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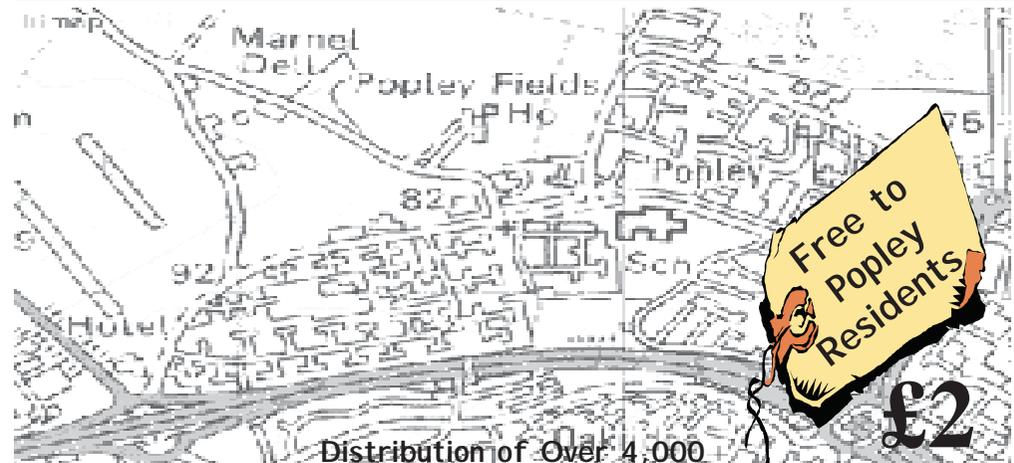
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2009

Issue 86



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-04-09)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- With the warmer weather came the travellers and they encamped on the site in front of Everest College. As usual they came at the weekend but by first thing Monday morning they were visited by officials and the process to remove them started. The gates were not left secure by the builders and action by them needs to be taken. Luckily it did not interfere with the football event at Everest as there were primary age children who had come from miles around to enjoy this event. I hope we can have an article next

month on this special event.

I wonder what you will all be doing this Easter? I think it depends on the weather most of the time. There used to be Easter Egg hunts all over the borough but I have only heard of one in Highclere Castle. I can't wait till we get started on the new park in Aldermaston Open Space. I have been working and saying how much we need a good sized and well resourced park for so many, many years. Popley Festival is getting nearer and it will be next month on Sunday 17th May. I love going to the festival and meeting so many of my friends and neighbours. The amount of work by volunteers it takes every year amazes me, and there is always something new.

I know it's boring but we do really need a few more volunteers to deliver your Popley Matters especially in Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Abbey Road.

We also have some space for more advertisements so if you want to get the word out to the 4,000 homes in Popley, just give me a call on 819924 or 07974098131.



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.

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Chloe's column



Hello readers, I am glad that I can write my column for April. Sorry that I could not write in a column last month, my internet broke down temporarily which really annoyed me because I like writing for Popley Matters. I think an issue for this month is that there is not a lot to do around Popley for adults, children or families. With the Easter holidays coming up there should be more to do for free or not too expensive like

some Easter activities or something along those lines as we are in the Credit Crunch at the moment. Also it does not help that more shops are closing down by the minute (where do we shop now?) Looking back at last month we had Comic Relief and raised lots of money for charity which is good because you can



have fun and be doing something good for the world (I hope everyone bought a red nose!) At Everest the children in year 7, 8 and 9 did some sports and running for Comic Relief and the older years had a Comic Relief assembly. Other schools did things like non school uniform days. It was also Mothers

day last month so I am hoping everyone had a good time and gave their mum something nice. (hi mum!!!) But moving on to this month it will be Easter soon and There should be some Easter activities to do over the holidays. There is a Easter Egg Hunt in Festival Place which should be great for kids and their parents. Easter is also a nice time because we don't have to go to school and it is a very sweet holiday (get it?) It should also be nicer outside because it is now officially spring so it might be a nice idea to go out in the good weather and enjoy it. I hope you all have a great Easter and don't eat too much chocolate.

Till next issue,
Chloe.

popley festival

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down

Sunday 17th May 2009

11am—4pm



- Fairground
- Arena
- Live Stage
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- Barbecue
- Ethnic Food
- Free Running
- Archery
- Donkey Rides

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cars £7 with trailers £10 vans £15

Charity Stalls £5 Other stalls £P.O.A



For more information call: 01256 414494
or e-mail: popleyfields@hotmail.com

Love sport? But find most too strenuous?

Then why not try green bowling?

Marnel Bowling Club in Carpenters Down are looking to take on new members for the new season, commencing April 2009. No upper age limit. Why not come along and give it a try. Get out in the fresh air and enjoy a friendly atmosphere, with new friends and excellent club house.

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evenings Denise: 01256 422071

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Stan: 01256 466168.

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

Julie's Gardening Tips

What a change we have seen in the weather this month! A few short weeks ago we were snowed in, and now we are wandering around in t-shirts. It's not wise to get too excited though as there are likely to be a few frosty nights yet.

Don't be tempted to buy outdoor plants unless you are prepared to bring them in on colder nights. You could spend a lot of money to find them destroyed by frost. Hanging baskets could be hung in a shed at night as long as you remember to put them back out during the day. If you can't hang them up indoors, stand them on the top of large pots indoors instead. If you don't plant to low down the sides they will be fine. Better still if you can bear to wait another month. During my wanders in town I have picked up some fruit bushes for my new garden very cheaply. I don't want to advertise, but they only cost me a pound each. Give it a couple of years and they should be providing me with enough soft fruit to see me through the year. Flowering shrubs are also available now. They may take a couple of years to give you a good show, but it is much more fun buying smaller plants and watching them grow than spending a small fortune on larger plants from garden centres.

The DIY stores often sell large bags and bales of compost which are pretty good value for money when you are filling loads of pots. If you can't carry that amount, there are special light weight alternatives, but expect to pay lots more for it.

As my house move gets closer I am starting to get quite excited. I have taken down my greenhouse ready to go, and managed it without breaking any glass. It would have been nice to have been using it properly this year, but no doubt I will find things to fill it with once it is rebuilt in the new garden. I am glad I have most of my plants in pots and will be able to take them with me, especially when I actually got a fig on one of my trees last autumn. Maybe the Popley climate will suit my olive trees better too. I did get lots of flowers last year, but no fruit. Ever thought about saving the seed from fruits you buy in the supermarket? Kids can have some fun with apple and orange pips, but even kiwi seeds will grow, so experiment a little. I have saved the seeds from some berry tomatoes I bought a few months back. They were about the size of currants and quite tasty too. I am hoping to get some seed in soon to see how they do. I will let you know.

Lots of you will have water metres these days. It can be very expensive using tap water on the garden, so think about investing in a water butt to collect rainwater from your gutters. You can cheaply buy a kit that connects to the down pipe and redirects the water into the butt. We should all be composting too, and although it might be easier to just throw the vegetable peelings into the wheelie bin, think about the satisfaction you would get if you used your own compost on the garden. There are various ways to compost garden and kitchen waste, so do ask at garden centres or find out more in the library. You can compost shredded paper too, making good use of those bank statements that you don't like to throw in the bin.

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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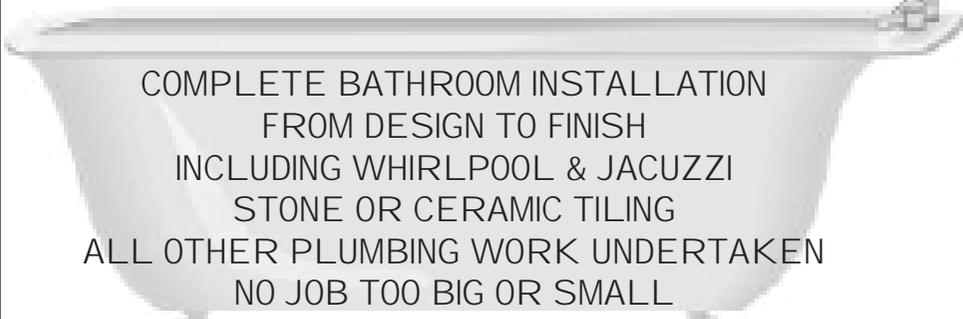
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Councillors Page: Many residents and readers will have noticed the new path in Abbey Road. It has been financed by developers' money and as part of the safer journey to schools. The aim is to get in readiness for when the new park is built. The first phase will start later this year. It is also designed as a measure to help stop the car sales on the corner of the road as it will be highway and breaking the law to drive over the verge. Parked cars there affected sight lines not only for traffic but pedestrians too.

The Surestart Centre "Pebbles" has its official opening on Thursday 9th April with lots to do from 9-30am till 1pm, with loads of activities, as a member on the board, I will be there as usual and hope to meet lots of you. There will be a visit and opening by the MP Marie Miller. I have received some plenary plans for a 60 bed Care Home to be built in Marnel Park. It is at the very first stages at the moment, I will keep you posted. We need less flats and more buildings like this where appropriate.

There is a new co-opted Parish Councillor for the Popley Fields part of the ward but I remain your Borough and County Councillor for the whole area. If you need to contact me, phone 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: We immediately got on to the authorities when the travellers moved on site by the school. Luckily there is a current court order and it makes removal much faster. We have also called for better security measures by the builders/developers to prevent it happening yet again.

After complaints from residents in Marnel Park, the area around the pond and site of the Great Crested Newts will be cleared of rubbish on a more regular basis.

Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team had an open forum for residents on 27th March at Popley Fields and the committee will then meet on 1st April to determine from the residents and professionals at the top three priorities for the next three months. There will be a report and update next month.

Please do not leave your valuables on show in your car and remove any signs of a Sat Nav when you park and leave your car. Your bins will still be emptied on the normal day this Easter so please don't forget to put your bins out as usual.

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or phone 472496 or 819924 write to 405 abbey road Basingstoke RG24 9EL

Popley East: Longfellow parade: we've been having a lot of problems with unauthorised access and vandalism. I've asked for the stair wells to be sealed. The good news is that the new shop will open May 8th. Demolition is due to start in June and continue through to September.

Faroe and Maldive. By the time you read this Mary Brian and myself will have met once again with Sentinel to discuss their proposed changes to the plans around the Madeira Close shops.

Popley Festival is on Sunday 17th May, if anyone wants a stall or a car boot please contact Tracy Rogers at Popley Fields on 01256 414494 or popleyfields@hotmail.com. See you there.

Andy McCormick, Popley East

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



Facing Redundancy?

As the economic downturn begins to bite, more and more people are facing the threat of redundancy. If this is affecting you, read on for more info.

Redundancies happen when an employer reduces the workforce. An employer can make an employee redundant if there are changing circumstances in the business such as;

- The work the employee did is no longer needed because the business has stopped operating or is failing,
- The employee's skills are no longer needed,
- The employer has moved the business to another area or the business is taken over.

When an employer is choosing who to make redundant they must make the decision in a fair way. If you have been made redundant but you feel that you may have been dismissed for reasons other than those outlined above, please seek advice either from your union representative or the CAB.

There are rules that your employer must follow when making an employee redundant. The employer must send a written statement, telling you why you are being made redundant, hold a meeting with you to discuss the matter and then hold an appeal meeting if you appeal against the redundancy. Before an employer can change your working hours, patterns of attendance, your pay or other terms and conditions of employment they must have first consulted with you or your union and have reached an agreement.

Redundancy Pay

If you have worked for your employer for at least two years you should receive statutory redundancy pay. The amount of redundancy pay you receive will be based on the length of time you have worked for your employer, your age and your weekly pay. You should check your own contract of employment as this may state that you are entitled to more.

Entitled to Benefits?

If you have been made redundant there are benefits you might be able to claim whilst you aren't working.

- Job Seekers allowance (JSA) - if you are looking for a new job
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – if you are too sick or disabled to work
- Income Support (IS) - if you are a single parent with a child under 12, or a carer
- Housing Benefit- to help you pay your rent
- Council Tax Benefit – to help you pay your Council Tax

Even if you are working but are on a low income there may be benefits that you are entitled to, for example, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax credit, even Council Tax and Housing Benefit. To claim any of these benefits phone your local benefits office or go online to www.direct.gov.uk

Need Help

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau can help you any queries you have on employment issues, benefits and debt. We operate a drop-in service 10-3.30 Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is 9.30-11.30) and Saturday mornings 10-12.



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Basingstoke Air Scout Group

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Charity number 267734

www.base2000.co.uk

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 Colin 01256410559



It's been another busy month for the Air Scout Group with programmes celebrating the respective Patron Saints' Days for both Wales and Ireland and creating 'things' for Mothers' Day. The Cubs had great fun on St. Patrick's Day with games such as 'Kissing the Blarney Stone and 'Leprechauns Tossing Gold'. Akela made an Irish Fruit Loaf as a treat which was devoured immediately with the Cubs' customary zeal for all things edible! The section practised hard for District Six-a-side Football competition under the guidance of Mr Turner and his son Billie (who is also a member of the Scout section). They were pleased to reach the semi-finals but disappointed to lose out to the eventual winners of the competition. Those not of the football persuasion worked on a play about the life of the founder of Scouting, Lord Robert Baden Powell. We have no doubt that some are destined to become famous actors or actresses - the death scene of the Founder was definitely worthy of an 'Oscar'! Further opportunities for those wishing to 'tread the boards' occur when auditions to be part of the 2010 Basingstoke Gang Show are held in May. Future programme plans include a visit to St Michael's Church as part of the Local History Activity Badge and a "Mystery Walk" - more news of that in next month's issue!

The Scout section has been busy working on Air Activity Badge and staged interest badges for things like Information Technology, Hikes Away and Swimming. The troop will hold an ever-popular 'sleepover' in Base 2000 in April. Changes to regulations regarding access to airfields may result in the re-introduction of opportunities for gliding and 'airside' activities, and negotiations are in progress. Enquiries are also being made to gain access to RAF Hendon later in the year. Summer camp will be held at Lyons Copse in August 2009.

New members 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.

Base 2000 offers a venue for meetings, fund-raising events and sometimes parties for organisations other than Scouts and Guides, subject to availability. Special rates for charities and non-profit making organisations. A new Bookings Secretary has yet to be confirmed so please continue to address your enquiries to 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



Boys and girls aged 8-10½

Tuesday 6:30-8:15pm

Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15

Monday 7-9pm

Colin Karslake 410559

FUN ON THE GREEN

The Old Basing Bowling Club situated in the heart of the village is always pleased to receive applications from all age groups interested in joining the Club whether or not they have played before. Those with no previous experience can be introduced in stages through the Monday Matinee and Tuesday evening rollups where advice and assistance from existing members can be provided. Thereafter weekend friendlies provide the opportunity to develop skills before moving to the more competitive side of league matches and Club and external competitions. Some prefer the social benefits of belonging to a friendly club and the occasional game while many look to advance their skills further. This is all a matter of personal choice.

The playing surface, surroundings and facilities of The Old Basing Club equal the best in North Hampshire. All of this can be enjoyed for the small sum of a £55 annual subscription. This provides unrestricted access to the green throughout the season which runs from late April to late September with no other playing charges.

The game of Bowls, in line with most other sports, is always up for renewal. The Old Basing Club is a thriving unit determined to react to the changing needs of the times. New members will always be needed to develop and satisfy this objective.

Anyone in the Basingstoke area wishing to join or seek more information should contact The Secretary, Norman Hillier, on 01256 468099. Otherwise just call in at the club for a chat on days when there is some playing activity - which is most days!

SOUTH EAST BOWLING COMPETITION

Date : Wednesday 24th June 2009
 Time: start at 6pm or 7.30pm
 AT THE BOWLPLEX, WEST HAM, BASINGSTOKE




All money will go to help terminally ill children and children with substantial disabilities. The event is run by Peace of Mind Care

WINNING TEAM WILL RECEIVE £100 PLUS SOUTH EAST TROPHY

ENTRY IS £36 PER TEAM OF 6

TO ENTER VISIT WWW.PEACEOFMIND.CO.UK AND COMPLETE APPLICATION FORM



Everest students and teachers do funny things for money

On Friday 13th March, students at College got involved in activities during lesson 5 to raise money for Comic Relief. The lower school, Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a series of sporting challenges in the Sports Hall, while in the Main Hall groups of upper schools students entertained their peers with various performances ranging from solo karaoke to a chilli-eating challenge in which four Year 11 lads and Assistant Headteacher Mr. Ridley ate increasingly hot chilli peppers. There was plenty of milk drunk afterwards! Altogether almost £600 was raised for a very good cause.

Sounds of the East at Everest!

This term, Everest Community College is hosting a 'gamelan' and giving our students opportunities to learn about these beautifully decorative instruments. The 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. In workshops, led by Andy Channing, Hampshire's gamelan expert, students learn how to play several parts, ranging from very simple to fast and complicated. Students from other schools, including local primaries have also visited the College to take part in workshops. 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.

Marnel Gets the Bag!

Recently, Lizzie Godfrey, the Secondary School Sports Coordinator at Everest nominated Marnel Primary School to receive an equipment bag full of sporting goodies for the progress that had been made in multi skills activities. Marnel Junior had received multi-skills coaching in September and October of last year from the schools sports partnership. This enthused students so much that they organised two multi-skills festivals at their school. Well done Marnel and keep multi-skilling.

Basingstoke and Deane Mayor's Sport Reception 2009

Everest Community College Trampoline Team was nominated for the Basingstoke and Deane Sports Awards in the category of Junior Team Sports Award. The Year 7 and 8 Girls had won the overall and individual titles at the Basingstoke and Deane Schools Trampoline Competition held recently. The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr. Gorge Hood invited representatives from the team to his annual Mayor's Sport Reception at the Civic Offices.

Among the attendees at the Reception were some impressive sportsmen and women from Basingstoke, including some world-ranked athletics. Everest Trampoline representatives were presented with certificates and as the girls collected them, the Mayor commented that he was pleased that 'Everest is now stepping into the forefront of sport'. The girls also collected a Mayor's pin badge from the Mayoress. This was a great evening and the girls thoroughly deserve to be congratulated for their sporting achievements.

What's on at Everest in April

- 20th April Inset Day. College closed to students
- 21st April College re-opens
- 22nd April Year 8 Parents' evening
- 28th April Drugs Awareness Presentation for Parents at 7.30 in College
- 30th April Junior Maths Challenge



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the U10s Tornados on successfully winning the Peter Houseman Youth League Red Division 2008/09. The Tornados are undefeated this season and with a very impressive stats record to go with it: Scoring 150+ goals in 21 games and conceding 13.

It will be an absolute nightmare to pick the Manager's Player of the Year Trophy this year because all of them deserve it, but I do have one player in mind.

I watched the U9s Spurs play on Sunday and was very impressed with the way they played, not giving up and battling their socks off. I was very impressed with Dan Mair and Alfie Mitchell. They are very comfortable with anything that comes their way and I could see them both playing for Arsenal one day. Oops! Sorry Spurs. They won 4-1, well done boys!

Respect Campaign

As many of you might know the FA have brought in a new campaign about RESPECT! and we as a club are backing this all the way. I recently had a parent walk onto the pitch, walk past 3 players (1 of them being my son) and threaten to knock me out. So we recently purchased a respect pack for each age group which contains 60 metres of FA branded barrier and 8 posts to support the barrier, which will hopefully prevent this from happening again. We used the barrier for the first time on Sunday for the U9s game and I must say it looked very professional and, most importantly, kept the supporters back from the pitch. It worked a treat!

When I started the club I had quite a few goals to aim for. excuse the pun! But one of them was to get each and every player a football. We have now achieved that goal, and much more.

Thank you for your support,

Lee Austen.

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

Any info, contact: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk
Lee Austen/Director of football, U6s & U10s
07932213310
Justin Taylor/Treasurer, U8s 07876684981
Kevin Rush U9s, 07946179677

Daniel Oates U12s, 07765341679
Damien McKeaveney/Secretary 07918706153
Claire Morris/Welfare officer 07786514548
Paul Forder/Rules & Regs coordinator/U10s
07825733688

Dear Friends

'Spring is sprung and the grass is green!' so the old nursery rhyme goes. As I write this we've been enjoying several days of blue skies and sparkling sunshine and it has been a real joy to be able to get out and about – an added bonus, the days are slowly getting longer and the lighter evenings are just over the horizon. The rhythm of life (a powerful thing – so I've heard) is beginning to pick up again after the long winter days. Already there are many daffodils in flower and it does somehow lift the spirit to see all these new signs of life! New life is what our Christian faith is all about and nowhere is this more apparent in the Christian year than at Easter.

Easter, for so many, sadly will only be associated with eggs, particularly those of the chocolate variety. Why do we have Easter eggs? Well, doesn't an egg represent all the potential for new life, new beginnings! And why are Easter eggs hollow? Because the empty egg is symbolic of the empty tomb of Jesus when he rose from the dead to resurrection life on that first Easter Day, offering a whole new life for all who would follow him.

St Paul wrote "If any one is in Christ they are a new creation, the old has gone the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). If we truly want a fresh start for our lives, if we truly want to leave the mess of the past behind, then as a Christian I believe there is only one place to start, or rather only one person to turn to and that's Jesus. And this new life is not just for the now but for all eternity; Jesus himself said "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life eternal" (John 3:16).

So as the new life of Spring begins to emerge all around us, may your thoughts turn to the possibilities of new life for yourself and, if like me, you're a chocoholic then may your Easter eggs this year take on a new and added meaning. Hope to see you at one of our Easter Services!

With God's blessings, your friend and Vicar
Arthur.

Easter Services at St Gabriel's

Sunday 5th April 10.30 a.m. – Palm Sunday
Family Communion with Giving of Palm Crosses

Good Friday 10th April
10.00 a.m. ~ All Age Family Service
12 noon – 3pm ~ Three Hours by the Cross

Sunday 12th April ~ Easter Day
7.30am ~ Sunrise Service Outside the Church
10.30 a.m. ~ Family Celebration with Communion

Diaries from The Old Codger



I was asked not long ago about some of the sayings we use in modern day life. Some have gone, but people still wonder where they come from, so apart from going onto websites to find out I will tell just one or two of my favourites. One very gruesome one was Sweet Fanny Adams. This was a young girl born, not far from Basingstoke, in Alton that was murdered and cut up by Fredrick Baker when she was just 8 years old back in 1867. It was so gruesome that the news spread across the country like wild fire. Later they even had a monument for her grave donated by the public. She was known to be such a sweet person and there was no reason for her terrible murder. It came into all sorts of other parts of our language Sailors would say Sweet Fanny Adams over not getting enough meat. By this they meant the poor girl had been cut up so bad there was very little left. Many in the East End of London used it not only as affection but also for a gofer woman, i.e. Fanny Adams get this or that, where is Fanny Adams, then in a loving way it was again turned round to regard a person as sweet especially the woman, my Sweet Fanny Adams. People also used the word for their dogs and other pets, by saying, come on Fanny Adams. It was reported that the police said this as they collected the many bits of her. In the East End it is a language in itself, and people can find it hard to know why they have sayings and Cockney slang as they say. With Cockney slang, especially if you really get going in front of some one that has not got a clue what you say can be funny. But sayings that many of us know are things like the cold shoulder. It came about if someone called to see you and you did not like them. You got out the cold shoulder of mutton. If you liked them, it was hot. So there you have it, giving someone the cold shoulder. Another one you may know is "don't let the bed bugs bite". I can remember them as I expect a lot of you can from the East End as they would be in the wallpaper. My Nan would get the eiderdown off the beds every day hang them over the washing line and beat the living daylight out of them. Just think, this happened in my life time, it was just a normal day to us. You did not have a fitted kitchen, it was a scullery. The loo was at the bottom of the back garden, and boy was that a cold place in winter! The working mans pint was a pint of mild, as it was the cheapest to buy because it was the mix of the slops from all the other beers in the pub put into a barrel. If you were flush (not red faced) again meaning you had a couple of bob, (twenty pence), you got half a pint of brown ale to mix with it. My very first trip to a pub that was the introduction to beer. Then you got more adventuress and your tastes changed as you got more money in your pocket. Her Indoors has her own saying, what yours is mine and what's mine is my own.

Till next month, 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 11am-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.

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 (Wed 12:30-2:30pm) Internet and Email (Fri 12:30-2:30pm). A basic Guide to Digital Photography (Fri 9:30-11:30am) and a Beginner's Guide to Excel spreadsheets (Thu 9:30-11:30am). Courses start the week beginning 20 April and run for 5 weeks. For details either call the centre on 01256 414494 and speak to Debbie, or call Queen Mary's College 417517 to enrol.

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 10.15-11.15am and speak to Cathy.

Silverwings Line Dancing

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

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

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

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



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Over 55's Forum

The next Basingstoke and Deane Over 55's Forum will be held on Wednesday 15th April 2009, at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, time 10.00am to 1.00pm, then refreshments.

Guest Speakers will be Niels Dagless from Lamb Brooks Solicitors, talking about Neighbour disputes and nuisances. Graham Hatcher from Basingstoke CAB and Peter Jenner from Basingstoke Samaritans. New members are always welcomed.

Monday 11th May 2009 the Basingstoke and Deane Over 55's Forum in conjunction with Prime Theatre Company are staging a show called "As Time Goes By". The show runs for an hour and half with a refreshment break at the halfway stage. The show will be held at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. tickets cost £1.50 each. Open to ALL. Book tickets with Gerald on 07792535116 or 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS.

I am again organising a Music and Dance concert for prostate cancer monitoring machines for the B & N H F T hospital to be held at the Queen Mary College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke on Sunday 26th April 2009, 2pm to 5pm with professional and local artists. I am waiting for two local companies to come back to me about sponsorship I have applied for one can give me a decision on the 25th March 2009, I need to know this, before I can fix the ticket price, hopefully it will be £5 each. Book with Gerald. 07792535116. I am also organising for the B & D Over 55's Forum members a trip to Blenheim Palace on Friday 8th May 2009. Cost of tickets £23 which includes coach travel, entrance to Palace, Park and Gardens.

Non members ticket price would be £25. Book with Gerald 07792535116.

How do Funky Monkeys Celebrate Easter?

During the run up to Easter, our arts and crafts table will have an Easter theme, We're having an Easter Egg Hunt as well as some chocolate treats.

Sound good? Then come and join us at Funky Monkeys. We're an adult and toddler group that meet at St Gabriel's Church Hall on Friday mornings from 10:30 until 12pm.

We have lots of toys and games to play with as well as joining together to sing some nursery rhymes at the end of each session. It's only £1.50 per family and that includes refreshments for everyone.

So if you're a Funky Monkey or a Funky Monkey's mate, come along on Fridays, to see you would be great.



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Sherborne St John Parish News

The Parish Council had pleasure in co-opting Jonathan Eales to the Parish Council. Jonathan lives in Specklewood Road and will be representing Merton Rise/Marnell Park and Speckled Wood Road.

A Safer route to Everest Community College from Sherborne St John has been on the agenda for sometime now. The PC has raised concerns with the Head Teacher regarding the limited access for children accessing ECC from the SSJ. According to Education Authority regulations catchment children can only receive free transport if they live 3 miles from the school and without any pavements to Popley the PC are concerned about safe access. The Head Teacher agreed to bring the matter up at the next meeting of the ECC Board of Governors at the end of March. We shall keep you posted on anymore information we receive on this pressing matter.

Traffic calming on the A340 is progressing well. As we said in December's Issue the PC have agreed to purchase a Speed Indicator Device which will be on a rolling 4 week programme around the Village. It will be positioned on Elm Road, Vyne Road, Cranes Road and a North and a South bound point on the A340. The 30mph limit has also been extended back to the Gateway feature southbound which is excellent news.

A new **Notice Board** will soon be ready for the wall by Church Path to replace the current (very old) one. Please remember to include any notices you feel will be of benefit to the Village – for notices for the Village Hall there is a Notice Board with access to the right hand side, which shall soon have an easier board to pin up your notices as had been requested .

It was a pleasure to see so many join the **Open Forum** at the February meeting. The Telephone Box opposite the Post Office was brought to the discussion. The Parish Council confirmed that we shall be writing to English Heritage in support of the application for Temporary Building Preservation Notice becoming permanent. However, the PC still have concerns regarding cost implications of its maintenance and insurance if it does not become listed. Again we welcome all your comments on this matter.

The lack of **Bottle Banks** in the Village was also brought to the Forum. Last year we had to remove the bottle bank since the noise was breaking Environmental Health Regulations due to their proximity to residents. The Parish Council are very keen to bring glass recycling back to the Village and have been in consultation with BDBC regarding a quieter version. We are very hopeful that we will find a solution with regards to location and noise and shall keep you informed of our progress.

The PC and the Clerk receive many complaints regarding **Highways Issues**. The Clerk is always happy to report these on your behalf, but it really helps if individuals do it too, the more times it is reported the quicker it might get sorted! So for potholes, blocked drains, flooding, knocked over bollards & posts and all other road issues please call **0845 6035633** or report online at: www3.hants.gov.uk/roads.htm
The Clerks usual working hours are between 9am and 3pm so please try to call between these times (851715) or email anytime to clove4@btinternet.com

Walk Your Way to Health

(organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council)

Want to lose weight or get fitter for summer? Every Wednesday evening at 7pm we have a brisk walk of about an hour, led by a local volunteer. Make new friends and get out and about in your local area, help to make our streets safer, and see parts of Basingstoke you haven't been to before. There is no charge to come along - IT'S FREE AND FUN!

- Wednesday 8 April - meet at East Car Park at Chineham Shopping Centre.
- Wednesday 15 April - meet at the Triumphal Gates in London Street, Basingstoke
- Wednesday 22 April - meet at the Paddock Car Park at Viables Centre - this will be a fast walk of 1.5 hours
- Wednesday 29 April - meet at Fort Hill Community Centre car park (off Kenilworth Road)
- Wednesday 6 May - meet at Crossborough Hill car park at the War Memorial Park
- Wednesday 13 May - meet at Argos car park at Hatchwarren Shopping Centre

There are also walks during the week for all abilities, and also some at the weekends for those wanting a longer route.

For more information please look at our website www.basingstokehealthwalks.org or contact Jane Wilding on 01256 845574.

Get Your Entry for the Basingstoke Rotary Charity Walk

Why not raise money for your favourite charity by taking part in the Rotary Club of Basingstoke Charity Walk.

This year the date is 10th May 2009 starting from 9.00am and the event is designed to appeal to both regular walkers and those who would like the chance to amble over the beautiful north Hampshire downs above Kingsclere without having to find and navigate a route themselves. Choose one of three circular walks ranging between 4 and about 9 miles and take advantage of the BBQ afterwards.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the website: www.rotary-basingstoke.eu or by calling Rotarian Richard Mallinson on 01256 893556

In the last 12 years over £90,000 has been raised by sponsored walkers for a number of projects including: St. Michael's Hospice, The Ark, Naomi House Hospice for Children, Odiham Cottage Hospital, Wessex Cancer Research and others.



BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT DOG TRAINING CLUB

Oakridge Community Hall for All – Monday Evenings

Welcome to our Spring Update. We are delighted to say our Xmas Sponsored Stay raised over £237 for the Loddon School, which is the local charity we are sponsoring this year. We also ran a successful weekend training course with the trainer Lorraine

Bennett in February. Best of all congratulations to Ann Fox, who was part of the Southern Obedience Team, and Denise Neale, who took part in the Kennel Club Good Citizen's Competition. They both did exceptionally well at Crufts this year.

We have a busy Spring and Summer ahead. Aside from our usual training sessions we have The Hampshire Rally on Bank Holiday Monday, 4 May, in the War Memorial Park. This is a friendly dog obedience competition between the different dog training clubs in Hampshire. It's great fun and lasts all day. Then on Saturday 20 June we are running an Open Obedience Show again in War Memorial Park and another all day event. Do come along to either event. Everyone is welcome and it's free to watch!

We continue to offer various training sessions including Puppy and Beginners classes, training for the Kennel Club's Good Citizens schemes and Competitive Obedience Training. We can also help with any problems you may be encountering with your dog.

We are a non-profit making organisation run by volunteers and we keep costs as low as possible. None of our trainers are paid for the time they give. We are the only Kennel Club registered dog club in town.

Puppy Classes cost £3 per session. Our Beginners Course costs £50 for 10 sessions. For all other classes we ask you to join our Club. Annual Joint Membership still costs £15 and Individual Membership, £10, with classes costing only £3 per session. Apart from our Beginners Courses, all our classes are "Pay as You Go". Great Value.

So come and join us. We run on Monday nights from 6.45pm to 10.30pm (class dependent). If you have any queries or would like any more information please contact Lilian Turner, on 01256 816388, email her at lilian.doghouse25@btinternet.com or write to her at The Bungalow, 25 Sandys Close, Basingstoke RG22 6AR.

Hope to see you soon!



Hello...

from your Community Wardens, **David** and **Vikky**.

As you know, we work in Popley to reduce the fear of crime by high visibility patrolling, meeting with local residents, planning and organising community events

and contributing to environmental improvements.

Vulnerable Vehicles

We are currently conducting high visibility patrols, as part of our work with Hampshire Constabulary, to raise awareness of vehicle crime.

Vulnerable vehicle forms will be submitted when we see a vehicle which has something of value left on display, such as mobile phones, handbags and other closed bags. We also submit them if windows are left open or engines are left running. The vehicle's owner will then receive a letter advising them on crime prevention.

If you are one of the growing number of people who have bought satellite navigation systems recently, please mark the unit with your postcode and house number and take it and the windscreen mount with you when you leave the vehicle.

It takes seconds for someone to break into your car, so please don't leave things on display!

Popley Festival

We hope you are all looking forward to the Popley Festival this year. The Festival is on Sunday 17th May from 11 am to 4 pm. As last year, it is at Popley Fields. There will be stage and arena entertainment, archery, donkey rides, a funfair, food stalls, a licensed bar, a car-boot sale and much more. Please come along and enjoy a great day for all the family! We look forward to seeing you there.

And finally...

We hope to see as many of you as possible while on patrol, but if you don't manage to see us, and would like to talk to us about any issues or concerns you have, please call us on **01256 845 508** or email: [**community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk**](mailto:community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk)



St Gabriel's Church presents

Concert for Popley

Saturday 25th April 2008 7.00p.m.
St Bede's Church, Popley Way

featuring the voices and music of

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir
The Beech Hill Concert Band
& Marnel Junior School Choir

Tickets £5.00 (inc. refreshments) available
from St Gabriel's Church, Marnel Junior
School, St Bede's Church, or call 324734

A great opportunity to enjoy a wonderful evening of
music and entertainment of the highest quality. Book
NOW to avoid disappointment!

St. Michael's Hospice Launches New Service

St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire) is excited to announce the launch of their new Hospice at Home service which will be provided to the community of North Hampshire. In essence, the new Hospice at Home service will take the skills, ethos and nursing care associated with the Hospice into the home environment together with providing patients out-of-hour's access to palliative nursing care, support and advice.

Given the choice, many people prefer to be cared for in their own homes with everything that is familiar around them. St. Michael's Hospice at Home Nurses and Healthcare assistants will work with patients to ensure they receive the necessary emotional, psychological and nursing care to die at home, if that is their wish. The Hospice at Home service will be provided free of charge to support patients across North Hampshire and those people caring for them.

To run the Hospice at Home service St. Michael's has contracted four nurses, who along with a team of bank nurses provide planned day and night time care and support to patients. St. Michael's anticipate that from May 2009 two senior Hospice at Home nurses will also be running an out-of-hours palliative care nursing service. This out of hours palliative care nursing service will run from midnight until 8am and is the only nursing service available to patients with palliative care needs through the night and an on call basis. This service will ensure that patients and their carers can reach a Hospice at Home nurse at night as the need arises. The Hospice at Home nurses can then go out to patients to help them with relief of symptoms and alleviate anxiety of patients and their carers during the night time by providing a reassuring presence. This will help to reduce unwanted admissions to Hospital during the night when carers feel they may have no alternative but to call out an ambulance.

Back in 2001 St. Michael's Hospice was approached to take over the local Marie Curie service for provision of palliative care in patient's homes across the whole of North Hampshire. Hospice at Home has evolved from this Community Nursing Service which has been provided by St. Michael's Hospice over the last 8 years.

St. Michael's Hospice at Home has been developed in line with the NHS End of Life Strategy, released in July 2008 which is about providing choice to people about where they choose to live and die. A growing number of Hospices' across the country run Hospice at Home services although they are largely operated in different ways as each service is tailored for the local area.

Step Out and Support Your Local Hospice!

Last year St. Michael's Stepping Out event attracted 393 walkers and raised in excess of £12,000 for the Hospice. This year the event will be held on Sunday 19th April and the Hospice is hoping to welcome along even more local walkers to make the event even bigger than before!

So why not put on you walking boots, head along to Farleigh Wallop and enjoy the beautiful countryside of the private Lord Portsmouth Estate, with stunning views of rolling fields and bluebells. Walkers start/finish at Home Farm on the Lord Portsmouth Estate, Farleigh Wallop, Basingstoke and set-off between 9.30am and 11.30am. Participants can choose which of the 5, 8 and 12 mile routes they would like to follow. Whichever route people choose to walk they can be promised a mixture of fantastic trails, beautiful scenery and enthusiastic support from St. Michael's staff and dedicated volunteers.

The walk is open to people of all ages and dogs on leads are very welcome too, however unfortunately the route isn't suitable for pushchairs. To register for Stepping Out it costs £4 per child and £8 per adult. To enter you can register online at www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events or call 01256 848 848 for a registration form.



What glorious weather we have been having! Perfect gardening weather! Our gardening club has started again. We have entered into both Basingstoke and South East in Bloom and need your help to ensure our gardens are looking their best come judging in July. The club is held every second and fourth

Saturday of the month 1-3 pm. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments and tools are provided. Just bring yourself and suitable gardening footwear.

On 11th April we will be holding a bring a buy plant sale. The sale will be from 12-4pm. We are also looking for donations of plants/cutting and seedlings to sell. So come along and get yourself a bargain! If you are planting seeds please put in a few extra for us! See you there!

MONDAY:	9.30-12pm	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00	Peregrine Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	4.00-7.30	Petite School of Dance
	8.30-3.00	Marnel Early Years
WEDNESDAY:	10.00-11.30	Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
	9.00-11.00	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2	Oasis Lunch club
	7.15 - 9.00	Slimming World
THURSDAY:	9.30-12	Friendly Café
FRIDAY:	6.00-7.45	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00- 9.15	age 11 plus.
SATURDAY:	9.00-12.30	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.**

AGE HAMPSHIRE IN BASINGSTOKE
Concern



**OVER 50s
INFORMATION DAY**

Wednesday 22nd April 2009

AGE CONCERN CAFÉ



10.30 AM - 1.00 PM

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COTTAGE

A wealth of information under one roof!

Information & Advice from your local Age Concern & many other organisations working with older people.

Get legal advice, discuss benefit entitlements, sources of support, leisure activities & lots more.

Pop in to get your blood pressure tested.

Age Concern Café open as usual.

Details of organisations taking part available from Age Concern Café or office nearer the time.

For more information call Tracey at Age Concern on 01256 423874.



Assisted by
**Basingstoke
and Deane**

NB: NO PARKING AVAILABLE

Registered Charity
No. 290874



Hoax Calls - They cost lives!

FACT:

Every day the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service control room receives calls to incidents that do not exist - these are HOAX calls. .

Hoax calls commit fire crews to incidents that do not exist. This places genuine callers lives in danger, as the number of fire engines available in the county is reduced whilst crews are investigating these hoax calls.

In a fire situation seconds can cost lives. Hoax calls also puts the responding firefighters at risk whilst travelling to these incidents.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

Fire Control Staff have immediate access to the number of the phone used to make all emergency calls. All calls are digitally tape-recorded. In the case of hoax calls these details can be passed to the Police for prosecution.

Should multiple hoax calls be received from mobiles, HFRS Control staff will contact the network provider and get the mobile cut off so that it will not be able to make any more calls.

In the past year Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service has issued numerous warnings and had many phones disconnected.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



Sentinel

Popley Poets Regeneration Update

Sentinel's Shakespeare Road site is progressing well and we're expecting the new apartments to be ready to let by 24 April. The new One Stop shop is hoping to open its doors on Friday 8 May 2009, this will be confirmed nearer the time.

The final phase of this regeneration project is scheduled to start at the end of April in Milton Close. There will be major work to the road and the existing garages will be demolished. This will mean residents are unable to park in that area, and will need to find alternative parking nearby. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

The Longfellow Parade shops and flats are due to be demolished at the end of June and work will continue until the middle of August. This site will be especially dangerous once it is fenced off. We want everyone to have a peaceful and safe summer and would appreciate ALL parents taking the time to explain to their children how dangerous building sites can be, especially a site that is due for demolition. We're happy to help you raise awareness, please call Andrea Weeks at Sentinel for more information. Police patrols and Community Wardens will help to maintain site safety by keeping a vigilant eye on the area. We also ask that you report anything suspicious to the police immediately.



Shakespeare Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9BP
Tel: 01256 357028, e mail: pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk

ACTIVITIES ON OFFER IN APRIL
MAD Academy

Come and have fun at these Music and Dance Sessions at Melrose Hall, Popley on
Tuesday, 7th and Tuesday, 14th April
10.00 am - 11.00 am

For families with children aged 8 and under

Cost £1 per session

Limited numbers available so please book your place now.

Grand Opening of Children's Centre
Thursday, 9th April
9.30 am - 1.00 pm

Lots of activities for all

See separate page for more details

Jobcentre Plus Drop-in Session

Monday, 20th April

9.30am - 12.00 noon

Advice on employment related concerns, benefit claims and more

Especially for You

Various dates in April and beyond

Enjoy some time out to be YOU and not just a mum!!

Then get the chance to have some fun with organised activities with your child.

Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme)

Monday, 27th April for 8 weeks

6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Effective strategies to help with difficult behaviour aimed at parents with
children over the age of 3 years.



FOR INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE, OR TO BOOK A PLACE, PLEASE
CONTACT US

TELEPHONE 01256 357028

E MAIL: pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk



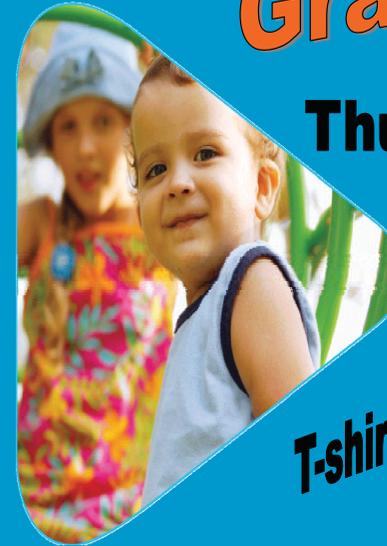
SureStart



Grand Opening!

Thursday 9th April 2009

9.30am-1.00pm



T-shirt printing

Mill Cottage Farm

Raffle prizes

Kids activities

and MUCH more!



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

Call us on 01256 357028 or email pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk

