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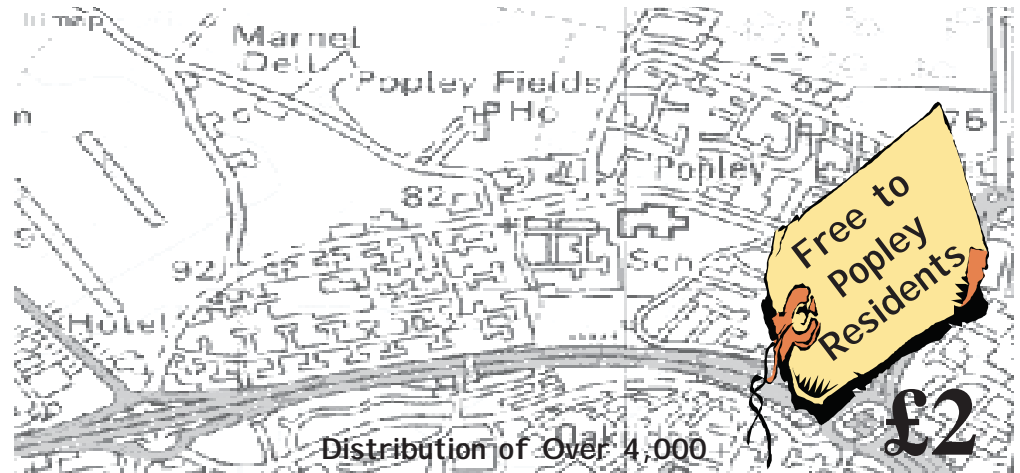
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

March 2009

Issue 85



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-03-09)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- Congratulations to John and Rose, how exciting after being told your sisters were dead to find them after 65 years alive and well. I heard it was a pretty amazing party you all celebrated. With the advent of the web and the good old Salvation Army many families are being reunited. But 65 years, now that's really something and it could not happen to a nicer couple.

Thank goodness all the really exceptional cold snowy and icy weather has gone, it was really hard for many people to get round, especially on the paths. The roads were a priority so pathways were pretty treacherous. Thank you to all the community minded people that I saw out there clearing pathways for their neighbours and I saw quite a few as I had to go to Chineham and Lytchpit.

On the Popley Matters Forum at www.popleymatters.org.uk it was lovely to read that Old Codge had seen so many varieties of birds including a Buzzard. It does make me think about the less fortunate, not only the birds and animals but the homeless and lonely. I was able to go home turn on my heating and get snug and warm with my nice hot cup of coffee.

On page 25 you will find an article about Communities and our Community Wardens. The present council want to make changes mostly in regard to changing the role and numbers of the Wardens. I have made no secret of how I value the work they do especially with the elderly and the youth, often being the only person who visit the most lonely and vulnerable gaining their trust, and then being able to help. They are not in police type uniforms because that is not their function. They are there to help and empower or community. If you have an opinion or just want to have your say please do read it and respond. You can phone you don't have to write long reports and opinions down.

You can always contact me on any article you read phone 819924, write Editor, Popley Matters, PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG, or 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9EL



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, P.O. Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, e-mail: 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; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;

Distribution Team: Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Colin Karlslake, Simon Leadbetter; Cathy Smith; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cockerill; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes Angus Miller; Elaine Dennis and Lisa Whitwell; Carole Whetton; Angie White; Maud Prowting; Jim Lowcock; Anne Marks; Joan Peach.

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Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau

An independent Charity serving the local community staffed mainly by unpaid volunteers supported by a very small team of paid staff.



Established in 1961 Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau is a problem-solving organisation focussed on the needs of our clients. We help people get fair treatment, and inform them of their rights we aim to empower the client so that they can help themselves, we also help with letters, complete forms, represent clients and negotiate on their behalf.

Citizen Advice Service

The Citizens Advice service provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. It values diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination.

The service aims:

- To provide the advice people need for the problems they face
- To improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Main Advice Areas

- Health & Community Care
- Consumer Goods & Services, Travel, Utilities
- Housing
- Employment
- Relationships & Family
- Benefits & Tax Credits
- Debt

Social Policy - Citizens Advice campaigns based on evidence collected locally by each bureau help the lives of people who may never have used the services of a Citizen Advice Bureau. Every day we complete Social Policy Evidence Forms on cases where there may have been an injustice or where there is unfair practice or law.

Recent local campaigns include

1. Charging Orders – putting homes at risk.
2. Minimum Pay for ethnic minorities
3. School Costs

Social Policy continues to be an effective influence in changing practices and law to the benefit of all of us.

Basingstoke CAB Outreach

Our outreach service in Popley operates on a Monday afternoon from 1pm-3:30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley.



The credit crunch is hitting us all hard, in many areas of our lives. Here's a short guide to how it might be affecting you, and how we can help.

JOB AT RISK – More and more people are being made redundant. If this is happening to you, there are laws governing what your employer can and can't do in these situations. If you have worked for your employer for two years, you should get statutory redundancy pay; your contract may state you are entitled to more, so always check it. If your employer asks you to reduce your hours, this is a variation to your contract and needs to be agreed by both sides. If you can't agree, seek advice, either from the CAB or your union rep.

CLAIM THE RIGHT BENEFITS – Many people at work don't claim their full benefit entitlement, because they don't know what it is. You may be entitled to Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, even Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. If you're not working, there are a range of benefits to be claimed, such as Job seeker's Allowance or Employment and support Allowance. You can claim them by phoning your local benefits office, or by going online to www.direct.gov.uk

DEAL WITH DEBT – here are some tips to help you cope with rising debt:

- Don't ignore the matter – talk to your creditors about your financial problems
- Get free advice – organisations like CAB can help you. Try our website www.adviceguide.org.uk for some help.
- Pay your priority debts first – these are debts that affect your home, your liberty, your fuel supply or goods on hire purchase, things like your mortgage or rent, your council tax and your utility bills.
- Pay what you can each month – work out what you've got coming in and what's going out, and what you can therefore afford to pay to creditors.
- Don't take out more credit – you will only get into more debt.
- Facing possession proceedings? Don't panic. Go to court and make yourself heard.

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau can help you with all these things, and a good first step is to check out the CAB website www.adviceguide.org.uk. We operate our drop-in service 10-3.30 Monday – Friday (except Thursday, which is 9.30 – 11.30) and Saturday mornings from 10-12. We can also offer appointments.

Collect your 2009 travel tokens now

Residents eligible for assisted travel will be collecting their travel tokens from venues across the borough over the next two months.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has set up 33 different distribution centres so that most people will be able to collect their tokens near to where they live.

The token allocation for this year is £53 per person. Of the borough's eligible residents, 75 per cent have selected the tokens option in preference to the national bus pass scheme.

The tokens supplement for residents who are disabled, who are in receipt of council tax or housing benefit, or are 75 years old or older is now £21.

To be eligible for assisted travel, residents must either be aged 60 or be a disabled person over five-years-old. Under the scheme, eligible people can opt to take either a national bus pass or travel tokens. The national bus pass offers free travel at any time within this borough and is available to all eligible local residents. Residents who chose the travel tokens option rather than the bus pass option received their renewal notices in January.

Disabled people, those over 75 years old and those living in rural areas are entitled to send their form back in the post so that their tokens can be posted.

All other eligible residents can collect their tokens at a venue near to where they live - usually a village hall or community centre. They can go to any issue centre to collect their tokens, but they must take their completed application form with them.

If a resident wants to nominate someone else to collect their tokens on their behalf, they can write a letter of authorisation advising the council of who this will be and attach it to their renewal form.

Cabinet member for Planning and Infrastructure Horace Mitchell said: "We have made the process as easy as possible. New applicants who bring along two forms of identity, confirming date of birth and residence, will be able to register for the first time. Anyone wishing to change from tokens to a bus pass can have the photographs needed for a bus pass taken at their nearest venue. Alternatively, they can send a passport-sized photograph back to the council along with their form."

All new bus pass requests will be sent out during the last week in March and are valid from 1st April 2009 until 31 March 2010. Existing bus pass applicants will not be sent an application form this year because their current bus pass will not expire until 31 March 2010.

Any existing bus pass applicant who is entitled to a travel token supplement, either because they are disabled, or receiving housing benefit or council tax benefit, will receive this by the end of February.

Anyone who misses the dates that a venue is open near to where they live will still be able to apply for their tokens at Parklands reception at the Civic Offices, but not before 6 April 2009.

People who apply later than July will only receive a proportion of the annual tokens allowance, depending upon exactly when they apply.



Pebbles Children's centre, Shakespeare Road
Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9BP

New evening courses now at Pebbles Children's Centre.

Understanding Behaviour in the under 5's Monday 6pm-8pm (5 week course) w/c 2nd March 2009

Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) Monday 6pm-8pm (8 week course) w/c 27th April 2009

Early booking is essential to avoid disappointment as limited spaces available

Call now to book your space on 01256 357028 or email pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk

Also coming soon is a **BRAND NEW SESSION** for all those parents who do not get any time for themselves! We'll look after your children while you chat and have fun with other parents – then for an hour we'll put on activities for you to do with your child. Sessions will be on **Mondays 12.30-2.30pm at Popley Fields**. Call the number above to find out more!

Little Pearls



Nursery

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.

Education grants are available for children from the first term following their 3rd birthday.

We can take up to 56 children aged from birth to 5 years and we are working in conjunction with the NCMA and local child minders to provide continuity of care.

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 bookings
For further information please contact 01256 464750

Julie's Gardening Tips

What a month we just had! I doubt any of us got chance to get out in the garden apart from to clear away the snow and ice. Try and avoid walking on lawn areas while it is frosty or covered in snow as it will kill areas of grass off and leave bare patches. I notice the shops are now gearing up for the summer season and gardening supplies are becoming easier to get hold of again. I was surprised to see seeds at 28p a pack in a supermarket near the fire station (I won't name them here), worth a look if you aren't looking for fancy varieties of anything. Take advantage of the special offers whenever you can even if you can't really do much work on the garden yet. It will save money and time later. This is where good early planning comes in useful! It is chaos in my house at the moment. Some of you will know that I don't currently live on Popley, but I will be moving back in the next couple of months, so I am gearing up to move. One of my children has also a new home on Popley, so it will be a 'home-coming' for us. We will both have blank canvasses for gardens, so will be quite excited to get down to planning what we are going to do with them. The only thing I will be sorry about is that I couldn't move earlier in the year as my greenhouse will not be put to full use this season. I will have to lay the hard-standing before I can rebuild it, which will make it too late to sow many seeds for myself this year. I will probably buy a few packs of small seedlings available each year in a town centre store, and order some from seed catalogues. A few of the seed companies give vouchers with their catalogues and give free seeds too, they are worth requesting as this could be another way to save a few pounds, and give you some ideas. I know I have said it before, but don't be tempted to sow seeds too early. The pack will tell you the earliest and latest suitable dates. The earlier dates are intended for warm greenhouses in most cases, and windowsills are not suitable until later as the light is not strong enough to stop the seedlings getting very tall and straggly. This makes them weak, and most will die off before you can put them outside. If you don't have a greenhouse, and don't want to grow seedlings indoors, check out the local car boot sales for plants. They will be much cheaper than garden centres and you will get the opportunity to chat to the grower which is always a bonus. Allotments are difficult to come by, but if you have the knowledge and time to spare, it is worth looking into. I imagine many of us will start to think about growing more vegetables but suitable garden space may be a problem. You can get half plots if a full one would be too much. Contact Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for more information. They will be able to tell you where there are available plots or how many are already on the waiting list for a site near your home. If you have the Internet, don't forget to visit the Popley Matters website forum where you can join in conversations on a huge variety of subjects, or start your own - we would love to hear from you. If you have gardening questions or wish to tell us about your successes and failures, you would be most welcome.



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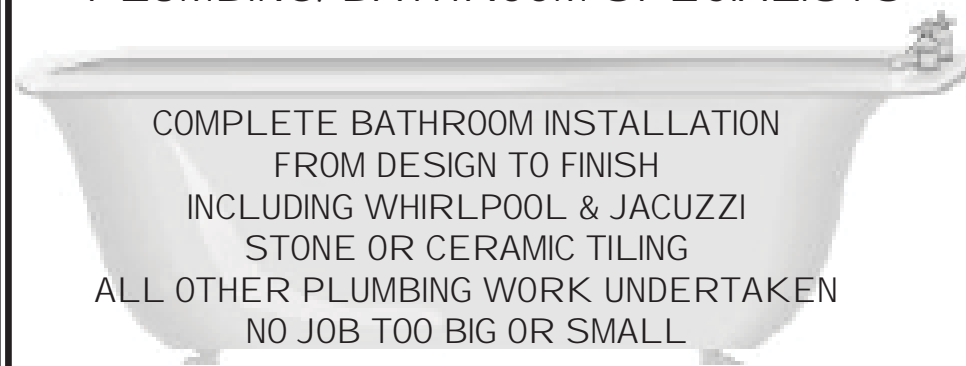
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Councillors Page: February saw the yearly budget setting meetings for the year ahead The Police increase was 4.8% Fire Service 3.6% Basingstoke and Deane 3.5% and the County Council 1.9% (HCC for the next two years) The County was set at 3.5 but with the recession it was felt that with prudence it could be reduced to 1.9% with no loss of services, some due to government grants. One of the things, we in the Labour Group asked, and got, was an extra half a million to be put in for repairs and damage done to the environment, mostly roads and paths, by the weather. It was the worst for 18 years so needs extra consideration. Much more needs doing to our paths as HCC are ranked the lowest in the country and this needs sorting now, and we have been told this will definitely be done.

Some good news, the temporary traffic lights and Electric company works in Popley Way should finally be going, then it's a case of clearing up and re landscaping. Aldermaston Roundabout is near completion. I hope we have some kind of ceremony to celebrate that it is done. As a victim of a car accident on that roundabout I hope it will be a lot safer to drive around?

I went to the Sherborne St John's Parish meeting, as I normally do, with the good news that I have identified there may be a safe route from the village to Everest College and into town for pedestrians. We have agreed to work together. My final good news is that Everest is now doing so well that it is over subscribed, our children will be getting an excellent chance of a better education. Contact me at 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL, email cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or phone 819924.

Popley West: I have requested a salt bin to cover the bungalows in Glastonbury, Melrose Hall and the Abbey Road shops as there is the vital Post Office and Pharmacy there. We did ask that Magnolia Court got salted in that awful weather, and it was done. Extra gritting was done on the priority roads in Popley, but with the exceptional weather it did not work as well as normal. The paths were treacherous and a nightmare for all who had to go out, but there was not the manpower to cover the many miles of paths if it happens again they must be better prepared. There are lessons to be learnt by all, whether its one year or twenty. Salt Bins can be requested by us Councillors so we will be doing our rounds to check where they may be needed and that they fit the criteria to request. There is a survey that everyone is invited to make their comments about changes to the Community Wardens you can write or phone. The details are in the local papers and here in Popley Matters.

The borough council increase for council tax was set at 3.8%. None of the Labour Councillors voted for this increase when we know there is some sixty (yes 60) million pounds in reserves. It would not have eaten into the base amount, what was needed to reduce or cancel a raise would have been covered by the interest.

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

Have you Say on the future of Community Wardens.

Residents are being urged to have their say on the future of community safety and development services in the borough as Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council considers proposed options for the service.

This is the second stage of a thorough review, which started in July last year.

Currently the council employs a team of eight community safety specialists, 20 staff in the community warden service and 10 community development specialists. Together they work in the community, and with the community, to tackle issues with anti-social behaviour and organise events to support the local people.

Among the options being considered are:

- Keeping the service the same
- Accrediting the current community wardens to give them enforcement powers
- Changing the role of the wardens to community development workers and funding a range of Hampshire County Council ACSOs (Accredited Community Support Officers) or Hampshire Constabulary PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers).

Three additional options will also be investigated:

- Continuing the existing warden scheme and adding additional community development staff
- A mix of wardens, ACSOs and PCSOs depending on need
- Community wardens tasked through intelligence rather than being based geographically.

Councillors, staff and people involved in community safety and development services have been invited to workshops to discuss the pros and cons of each of the options.

In addition, members of the public can have their say by logging onto the council's website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/review, emailing review@basingstoke.gov.uk, writing to Tricia Hughes, Head of Community Protection, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG24 9BE, calling the council's customer Contact Centre on 01256 844844 during office hours, or calling the review hot line on 01256 845429 and leaving a message.

The full list of options can be found at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/review, visiting the Civic Offices, calling 01256 844844 or emailing at review@basingstoke.gov.uk.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Development Cllr Clive Sanders said: "We need to ensure that the services we provide are right for residents' right across the borough.

"It is important to understand what the issues are and how we can work together to improve safety, however this does sometimes mean that we have to change the way we deliver services.

"We want your views on the options put forward so that they can form part of the final recommendations. The options are likely to vary as comments are taken on board, but will form a good basis for consideration."

All views need to be received by Wednesday 11 March so that officers can feed the responses into further recommendations.

A further report will go back to the Sustainable Communities Overview Committee on 1 April and then to Cabinet in May. A final decision is scheduled to be made in July by full council.

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Travel Tokens

PURPLE tokens are not valid after 31
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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 Road 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)

ADAM

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If you would like us to clean
your windows on a fortnightly or
monthly contract or Guttering and
cladding cleaned
please ring one of these numbers

- 07810 286470
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- 01256 478058

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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



Hampshire representatives on UK Youth Parliament

Six new county representatives will take their seats on UK Youth Parliament for the coming year.

Young people from Hampshire schools and youth centres cast their vote in the November 2008 elections with some making use of an online voting facility. The interest in the position of Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) was overwhelming with over 50 young people expressing an interest in standing. 26 candidates stood for the six available seats.

The successful candidates who take up their posts this month representing their peers are:

- Hart & Rushmoor: Flo Simons, 13, from Robert Mays School
- Basingstoke & Test Valley North: Callum Nicolson, 13, Testbourne School
- New Forest & Test Valley South: Alex Armstrong, 18, Brockenhurst College
- Eastleigh & Winchester: James Troup, 13, Swanmore College of Technology
- Fareham & Gosport: Erika Sillence, 15, Cams Hill School
- Havant & East Hants: Jack Sheeran, 13, Ditcham Park

Each new MYP supported by a deputy

Each new MYP will be supported by a deputy, and both will spend the year working closely with representatives from Hampshire County Youth Council to consult with young people in their local area on issues that affect them.

The first duty for the new MYPs, was to meet with the outgoing MYPs for a hand-over meeting, to listen and learn from their experiences. In March there will be some training to undertake. The new MYPs will attend regional meetings of the UK Youth Parliament and an annual sitting in the summer holiday. They will also attend a monthly Hampshire County Youth Council meeting, where they will be able to gain wider feedback and information.

This will be an exciting opportunity

Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Children's Services, Councillor David Kirk, said:

"Congratulations to the six new members of the Youth Parliament. This will be an exciting opportunity for them to represent their peers and learn more about democracy and decision making. Hampshire County Council is always eager for young people to get involved in the democratic process and make their voices heard about issues which affect them. I look forward to hearing about their progress."

To contact your local MYP or for further information on the UKYP please contact Lynne Meechan on 01962 845312 or e-mail lynne.meechan@hants.gov.uk

The Beavers have been looking towards 'Health and Fitness' and 'Healthy Eating' this month. After a six minutes 'training routine' with three different activities one evening, I think even the Beavers realised they were not as fit as they thought and the leaders were exhausted! However, practice makes perfect and everyone has decided to work a bit harder on their fitness levels in future. Three Beavers are very close to completing their Chief Scout's Bronze Award so watch this space! If there are any 6-8 year old's out there who want to join get mum or dad to call me.

The Cubs have concentrated on Global Challenge with 'visits' to Holland, a speaker from Swaziland and a visit to Peter's the Chinese Take-away in Popley for a full range of Chinese delicacies complete with chopsticks. Many thanks Peter for your help with this one - we are most grateful. Four cubs took part in the annual District Cub Scout Chess Competition. Sadly, none reached the semi-finals this year but they enjoyed the experience and met up with other cub scouts from around the District!

Coming up for the scout section is the County Scouts Winter Camp at Ferny Crofts, Six-a-side football and the Inter-Troop County Cooking competition. The latter has an unusual twist this year in that it is open to teams of Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Guides and required contestants to source and use only 'fair trade' ingredients.

New recruits are welcome in all sections. Give the appropriate section leader a ring or simply turn up for a free 'taster' evening to see what's on offer. Subscriptions are £1.50 per week payable weekly or per term 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.

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Pete Saunders on 22nd January. He had been a long-time supporter of the Air Scout Group and latterly took charge of booking arrangements for Base 2000 a job which he continued to carry out with great diligence until a just few days before his death. The leaders arranged a reception for family and guest after his funeral. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Jan and his family at this sad time.

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 nonprofit 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 5:30-6:45pm
Eve Alexander 346510

Page 6



Boys and girls aged 8-10½
Tuesday 6:30-8:15pm
Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9pm
Colin Karlake 410559



Dear Residents,

One of the biggest talking points over the last month has been the weather and it has affected us just as much as it has affected you. With the adverse weather brings added problems for the emergency services. Apart from the obvious problems on the roads, it brings an added dimension on a local level. Even we struggled to make it into work on some days. Due to the state of the local pathways and roads we were unable to use our bikes

that many of you normally see us on. Instead we were walking the beat which actually brought a welcome break. We ended up dealing with nuisance youths throwing snowballs anywhere and everywhere. Thankfully I am not aware of any major damage caused and the majority of youths were well behaved as they often are. It is, as usual, just the minority that spoil it for the rest. Walking the beat with the snow was a more pleasurable experience than I thought it would be. The few that dared to venture out were very good humoured and looking back I rather enjoyed the snow.

Many of you will be well aware of the Constabulary's operation to combat burglaries, Operation NEMISIS. We have been heavily involved with the operation in Popley. We had a spate of burglaries before Christmas but thanks to our hard work and some pro-active arrests from PC THORNE and other officers burglaries in the area have dropped off significantly in the last 2 months. I would still remind you to be vigilante and report any suspicious activity no matter how minor you think it is. Remember if it doesn't seem right it probably isn't and we will be more than happy to respond. If you still have last months copy of the magazine, please remember PCSO RAPLEY's advice about home security.

Myself and PCSO RAPLEY recently attended Everest Community College to deliver that FAKE initiative with a colleague from the Constabulary's firearms section. FAKE means Firearm And Knife Education. It is an initiative that sees us go into schools throughout the county and deliver a presentation to students about the dangers of carrying firearm, imitation firearms and knives. Everest is the first school in Basingstoke to receive the presentation. Popley and Basingstoke as a whole, thankfully does not have a major problem with gun and knife crime. A lot of the fear of gun and knife crime comes from the media. The presentation is mainly aimed at the problems carrying an imitation firearm can cause this includes "BB" guns. If you have a son or daughter that owns an imitation firearm I would urge you to break it up and bin it or alternatively hand it into the station. The students took on board the information very well. It was a very good opportunity for me and Phil to get into the school and speak to every child at the school. We also conducted a walk around at lunch time. The students behaved extremely well throughout the day. From what I have seen since the school opened it is an absolute credit to Popley and reflects extremely well on the community it serves.

Regards,

PCSO STEVEN SMITH 13324



A big congratulations to the U12's Rangers who finally got their first win of the season against AFC Aldermaston with a 5-2 win, after the game Danny said that he had forgotten to give the man of the match result, but personally I think they all deserved it. Well done boys!

Jonathan Page and Big Joe Mulcachy stole the show, not to take it away from the rest of the team, but the two wingers were outstanding. Reece in goal makes a massive difference to the team and, with him there it gives the boys a major confidence boost. Jack Prince looks

very comfortable at the back and with Shane they look very impressive. Don't let the opposing strikers through without a battle (Jack should go into acting though, faking a back problem because he was shattered, bless him) The boys have been working hard in training with Danny, but once again there are still players who let the side down by just turning up when they feel like it.

The Tornadoes played against Barton Rovers in the quarter final of the league cup with a very impressive 9-1 win over the favourites. It was a bit intense in the first 10 minutes with both sides coming close, Kallum was in form and had to be as Barton were definitely the best side we had come across all season, unfortunately for them they had come up against Jacob, Fynnlie, Gaiyain, Denis, Cameron, Jack, Ellie and Kallum in prime form. With an outstanding performance from Jacob and Fynnlie who both scored hat-tricks, Gaiyain scored two and on his debut! Denis scored his first goal for his new team (man of the match) EXCELLENT!

The Tornadoes played against Andover New St A, and once again showed some great team work to outclass the opposition with a 5-0 win. Jack Parratt was man of the match with an outstanding performance at the back, mopping everything up that came through (we need to work on how to head the ball though Jack). He anticipated every ball, beating the opposing player and not panicking to distribute the ball to one of his team mates. Aldermaston were top of the league, but had six games in hand over us. Just a quick mention about Fyn's, Eric Cantona goal, Legend!

The Spurs U9's drew 2-2 with Alfie Mitchell scoring both goals (more of an update next month on the Spurs)

For some videos of MFC Popley teams playing, checkout www.youtube.com, just type in MFC Popley.

Thanks for your support.

Lee Austen.

Any info, Contact: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

Lee Austen/Director of football, U6's & U10's
07932213310

Justin Taylor/Treasurer, U8's 07876684981

Kevin Rush U9's, 07946179677

Daniel Oates U12's, 07765341679

Damien Mckeaveney/Secretary 07918706153

Claire Morris/Welfare officer 07786514548

Paul Forder/Rules & Regs coordinator/U10's
07825733688

PUT YOUR MARK ON PEBBLES!!

Help us design and make a mosaic mural for our Centre to be unveiled at the Official Opening. Ring us to book a place with your child (under 5). Sessions will be held weekly in March.

GRAND OPENING AND OPEN MORNING
THURSDAY, 9 APRIL
9.30AM - 1.00PM

The Right Honourable Maria Miller
Member of Parliament for Basingstoke
will be present to officially open the Centre



Pebbles Children's Centre provides Family Sessions where parents can share a range of activities with their babies and small children in a safe and relaxed environment.



Brenda Watson is the Centre's Family Support Outreach Worker: I am here to support families with children aged between 0 and 5. I have had four children of my own and recently became a grandma. I have had many years experience of the issues that can arise and am here to listen and respond to the needs of the families in Popley and surrounding areas. My work experience covers working with children from 0 to 18 having been a youth worker, netball coach, after school club coordinator and organiser of an extensive youth programme and Family Learning Curriculum. Since I started work at Pebbles I have enjoyed meeting many new faces and getting to meet people who can help us create a happy, friendly environment in which to bring up children.

Diaries from The Old Codger



We have had some very unusual weather, or have we? I know in the South years ago we had up to four feet in places. That's without drifting snow. All us kids went on all kinds of things that we could use as a sledge. I can remember using an old oil drum cut down, mind you the amount of cuts we got from the edges of them plus, you needed to balance inside or over it went. We overcame it by putting on stabilisers each side. The snow, back then as kids, seemed to last for ages and, we had great fun. We never had washing machines or tumble dryers then, so mum was not too pleased. I saw all the kids out sliding down the Dell they were having a great time. I felt like going to get Her Indoors to use as a sledge but I don't think she would have been too pleased. I could have ended up as a snowman in the back garden. Talking of the garden, what a great time I have had watching all the birds, Pied Wagtails and Grey Wagtails. Every day I raked off a large patch of snow and put feed out for the birds that do not go on feeders. Some need different foods to eat to give them a fighting chance to get through the winter, even our little Wren comes in. The crowning glory of my year of bird watching was that for the first time in years I saw a Buzzard land on top of the Beech trees just up the road. I was too slow to photograph this wonderful bird before it flapped its wings once and was off, with very little effort in the beats of its wings. I have been surprised at the amount of different birds this year in built up areas. To me it shows how much of their natural habitat has been destroyed by building of new homes, shrubs pulled out in the name of progress, they were here long before we were but as usual with us humans we seem to destroy rather than save. This has gone on from when man could stand up and walk. Yes we do have small groups of conservationists their main aim is for clearing out old scrubs and planting grasses and ponds maintenances. We need more people erecting nest sites, Again, I go back to that all the schools could help in this. Popley Matters goes out to around 4000 homes. I am sure that many retired people out there would be willing to make nest boxes for the Popley area? Even other parts of the town could benefit if they were to buy them from us. I am sure timber firms in the area would be only too pleased to donate wood scrap. How many of us have timber sitting around at home? I don't mean the fibre boards as that rots if it rains, but good old fashion bits of wood, like Her Indoors, well seasoned. Till next time.....

The Old Codger.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133
popleyfields@hotmail.com

Popley Festival 2009

As usual this will take place on the 3rd Sunday in May 11pm-4pm. Anyone interested in booking a stall for their organisation/Charity will need to contact the centre to get a booking form.

Youth club volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to help us on Monday nights, anyone interested please contact Tracey at the telephone number below for more information.

Family prize bingo night

This will be on Friday 20th March. Doors open at 6.00pm, eyes down at 7.00pm

As usual there is a licensed bar, food and raffle, as well as a chance to win some great prizes in the bingo.

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

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 10.15am-11.15am and speak to Cathy.

Silver wings 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

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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

<http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/Adverts/Peters.pdf>



A Clairvoyant Evening is being held on Saturday 28th March at 7.45pm, doors open at 7.00pm.

Tickets are £5.50 which includes a cup of tea/coffee. For more information and tickets ring Gloria on 07548779942 all are welcome.

A Family prize bingo night is being held at Popley Fields Community Association on 20th March doors open 6.00pm eyes down 7.00pm, fun for all the family, refreshments will be served.

Do you want to get fit? We are looking to start up an exercise class Thursdays 12pm-1pm, please phone the office to register your interest. This will only go ahead if we have sufficient interest.

What's 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: 9.30-12pm Friendly Café
- FRI DAY: 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 Keeble 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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SHERBORNE ST. JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

As I write this report there is still snow on the ground in Sherborne St John. The harsh weather took many of us by surprise and our pavements and side roads have been extremely slippery and dangerous. The freezing weather resulted in black ice at the entrance to the Chute recreation ground car park. The Parish Council have ordered a permanent gritting salt bin for this location and once in place will request that Hampshire County Council (HCC) replenish this bin and the one in Dancers Meadow.

Despite the additional concerns for immediate friends and family during the big freeze it was good to hear stories of parishioners making regular contact with their retired and less able neighbours, ensuring they were warm and well supplied. Thanks to all those who made special efforts to help those around them.

The Parish Council are concerned for the safety of school children who make their way on foot to Everest Community College as there have been reports of children using a slippery grass bank which runs alongside Chineham Lane to access a footpath. The clerk has written to HCC, BDBC and the school to highlight this potential danger.

Three quotes for the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device have been received. Typically, each quote is different and difficult to compare in order to recommend the best choice. In view of the importance of this equipment and the cost involved councillor Ashley has offered to investigate further with a view to making a recommendation at the next meeting.

The old notice board attached to the wall in the village square is long due for replacement. However we have had difficulty procuring a suitable alternative due to the depth of a standard notice board and constraints of a narrow pavement. The Clerk has approached a local carpenter to design and make a replacement instead.

We continue to chase the authorities to attend to the drains and gullies at Dancers Meadow and Vidlers Farm. The Clerk has also pointed out the considerable dangers from speeding cars and pot holes on Chineham Lane but to date (mid February) no response from HCC has been received.

Following a request for 'low step' buses at the December Open Forum the bus company advised that from the second week in January most buses will be 'low step' – with the occasional double-decker. Please let us know if this is not the case.

There have been more complaints of dogs fouling the entrance to the Church Path cemetery. The Parish Council is installing an oak fence and double gates to close the gap to the cemetery by the end of March. The lychgate will be completed with a roof over the gates during the next financial year. It is intended that the design and materials will compliment the existing lychgate at the entrance to the church graveyard.

Mark Smith our village bobby has advised us that he will be retiring at the end of February. He was unable to confirm the name of his replacement. Our thanks to Mark for his hard work and efforts on behalf of our community helping to keep Sherborne St. John a safe place to live. *Chris Cooke, Vice Chairman*



People power comes to Popley Poets

Work to set up a residents' group for the Popley Poets is underway.

Sentinel Housing Association has teamed up with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to gather ideas on further initiatives that improve the quality of life on the Poets estate.

The idea is that Sentinel and the council will help local residents who feel passionate about their area to receive training and support to get a group up and running to try and tackle local problems.

For example, Sentinel is investing £17,000 in the open space area off Wordsworth Road, and residents recently requested new play equipment, better lighting, new benches, and a trim for some of the trees to brighten up the area. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council are now developing these further.

With the new £15m regeneration of Longfellow Parade due to complete in 2010, and the new shops soon to open in Shakespeare Road, the opportunity will be for everyone living there - not just Sentinel residents, but homeowners and private renters too.

Sentinel and the Council are organising an event in March to get the ball rolling, with a view to launching a Popley Poets Resident Group in the spring.

If you're interested, keep an eye out for a leaflet with details on the first meeting in the next couple of weeks.

For more information, please contact Sentinel's Richard Pilbeam on 0800 195 5515.



Over 55s Forum

The next Open Forum meeting of the Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum will be held on Wednesday 15th April at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. Guest speakers will be Niels Dagless from Lamb Brooks Solicitors talking on neighbour disputes and nuisance. Samaritans talking about origins and development of the Samaritans. The third to be arranged to be CAB or Alex Burns from HCC.

In conjunction with Hampshire Trading Standards we are staging a show called "Too Good to be True" a Scambuster Musical on Friday 6th March 2009 admission FREE. with tea & coffee after the show.(Tickets from Gerald.)

My Music & Dance concert fund raising for Prostate Cancer equipment for the Hospital will be on Sunday 26th April at Queen Mary College 2pm to 5pm. I am trying to get sponsorship at the moment, so ticket price will be notified to you soon.









Forum members renewals are now due and should be paid by the end of February, new members are always welcome. Contact Gerald. 01256 412119 or 07792535116.

Our Carnival Chorus singing group are going from strength to strength , we have 58 members,we could do with more men! Anyone interested in joining and keeping healthy please contact Marian Wilson on 01256 462877 or turn up at the Carnival Hall every Tuesday 1.30pm to 3pm.

Home Electrical Safety.

In most homes today you will find a huge selection of electrical equipment such as TVs, DVD players, Stereos and Computers to name a few. If these items are not designed to be left switched on (i.e. Fridge, freezers etc), always switch them off last thing at night, don't leave Televisions, stereos on standby.

Do not overload electrical sockets and ensure that all plugs are fitted with the correctly rated fuse.

-  When buying electrical garden or DIY tools, look for the British Standard kite mark.
-  Check cables and flexes regularly for frays, kinks and bared wires.
-  Check plugs to make sure they are firmly wired and not damaged.
-  Replace damaged flex or plugs.
-  Use a Residual Current Device (RCD) or Power Breaker on all appliances.
-  Fully unwind extension leads before use.
-  Do not overload plug sockets.
-  Isolate electrics before changing bulbs or cleaning appliances etc.

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



SIGHT DAY '09

Basingstoke's only exhibition for promoting independent living aids for the blind, and visually impaired.

FREE admission, all welcome

Friday 6th March 2009

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down, Basingstoke.

11am till 2.30pm

Come along to SIGHT DAY, and find out just what products are available to help make life that little bit easier!

Talking calculators, Accessible computers & games, Braille products, Information & advice, Talking clocks, Talking Thermometers, plus much more.

For more information please contact Blink Fund-raising Tel: 01256 – 419460

Or check out: www.blinkfundraising.co.uk



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



Merton Junior School

We are nearly half way through February and we are working really hard and are looking forward to the New Year.

In years five and six we are learning all about St Lucia. In English we have been reading a story called Emerald Blue. It is about hurricanes and how people are affected by them, and we have enjoyed it.

Currently in years three and four the children are comparing Basingstoke with Overton. They are looking forward to visiting Overton and Festival Place later this month.



As school Councillors we are pleased that the bulbs we bought last term are being planted by class seven.

Since our new Head Teacher arrived in September there have been many exciting changes. One was the way the School Council was elected. We had a proper ballot box and voting slips and people from Basingstoke Council came and helped us with the elections. We were

all pleased to be voted by our classmates to represent them.

Just before Christmas we hired a skip and threw out all the old furniture and we can't wait to get the new cupboards and drawers.

We hope to send more news from Merton Junior School to let you know what is happening here.

Liam Wright and Leah Love
Year 5 school councillors

Merton Rise and the “Credit Crunch” - Update

As we approach the end of the outline planning consents for these sites (I can hardly believe that 5 years has gone by...), it seems timely to provide you with a further update on the County Council’s flagship project.

Since the opening of Everest Community College in 2007, we have continued to make good progress implementing the advance servicing and highways arrangements, and the completion of the final part of the Spine Road is programmed for April this year. In addition, two of the strategic park areas within Merton Rise have been completed, with the play equipped area adjoining the first phase of housing located on Banbury Way has been opened and will shortly transfer to the Borough Council for future management/maintenance.

However, the observant amongst you will have notice that progress on the wider development has slowed down. The problems occurring in the wider economy and the decline in the housing have made it difficult to achieve development of an appropriate quality. Potential purchasers have either withdrawn altogether or significantly reduced their financial offers to unacceptable levels. At a meeting last month, County Council Members agreed that it would not proceed on the basis of heavily discounted bids and that in the short term it would not proceed with the sale of any further phases of development on Merton Rise.

The consequences of this decision are many and varied but may include the need for a new planning and disposal strategy for the site that would allow marketing to re-commence when housing market shows some sign of recovery. In the short term there will be no further houses built on Merton Rise beyond those under construction by Miller Homes and Taylor Wimpey in Phase 1.

Although this is an inevitable outcome of the economic downturn, it is still incredibly disappointing given all of the hard work undertaken to date and also the local community expectations of new housing and other facilities being available. On the positive side, when the housing market does recover the site is “ready to go” as all of the servicing works will be completed, and

all of the necessary site investigations have now been undertaken.

In the meantime, many of you will be wonder how we intend to secure the site. Until further notice we do not intend to open up any more of the Spine Road to public use. This means there will no link from Don Allen Drive either to the A340 or through to Banbury Way. Whilst this may frustrating for some, this strategy is intended to prevent further itinerant occupation similar to that experienced last year. We will also be installing appropriate fencing and/or bunding along the most vulnerable boundaries of the site, to prevent either vehicular access or to discourage access into the site on foot.

Given this change of direction for the project, we are taking time to “take stock” and I would hope to be able to provide you with a more positive update later in the year once we have concluded discussions with the Borough Council and also had the opportunity to assess the timing of a market recovery.

Louise Hague
Merton Rise Project Manager

Stroke: Act F.A.S.T.

The Stroke: Act F.A.S.T. awareness campaign aims to educate health care professionals and the public on the signs of stroke and that prompt emergency treatment can reduce the risk of death and disability. It encourages people to recognise the signs of stroke and feel confident to phone 999 for an ambulance on detecting any single one of them. Emergency action is as important for TIA (Transient Ischaemic Attack) or ‘mini-strokes’.

When a stroke strikes act F.A.S.T.:

Facial weakness - can the person smile? Has their mouth or eye drooped?
Arm weakness - can the person raise both arms?
Speech problems - can the person speak clearly and understand what you say?
Time to call 999 for an ambulance if you spot any one of these signs.