch!

Keep well and keep safe
The Old Codger.



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Family prize bingo night

Don't forget to look out for our next family prize bingo night in March.

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. If you are in need of a winter wake up come and give it a go, 7.45pm -8.45pm.

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 4s 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 50s

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

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and under 12s children's parties all at very reasonable rates. Call now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the Centre every week.

Tel: 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com

News from Everest

Gamelan

This term, we are hosting a 'gamelan' and giving our students opportunities to learn about these beautifully decorative instruments. Our gamelan orchestra originally comes from Bali in Indonesia and is on loan from Hampshire Music Service. It consists of gongs, drums and metallophones of various sizes. During our workshops, students have been learning how to play several parts which range from very simple to fast and complicated. We are also hosting a number of other schools who have booked sessions with Andy Channing, Hampshire's gamelan expert.

In the Indonesian tradition, the gamelan is believed to have supernatural power with the instruments being guided by spirits. The music is gentle, repetitive and mesmerising. Gamelans are found in palaces, temples and theatres in Bali where the music is used to accompany ceremonies, dances and puppet shows

Anvil Visit

On the morning of Tuesday 13th January, 5 Year 10 students, who are particularly interested in the theatre, went to the Anvil to find out more about "what goes on behind the scenes". Under a speed networking arrangement, they spent 20 minutes with staff from the booking office, front of house, marketing, press relations, and sound and lighting. Practical activities included printing a ticket for themselves, operating the sound and lighting consoles and looking down on the stage from on high! One lucky student had the winning ticket and won themselves 2 tickets to a future show. The morning concluded with a delicious lunch.

Coming Up in February

5th February – the Intermediate Maths Challenge for Years 9, 10 and 11

10th February – Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Consultation

11th February – Year 11 Fashion Show

13th February – College closed to students for Staff Inset

13th - 20th February – College closed for half-term

Everest Community College

Dear Friends

After the dust of all the festivities has settled I would guess that as we settle into the routine of this new year what is uppermost in most people's minds is the continuing grim news on the economy. For many there is a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty about what the months ahead may bring. Each day we hear on the news of major companies reducing their work forces; house prices continuing to fall; and familiar names on the high street closing their doors for the final time.

Those anxieties are very real! Over the Christmas period I had many conversations with folk who were concerned for themselves and their families. It seems that the bedrock of our society – the banks, stock markets, retailers and large companies – that we once felt formed a solid foundation are not so secure and there is a sense of discovery that these things, if anything, seem to be built on sand. Even the politicians come across with a sense of hopelessness to halt the slide!

I believe strongly that our present situation is the consequence of buying into that free credit economy that we were all encouraged to do, for many to the point of obsession. It is inevitable therefore that at some time there would come a point of collapse and the fallout would touch all of us in some way to a greater or lesser extent.

Over the Christmas season many of St Gabriel's services were full! This is in part, due to those anxieties and the real desire to find where true bedrock lies. What foundation is there that cannot be shaken, that we can rely on in times of crises? Where is the hope for the future?

The Christian message is one of hope! The baby in the manger (Jesus) would grow to become the man who would hang on a cross for the sin of humankind and who would rise again from the dead and who has promised to return in all the glory of God. It is an unchanging, eternal message of hope for each and every one of us that has the capacity to sustain us whatever we face in our daily lives.

Beginning in February we will be running an Alpha Course at St Gabriel's. It's an opportunity for you to discover for yourself the hope that lies in the Christian message and the true bedrock and foundation of life. Please do feel free to come along or call me for more information. Let me close with these words I read recently:

Money can buy medicine, but it cannot buy health,
It can buy a house but not a home,
It can buy companionship but not friendship,
It can buy entertainment but not happiness,
It can buy food but not an appetite,
It can buy a bed but it cannot buy sleep,
It can buy a crucifix but not a Saviour
It can buy a good life but not eternal life!

Be blessed, Your friend and Vicar

Revd. Arthur.

PS please see our advert elsewhere in this issue for the Alpha Course.

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Traffic Calming. The December 2008 Parish Council meeting approved the purchase of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) as the most suitable traffic calming method for the A340 at both entrances to SSJ Village - as well as other locations such as Elm Road, Cranes Road and Vyne Road. The sign flashes back the car's speed to the driver - in red if they are speeding and green if not. Some guidance will be required from Basingstoke & Deane BC regarding final locations for the sign, and BDBC will be retained by the Parish Council to maintain the sign - checking the general condition of the unit, changing the batteries and moving it to different locations.

A340 Island Crossing Point. Following issue and consultation of the Hampshire CC plans for improving the crossing point at Sunnyside, a site meeting was held on 17th December to discuss options to lessen the impact on the row of cottages affected by the proposed works. HCC / BDBC and Parish Councillors along with local residents agreed a revised plan which we all hope will be in place before mid 2009.

Road and Footpath Maintenance. Current weather cycles have put added pressure on road and footpaths - please report all pot-holes and other damage to the local Hampshire CC / BDBC Offices, or to the **Clerk, Mrs Clover Morgan on 01256 851715.**

Piccolo Pre-School. The Parish Council is delighted that this local amenity is thriving, operating at the Chute Pavilion. The PC was pleased to approve and support the grant application (from BDBC) for a fenced play area to the east (left hand side) of the Chute Pavilion. This will provide a safer play area outside for the children.

2009/10 Precept. The 2009/10 Parish Precept was agreed in the sum of £38,000 - which will mean a small decrease in the household contribution relative to last year. Councillors are aware that the current economic downturn will reduce the value of grants available from both Hampshire CC and Basingstoke & Deane BC this year and next.

Bottle Bank. Local residents have questioned the timetable for re-installing a bottle bank in the Village; BDBC is very keen to re-introduce the bottle bank and suggest that there is an 'euro' style bin with a quieter lining. The Parish Council is awaiting more information and will need to be convinced of the improved noise levels - before commencing a **thorough consultation process** with all interested parties.

New Parish Councillor. The Parish Council is actively looking for a new Cllr for Merton Rise / Specklewood Rd / Marnel Park and hope to make an appointment soon. In the meantime, residents should realise that they are welcome members of the Parish.

Please don't forget our website - www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk. **Our next meeting is 7.30pm, Monday 23rd February in Sherborne St John Village Hall.** All are welcome!

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Happy New Year Popley!

David and I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to the 250 of you who attended Popley's Magic of Christmas event and helped to make it such a great success. We hope you all had a fantastic time.

We do however regret to start the year on this sad note, but we feel it is important that people are made aware of this serious issue. During the Christmas Holidays, Chineham Park School was targeted with acts of vandalism. The school has invested money to ensure that it is a pleasant place for children to learn and play. The people who have caused the criminal damage have cost the school many thousands of pounds in damages to the building and the grounds. The children who go to the school have drawn posters and written messages asking the vandals to stop hurting their school.

Your Community Wardens, along with Police and others, will be ensuring that time is spent in and around the school grounds and Chineham Park School will be a patrolling hotspot. This is also a priority for Popley Safer Neighborhood Team.

On a more positive note, David and I have been reviewing how we have met last year's aims and objectives and thought we would share some of them with you!

We spent a large proportion of our time patrolling in Popley, dealing with incidents and developing relationships with the community. We have patrolled to address your concerns and areas identified by the Police at Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings.

David and I have responded to a large number of calls to the warden office and to the 101 service. We did this by visiting people's homes and working with them to find solutions to their concerns. We aim to provide reassurance and liaise with; the Police

and our other partners including ACSOs; Sentinel and other housing associations; fire service; schools and local businesses; and many more.

David and I have built excellent working relationships with our partners and will ensure this continues through 2009.

One of mine and David's priorities is to improve the environment. We believe the most effective way to make changes is through education. The Community Warden team has been into the majority of the schools performing dangerous litter assemblies, reading stories related to litter and being responsible. We have organised a school grounds litter pick and we have spoken to young groups who have responded very well and been considerate of their surroundings.

David and I have taken a proactive approach to fly-tipping. The issue has decreased significantly in Popley and David and I plan to keep this to a minimum through education and approaching people directly to dispose of their waste in a responsible way.

VAS1 is an awareness scheme that is in place to keep people's vehicles and homes safe. David and I complete forms when we see valuables left in cars or windows left wide open. And we're pleased to say as residents you must be more safety conscious as we've not needed to complete a form for some time!

We aim to engage with young people and advise them to take advantage of the youth facilities available to them. We have organized, and been involved in, many events from; football days; Get With Summer Holiday Scheme, a Christmas pantomime; Popley Festival; Magnolia Court's visit to Everest Community College; half term activities; White Ribbon Day; school assemblies; and community meetings.

Another way we can help you is by visiting you at home. The aim of this is to reassure you and provide information on services available to you.

We look forward to meeting more of you in 2009 and helping to maintain the safety of the community for you.

Kind regards

Vikky and David

