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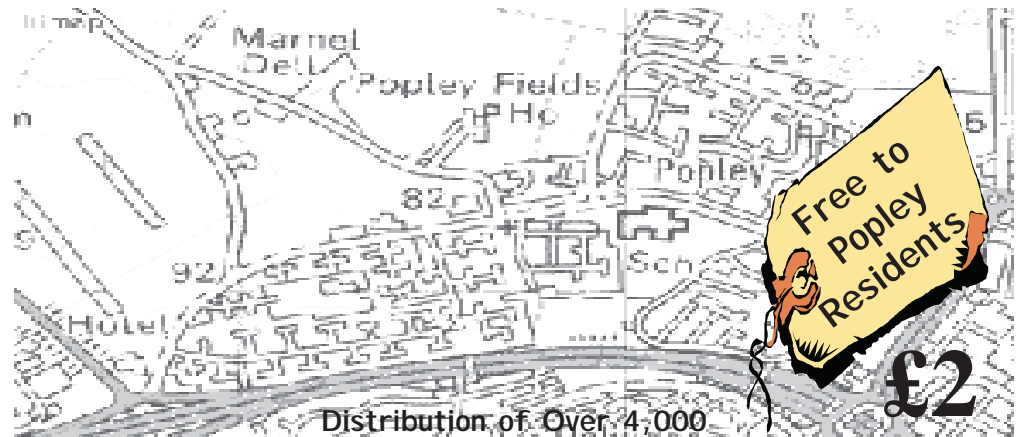
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

September 2009

Issue 91



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message From the Editor:-** Aldermaston Open Space has started its transformation into a Popley family park, and phase one should be finished, weather etc permitting, in three months. It deserves a new name. So there is to be a competition to find the new name for when the park is officially opened. It was decided that we should launch the competition in Popley Matters and the press in October to give the schools, groups, clubs and residents time to think about a new name. There will be prizes and the winning name will be published.

The “Get With” programme was so popular with the youth that unfortunately some had to be turned away. Next year it is hoped to be bigger, and better. Thank you to all those wonderful people who gave up their time.

The travellers are back yet again in Popley and the procedure to move them goes on. Oakridge, South Ham, Winklebury, Chineham and other areas are also having the same problems. We need a permanent solution and as it is the responsibility of the Borough. Many Councillors and residents are demanding a solution!

I want to thank our wonderful volunteers who deliver the Popley Matters to you. Without them delivering every month in all weathers, there would be no Popley matters to let you all know what’s happening in Popley. We do need some more volunteers mostly for the new parts of Popley. If you could give up an hour a month to help it would really be appreciated. We are funded by the adverts and get no other funding so volunteers are vital. You can contact us by phone Jane 819924 Editor and advertising, 411113 Iris Distribution or write to PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG or email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



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](mailto: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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- Adults Martial Arts Classes
- Ladies Only Classes
- Anti Bullying workshop 6<sup>th</sup> September





## Chloe's Column.

Hello again readers, as another school year starts (and parents jump for joy) it's good to look back at what we have achieved in the past year, and how we can extend that to do better in the next year. Last year I went on work experience and learnt how stressful and different working life is as opposed to school. I will be entering year 11 which is a big step for me and all others. It's time to get some decent GCSEs and qualifications to move on to a job or on to college. But for every school student the new school year is a chance to catch back up with friends and enjoy the autumn term. I think what everyone wants out of this year is achievement and something to be proud of and as long as we work at it we will get there.



However after school hours, we are still bored and there doesn't seem that much for any of us to do. So I think we should have more free or cheap events in Basingstoke. Basingstoke Live went down well and I think we should have more music festivals or more youth clubs and trips out. Maybe there already are some of these going on but the problem is no one really knows about them, so there should be more posters and advertisements to show what Basingstoke has to offer.

One thing you could do this September is join the Girls' Night Out in aid of St Michael's Hospice which is an 11 mile walk around Basingstoke to raise money for St Michael's Hospice which should be great fun and exercise but is for females only. This event is from 5 September 2009 - 6 September 2009 in Festival Place, Basingstoke but it does start late at midnight and costs £15.00 per adult, £7.50 per child but it is for a great cause. For more information either check out the website: [www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk) or call 01256 848848.

Last month was the Balloons Over Basingstoke celebration, there were many familiar companies' balloons flying high and a funfair and refreshment stalls. This event was as good as it is every year and a wonderful day out.

I hope everyone enjoys the new school year and the rest of September

Until next issue,  
Chloe.

# Austen Court Residents Association

The Austen Court Residents Association was formed on 5th September 2008. The Association is open to ALL residents and their families who live within the Austen Court Development on Priestly Road; Netherfield Place, Pemberley Place and Longbourne Place. The Austen Court Development is unique amongst such developments in Basingstoke as it comprises fully private blocks, part-buy-part-rent and key-worker housing as well as Social Housing in the form of 100% rented from the housing association (Sentinel). The Association draws on this varied background and has tenants from all walks of life actively participating in the Residents Association.

The Austen Court Residents Association is founded by residents, staffed by residents and looks out for the Residents of Austen Court. Meetings are held every month on the last Tuesday and the Association has sponsored several 'Social Events' including a 'Bring Your own BBQ', Race Night (involving horse racing) and Games Night (involving poker, cards, roulette and other games of chance). These events, open to all members, was well received and the Association hopes to continue these in the future under the umbrella of the new Social Committee. Membership costs a mere £2 donation per year (funds go towards projects the Association is working on) and for this you get a nice membership card and the right to vote and make decisions that affect the whole community as well as participating in fun members events!

Austen Court Residents Association is not part of Sentinel Housing Association, although we work with Sentinel, we are NOT part of Sentinel. Issues addressed by the Association include the path to the Hospital (a work in progress and I am told it will be done by Autumn), getting a speed restriction in place on site (5mph) with speed signs, security notices put up around the establishment, acquisition of a BBQ that residents can rent (regardless of whether they are members) and the biggest victory this year for the Association is the resolution of the parking problem that has been plaguing residents since the development was built.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 29th September at 7pm in the main meeting room of Pemberley Place. In line with the Constitution of the Association, the current Executive Panel will stand down and is due for re-election. Nomination forms have been sent out in August to ALL members and must be in by 7th September at the latest so that ballot papers can be drawn up. At the AGM members will have the chance to vote for the new committee. Members can nominate anyone they wish for the Executive Roles (Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Social-Secretary, Marketing and the positions for Block representatives) BUT you must have the consent of the person you are nominating first and they must be happy for you to nominate them.

The Association is happy to welcome new members at any time! Please, come along to one of our meetings, you are under no obligation! Make new friends, join in the fun! Make your voice heard and together we can make a difference!

**AUSTEN COURT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY BETTER.**



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## Julie's Garden Tips

What happened to summer? The weather really went from one extreme to the other, and all that wind and rain stopped me from doing much in the garden. The grass grew rapidly and I needed to trim it again to bring it back to a manageable height for the lawn mower.

The runner beans got battered by the wind which took off most of the flowers and small beans that had started forming, so I will have to be more careful where I put them next year. The crop has been sparse up to now, and I know other people have had problems with theirs too so I don't feel so bad. The climbing French beans have been fantastic, I obviously chose the right spot for them. So much so that I have passed some around to friends and frozen some already just to stop the family complaining that they were getting them every day! It is sweet to see my 2-year old granddaughter running around the garden with a fist full munching away on raw beans. I did draw the line when she ran into the house triumphantly with a whole cucumber she had managed to pinch from the greenhouse, eating it sideways. And the tomatoes aren't safe from her grubby little mitts either now she knows which ones are ripe and which ones aren't. It's a shame more children don't get the opportunity to find out how their food grows, and to taste it straight from the garden. She is also building her knowledge on insects while she helps me de-bug the vegetables, and will spend ages studying them.

I just hope I can keep her off the sweetcorn long enough to get a crop out of them. They were planted quite close together in a raised bed, and are now beginning to show the grass-like flower at the top, so they will soon start producing cobs lower down the stems. The calabrese I planted underneath has been decimated by caterpillars because I couldn't reach in to pick them off, but they might survive and produce some sort of crop now there is more room under the corn to reach them. The white turnips are starting to swell, as are the beetroot, so I will have to make sure they get plenty of water over the next few weeks. I really will have to invest in an outside tap to help with that, because carrying cans of water takes up a lot of my evening and can be hard work. I will carry on using collected rain water and clean sink water for the greenhouse and pots and baskets, and use the hose for the vegetable beds.

I have had a good crop so far from 2 cucumber plants in the greenhouse (despite the granddaughter), and people have all commented on how they taste so different from shop bought ones. The peppers are full of swelling fruits, and I now have flowers on the aubergine so they all look promising. I also have a few goji berry plants doing well in there. I saved the seed from dried berries from a health food shop just to try them out, and it seems to have worked well. They will be fine in the garden when they get big enough, and will provide plenty of berries for the birds as well as the kitchen. I also saved seed from some tiny berry tomatoes I bought from a supermarket last winter. I got a lot of plants out of a few tomatoes, and planted them in wall baskets as a trial. They are now loaded with fruit, although they seem a little bigger than the ones I bought originally, and are regularly being added to our meals. I gave a load of these plants away to see how other people got on with them, so some feedback might prove interesting.

I invested in some cheap chrysanthemum plants from a seed catalogue a couple of months ago, and these were potted into large pots and left outside to get on with it. I haven't fussed over them unless they start to wilt, and they are now loaded with flower buds so I should have plenty to cut next month for indoors. When they finish flowering I will take cuttings to propagate for next year. And while I am on the subject of cuttings, I would like to thank the Old Codger for a load of cuttings from his garden. Hopefully some of those will grow and give me some nice bushes to eventually attract more birds and insects into my garden. You could try that yourselves and see how you get along. Until next time.....



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Dear Residents,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer and that some of you have managed to get away on a much deserved break. I also hope that everyone is well as the huge media reports of Swine Flu and the Global Recession can cause a great amount of stress.

So far the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods team has endured a turbulent summer with spates of criminal activity occurring throughout. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods team has also run four Community Street Meetings where some residents have managed to get their concerns across.

At the moment the present ongoing problems and concerns are as follows!

**\*Criminal Damage** - Anti social behaviour on our school sites: Although these problems occur over most of the holidays when the schools are closed it is still an issue. We are receiving reports about it on a regular basis. Some of our schools have had graffiti, windows smashed and vast amounts of litter left by people loitering in the area. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team is working alongside the schools in order to prevent further damage and Anti social behaviour occurring. At this time, can I ask any residents with children to ensure that the school sites are not used as playgrounds. Although most of the youths we find on the school grounds are not getting up to any trouble, there are a small minority that do. If anyone is found loitering on the school grounds they will automatically be issued with a C12 Stop and Account form where your details will be taken. If further damage comes to light these details may be used as evidence as to who was/is on the school site. Therefore I would strongly advise no one enters the school sites even for a short cut.

**\*Garage break-ins** - Poets: Over the last 2 weeks we have seen an increase in garage break-ins and tampering in the Poet area of Popley. Hampshire Constabulary are working alongside the various housing associations to prevent future garage break ins occurring. Can I please take this opportunity to ask that residents remain vigilant to their neighbours and that if anything is seen or heard that they report it immediately. Residents should also ensure the safety of their garages by making sure they are always locked and secure. If you are in any doubt about the security of your garage please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

**PSNT: The PSNT (Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team)** which is the core priority group for Popley, still requires new members for our team. THE PSNT which consists of Police, Community Wardens, ACSOs, Local Councillors, Housing Associations, school staff, key community members, local businesses and several Popley residents is the team responsible for voting on the 3 core priorities for Popley. PSNT members are presented with a list of ongoing problems, Residents' concerns and potential redevelopment that will be voted on with the top 3 results being our priority. If you would like to be a member of the PSNT and assist us with making these decisions please contact me on the number below.

Please note that the potential priorities we vote on are presented to us via residents. If you would like a problem you are currently having or one of your concerns raised as a potential PSNT priority please contact one of the Safer Neighbourhoods team members on the number below.

Thanks for your time and hopefully speak with you soon.

Phil Rapley Police Community Support Officer 13284 Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team Old Basing Beat Office (T) 0845 045 45 45 (EX) 626125 <http://www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/basingstoke/town/Popley.htm>

## A New Voice for Hampshire Parents

Parents and families of disabled children across Hampshire have reason to celebrate following the launch of an exciting new partnership between Hampshire County Council and the voluntary sector aimed at enhancing services and encouraging wider participation.

Under the partnership the County Council has joined forces with children's charities Barnardo's and The Rose Road Association to provide greater opportunities for families to enjoy short breaks and access more information and support through 'one stop shop' information centres offering access to a network of support groups.

The information centres will be set up in Basingstoke, Fareham and Southampton. These will link to a network of smaller support groups around the county. Barnardo's will manage the service in the north, east and south-east of the county while The Rose Road Association will operate the new service in the west.

A new website, Parent Voice, will also be available which will allow families to get in touch with each other, access information and give feedback on services to help shape future provision. Parents and families will also be able to look forward to a range of activities, events, bulletins and newsletters keeping them informed about what is available in their area.

Councillor David Kirk, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Children's Services, said: "Hampshire County Council is dedicated to supporting parents and families of disabled children and young people to ensure they can take full advantage of support services available to them and of opportunities for their children to enjoy a range of stimulating activities..."

"I urge parents and carers to make use of the information centres being operated by The Rose Road Association and Barnardo's and the website Parent Voice which have been set up under this partnership. I am sure these will prove a vital resource for families not only to help them access support and information about services and activities but also to enable them to give feedback on services. This feedback will enable us, and service providers in the voluntary sector, to ensure services continue to develop to meet the changing needs of children and families."

The new service has been welcomed by parents. Nikki Smith from Farnborough said: "This is fantastic because it gives us parents a chance to have our say on what is happening locally. We won't have to go across the county to find services." Alyson Miller from Swanmore added: "It will be a lifeline. I will be able to get the information I need when I need it."

To find out more about the new service parents can go to [www.parentvoice.info](http://www.parentvoice.info) or call Sally-Ann Whitehouse if they live in the north, east and south-east of Hampshire on 07947834613 or email her at [sallyann.whitehouse@barnardo's.org.uk](mailto:sallyann.whitehouse@barnardo's.org.uk). Those who live in the west of Hampshire can call Heather Aspinall on 02380 721234 or email her at [heatheraspinall@roseroad.org.uk](mailto:heatheraspinall@roseroad.org.uk).

Alternatively to find out more about services for families with disabled children you can contact Howard Firth at Hampshire County Council at [Howard.Firth@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Howard.Firth@hants.gov.uk) or go to the website: [http://www.hantsfish.org.uk/hantsfish/practitioners/ecm-2/aiming\\_high\\_for\\_disabled\\_children.htm](http://www.hantsfish.org.uk/hantsfish/practitioners/ecm-2/aiming_high_for_disabled_children.htm)





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## Electric Blankets.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Each year 20 people are killed and over 250 injured in blanket fires.
- Faulty blankets cause more than 1,000 house fires a year.
- Research has shown that electric blankets ten years old (or older) still in use in homes in Britain are responsible for 99% of the fires caused by electric blankets.

### YOU SHOULD CHECK OR REPLACE THE BLANKET IF:

- It displays the old BEAB\* safety mark - a round symbol. The new sign is white capital letters on a black background).
- The fabric is worn or frayed.
- Remember, older blankets are much more likely to have one or more of these faults.
- There are scorch marks anywhere.
- The tie tapes (where originally fitted) are damaged or missing.
- The flex is worn or damaged.
- Any connections are loose.
- You are in any doubt.

### BEFORE USING THE BLANKET:

- Always read and follow the instructions carefully.
- Older under-blankets, designed only for pre-heating, must be switched off and disconnected before getting into bed.
- Never use an under-blanket as an over-blanket.
- Make sure the under-blanket is kept flat. Tie it to the mattress where appropriate.
- Never use the blanket if it is wet or creased.
- Never switch it on to dry it out

The next electric blanket testing day at Basingstoke Fire Station is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

To book an appointment call 01962 833 358 or email: [electric.blankets@hants.gov.uk](mailto:electric.blankets@hants.gov.uk)

\* BEAB - British Electrical Approvals Board

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)



**Councillors Page:** I have now been told that the scheme that County Councillors have a £10,000 grant budget is to continue for two years. This enables me to nominate local clubs and groups in my division of Popley and Norden for a grant of between £100 and up to £2,000 in exceptional circumstances. You can get the application forms from the County Council web site or from me, contact details below. Once the money has been allocated it is spent so if you want to apply you need to do it as soon as possible. The travellers are back on Popley Way at the moment though by the time the magazines are delivered they could be anywhere. A site for twelve caravans is needed out there in the borough and properly managed. Travellers are now the responsibility of the Borough Council and they are looking at the problem and I hope they come to a solution soon as the current situation can not continue. At least with a suitable site out there in the country somewhere they can be moved on very quickly and we the taxpayers won't keep footing the bill for the damage and clearing mountains of rubbish. Cllr Jane Frankum 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road or email [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk).

**Popley West:** The new family park is now underway and hopefully the first phase will be completed in about three months. Aldermaston Open Space is not an appropriate name for our park in Popley so we will be launching a competition to find a new name. We have decided along with the borough officers that we should run the competition in October so that we can fully include the schools and groups in all of Popley in finding a name for the park. The new bus shelters in Popley Way (near Tintern Close) and Abbey Road have now finally been finished properly, including the poor surfacing that was left! We have applied for further improvements in Popley West.

The Get With programme held at Everest Community College was so successful that it was over subscribed, and there are already plans to increase it considerably in size of events and youths being able to participate. There is some graffiti that is being done by mostly one person as it is a repeat of their "tag". We are working with the police to find the culprit. If you have any information you can contact me or phone 101 or the police on 08450454545. [cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk) or phone 472496 or 819924 write to 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL

**Popley East:** August is a time of rest for Councillors but while our meetings have dropped away (apart from the Lemon Land planning hearing for the Eli Lilly site), the case work doesn't let up:

**Longfellow:** Demolition continues at a pace and there's hardly any of Longfellow Parade left now. The problems look set to continue, with an already bad parking problem in Keats Close made worse with half of Milton Close being closed off.

**Faroe and Maldivic:** Sentinel Housing Association and Enterprise Inns are in discussion about the future of the Barbican pub. Work is going on in the pub refitting and as soon as we hear anything about a new tenant we'll let you know.

**John Hunt Elevate site:** Mass parking restrictions with £90 fines were introduced on 1st August and these have proved extremely unpopular with residents. We need to get these restrictions lifted and better controls put in place.

Finally, the Popley Conservation Volunteers need your help! They do a lot of good work in Popley Ponds and Basing Wood. They want new members and need a new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as the incumbents are standing down.

An EGM is being held at Popley Fields Community Centre on Tuesday 6th October at 7.30pm. Andy McCormick, Popley East

The Vyne Community School offers a wide range of community activities:



Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities - Netball, Football, Badminton courts  
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**ADULT LEARNING**

Autumn term courses start week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> September.  
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Autumn Term programme includes: Digital Photography, Yoga, Ballroom Dancing, Tai Chi, Woodcarving, Life Sculpture, various Floristry courses and lots more.



Assisted by  
Basingstoke  
and Deane

For more information please contact the Community Office.  
Tel: 01256 407037 Email: [community@vyne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:community@vyne.hants.sch.uk)  
[www.vyne.hants.sch.uk](http://www.vyne.hants.sch.uk) (click on Community)  
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# Letters to the Editor.



Dear Editor, I think that the parking around Marnel Park is really stupidly dangerous. I ride a moped and I hate coming home every day, as I cant stop thinking that one day a car will come around the corner and hit me, as when you come round a corner you cant see properly because of all the cars that are parked on the roads. They have parking spaces so why do these people keep putting other lives in danger when they could just use their parking spaces. Another dangerous thing is speeding around Marnel Park, They go so fast and there are kids riding around on their push bikes and playing ball games. What would happen if a car was speeding and a child was to run or cycle out onto the road???? It is so dangerous and I hate the thought of something bad happening whether it was to me or anyone else. These people do not think about this. What would these people do if the council put double yellow lines all around the roads? Would they risk getting tickets or would they actually park in their parking spaces? Lisa New, Popley

*Editor's reply: It is a problem in all areas and we are constantly getting yellow lines, new laybys and white lines around in Popley but it never seems enough as all that happens is more cars seem to appear. If we had a much better bus service it might help as people would have the confidence to use*

*public transport more often. Parking across pathways is anti social as well as dangerous. I have seen Mums and their childrens with pushchairs have to risk their lives on the road. 20 is plenty signs are near the schools but far too many people ignore the advice. It is not always the residents, all too often it is people just driving through and not caring about much else but getting to where they want to go as quickly as possible.*

Dear Editor, I did not receive my Popley Matters last month and I do enjoy reading what is happening in our area. Is it because I live in Marnel Park? *Editor's reply: No we try to deliver Popley Matters to every resident in Popley. The magazines are delivered free of charge by our great volunteers some have been doing it for many years but as we have grown so much in numbers we need more volunteers. Perhaps you would like to volunteer or know someone who will? Contact Iris on 411113.*

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

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



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# Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

[www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk)

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 Colin 01256410559



Both the Cubs and the Scouts attended camps during the summer taking part in activities such as canoeing, kayaking, wall climbing and backwoods survival.



The Scouts joined with other Scouts from across Hampshire at Lyons Copse whilst the Cubs went to Runways End Activity Centre at Farnborough. The Scout programme also included rafting and pioneering and a visit to Romsey Rapids.

Weekly meetings recommence week beginning 7th September. New recruits welcome in all sections. The first meeting is free but thereafter the subscription is £1.50 per week (can be paid termly if preferred).

One of the first events in the autumn session is a sponsored walk in aid of Jack's Place at the Wessex Children's Hospice. This event has been arranged by the Tri-District Events team which organises events open to all members from Basingstoke East, Basingstoke West and Silchester Scout Districts which together cover the entire Borough of Basingstoke and Deane. There are three routes of varying lengths to suit the age and capabilities of each age group and the day's activities will end with impromptu games, a BBQ and a campfire. It is hoped that several hundred Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts will take part to raise funds to help with the equipping the new 'teenagers and young persons' facility at the hospice which is so desperately needed



Boy and girls 6-8 years  
Meetings: Tuesday 5:30-6:45pm  
Eve Alexander 346510

Page 8



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

## The Old Codger

Well, I had not intended in doing any more of the Old Codger as I had tried to kill him off! It cannot be done, no matter what I do he will not lay down and give in. I hope you all still enjoy reading the column, if you have had enough of him let me know.....

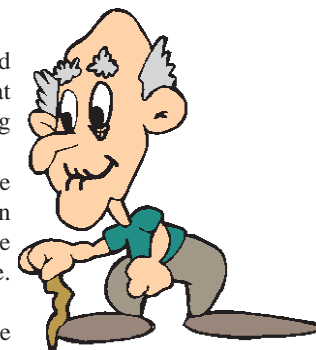
He, along with many other residents and Councillors, have been sending emails and letters to Tesco over the insult they put upon the people of Popley. They cannot and will not understand the damage and upset they have caused, not only to Popley but to Basingstoke. They think they can get away with this. This magazine reaches some 4,000 residents in Basingstoke so I urge you to think before you shop.

Her Indoors likes to go to M&S occasionally; I don't mind uswe deserve a treat now and then. If I buy our dog food from there the dog cannot eat it quickly enough. If we get it elsewhere the same stuff in the same packet will she eat it, no! I am sure the mutt can read and if it has not got M&S on it that's it.

A far cry from when we were kids. You got and ate what was put in front of you, and with three sisters and a brother you do not leave food on the plate for a second. If you needed the loo you crossed your legs until your dinner was eaten, or blink and it would have been on someone else's plate. The only thing I hated was mash; my dad was a navy man so spuds were like he had on board ship. Just skinned even the eyes were left in them. As I have said, from the time I was small I could not stand them. One day dad put this plate of mash on the table in front of me for dinner, he even tried to open my mouth to fork some in. I was having none of it. Dad made me sit in front of this mash for six hours but I was stubborn. There was no way was I going to eat it. Just looking at the eyes and big lumps in it turned me green. Still after all these years I still do not touch mash, Her Indoors loves it and I don't mind doing it for her, as long as I don't have to eat it. She loves Colcannon made the traditional way and I can do that no problem, We were, and still are, good foragers and take advantage of nature, wild plums, sloes, blackberries, field mushrooms etc. they are all out there. Even a few apple trees and pear trees and plenty of herbs but if you are new to it get some one to show you and get yourself a good book so you can compare pictures. I don't mind sending her up a tree to pick fruit. It does her good now and then to get a bit of exercise.

I was talking to one of my family (he is a council member in the East End). the other week and as the conversation went on we got on to my great grandfather. He was one of the first men in the new union set up back in the beginning of the 1900 call the TGWU He was a Dock Foreman, and could talk eight languages. When Bevin came on the picture he helped write a number of his speeches, yet in the Bevin Papers in Manchester he only mentions him once. Still I am going off again. In the East End when they demolish an area or building they kept all the stones or plaques with names on them. I told him that there was a stone in a wall or plaque with a list of all the union members that set it up and along with Bevin my great grandfather is on it. He is now going to get in touch with them to find out if they have it in the warehouse. I hope they do. It is all part of the family history story I am writing, I will let you know how it goes.

Longfellow Parade has had dozens of lorries going into site this week. They are loading up the crushed concrete. Kids take care, stop and listen before you cross Dryden Close. The drivers are careful but it only takes a minute. Up to the date of writing this there is only one side of Longfellow to come down I hope they will clear the rest as safely as they have been. I am glad I am not one of them. Mind you as I said last month I would love to have a chomp at the last stage of it coming down. I will keep taking the photos. Take care. *The Old Codger*







## OVER 50s INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009

AGE CONCERN CAFÉ

10.30 AM - 1.00 PM



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Information & Advice from your local Age Concern  
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*Get legal advice, discuss benefit entitlements,  
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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.*



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## The Boys Done Good!

Hi all,

On 25th July we had our annual football tournament "The Sentinel Housing Pre-Season Challenge" held at the Basingstoke Powerleague. We raised just over a £1000 for the Samantha Dixon Brain Tumour Trust.

MFC Popley youth had a great day with all age groups having a team in every final. The U6s won with Mason scoring 5; the U8s came runners up; the U9s played brilliant on the day and came away with the Trophy; the U10s came close to retaining the title but lost out in the final to Oakley, unlucky boys. We'll do it next year; and the U12s came runners up with Danny's team coming close and missing out by a couple of points. Well done to all.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to D'Andre Brown he has been the first MFC Popley player to be signed for a pro football team. He has signed for Southampton Football Club for one season, D'Andre was playing with our U8s Dynamos last season and potentially has got what it takes. Good luck Dre!

Also Ryan who plays for our U6 Knightmares has been included with the Chelsea set up with Jake and Alfie. I spoke with Bob who is the Scout at Chelsea and he is also interested in Charlie Croucher, Mason and Ibrahim Salman but can only take so many from one club until others drop out, but there are other clubs out there so keep up the hard work boys.

---

## **Innovations Jazz Orchestra**

The Innovations Jazz Orchestra (IJO) is a local big band with a large following and a national reputation. Based in Tadley, this 25 piece jazz orchestra which was formed in 1998 was featured on Radio 3 last year as part of a series to celebrate the best of amateur music in Britain.

Since its formation, over 100 different musicians have played with IJO either as guests, stand-ins or at rehearsals. IJO welcomes musicians who would like to come and 'have a blow' with the band for an evening.

You can hear us at the Haymarket Theatre on 19th September for an evening of music from the classic American songbook featuring songs made famous by Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Julie London and Nat King Cole. The programme includes swing tunes from the great bands such as Count Basie and Glenn Miller. Be sure to get your tickets early and we'll see you there.

[www.innovations-jazz-orchestra.co.uk](http://www.innovations-jazz-orchestra.co.uk)

Musical Director: Simon Ward 07932 673579



# The Wicker Basket

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, 'Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?' The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, 'Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water.'

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, 'You will have to move a little faster next time,' and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster, but again the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was 'impossible to carry water in a basket,' and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, 'I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough,' and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, 'See Papa, it's useless!'

'So you think it is useless?' The old man said, 'Look at the basket.'

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it was clean.

'Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible.. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.'

Moral of the wicker basket story: Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good even if you don't retain a word.

Thought for Today: Gods Love is like the ocean, you can see its beginnings but not its end.

I really like this story because I don't remember things like I used to...but then I think God isn't concerned about my brain anyway, He's more concerned about my heart.

## Basingstoke's Got Talent!

Are you looking to appear on stage?

BAOS (Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society) requires new members (especially men) for their next production at the Haymarket: Hello, Dolly!

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## **BUSINESS BLOOMS IN BASINGSTOKE**

I first met Mark Copeland in 1987 when we worked for the same automotive glass company; I was in sales and he was a glass technician. He always impressed me with his standard of workmanship, his customer service skills and his general enthusiasm. It is therefore no surprise to me that Mark now has his own well established business in Basingstoke.

I can remember attending Mark's wedding reception, alongside other work colleagues, when he married Karen in July 1988. Mark and Karen went on to have their first child, Hannah, in October 1989. By January 1990, when baby Hannah was just three months old, Mark had started working from their home, or rather their garage, in Abbey Road, Popley. He was out in all weathers, supplying and fitting windscreens to support his new family. Mark and Karen remember well the struggle they had when first starting out in the windscreen business and the difficulties they had to overcome.

Well.....Mr & Mrs Copeland have come a long way since then !

Their family, their business and their wicked sense of humour have bloomed since those early years of married life!

Mark & Karen celebrated 21 years of marriage this year and have three daughters, Hannah, Georgina and Emily.

The business, 1st Direct Windscreens, now has a team of highly skilled technicians. Backed by Mark's expertise they meet the needs of both commercial and private customers. Operating from new premises in Houndmills Mark's core business, automotive glass, remains as strong as ever but, just like his family, the service has now grown to include Vehicle Glass Tinting and the supply and fit of towbars.

Mark's attitude to customer service still dominates and as I consider this to be one of the keys to good business I am delighted to have recently started working for him.

We both have many years of experience in automotive glass and are sharing our knowledge and ideas in order to enhance the success and good reputation Mark has developed in Basingstoke and the surrounding areas.

In order to celebrate nearly 20 years in business 1st Direct is pleased to be sponsoring 'Basingstoke in Bloom' with signs on the Houndmills Roundabout – look out for them next month!

Mary Livingstone  
Business Development Manager  
1st Direct Windscreens.

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## Loddon Sherpas

Loddon Sherpas is a local and friendly badminton club that plays on Monday evenings at the Basingstoke Sports Centre. The new season begins in September and we are looking to welcome new members of a practiced standard who are able and willing to play in league matches. We have opportunities for men, ladies, and junior players. For more details, see the club's website ([www.loddonsherpas.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.loddonsherpas.hampshire.org.uk)) or contact Steve (01256-462418) or Paul (01256-817671).

Full membership is £130, half price for juniors and an additional discount of £25 if you are already a member of the Sports Centre. The club operates a trial period for 3 sessions, charged at £5 each. Any fees during the trial period can count towards the membership.

---

## Loddonvale Indoor Bowls Club

BASINGSTOKE LEISURE PARK

OPEN DAY, ALL WELCOME

Sat 19th September and Sun 20th September 10am-4pm

Come and enjoy this friendly lifetime sport. We have qualified coaches here to help get you started. After the game enjoy our licensed bar and restaurant all in the comfort of air-conditioned premises. If you are aged between 8 years and 100 years old we look forward to meeting you.

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## Magnolia Court

On Friday 25th September Magnolia Court will be holding their Macmillan Coffee Morning at 3pm in the afternoon. Residents from all the community are welcome to join us. We aim to raise as much money as possible for this very worthy cause.

We will be holding a raffle and there will be tea and cakes served.

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## Over 55 Forum Dates

International Day "Variety Show" on Saturday 26th September 2009 at Queen Mary's College.

Several local acts plus a professional compere in Stuart Ashman who performs juggling, unicycling, stand up comedy and more. 2pm to 5pm (doors open at 1.30pm) Free refreshments. All for £4 a ticket.

Tickets from Gerald 01256 412119, with a stamped addressed envelope or from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Age Concern, and Oakridge Hall For All. The next B & D Over 55s Open Forum meeting will be on 14th October 2009 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. The Forum has 522 members and still growing.

The Over 55s Singing group "Carnival Chorus" starts back on Tuesday 15th September 2009 (every Tuesday) at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke 1.30pm to 3.00pm. It is FREE! Anybody interested in singing to keep fit and healthy, turn up and ask for Marian.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

[popleyfields@hotmail.com](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)

### Youth club

Hope you all had a good summer holiday. Session times are still 5.30pm to 7.00pm And 7.15pm to 8.45pm. Anyone who is now going to secondary school this September is welcome to switch to the later session with their parents permission.

### Aerotone: Legs, Tums & Bums

Thursday's 7.45pm to 8.45pm. Lighten your legs, Trim your Tum and Blitz your Bum at Aerotone this autumn. All abilities welcome at our weekly fitness class which will tighten and tone. All you need is a drink, mat/towel and you are ready to go, always fun and friendly and only £4.00 a session. Join the gang in September and get a ½ price class as a new member. Come along or call our instructor Louise for more information on 07896757125

### Free Computer Classes

Free Computer course begin again at Popley Fields Community Centre on the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009. Courses include beginners computing, internet & email, digital photography and more.

For more information please call QMC 01256 417517 or pop into the Community Centre for details of course times and days.

### 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.

### Silverwings Line Dancing

Wednesday evenings 8.00pm to 10.00pm

This Class is for all those people that can line dance. 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

### Dynamics:

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday Evenings 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

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](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)



# Christmas Sale

Now that we have got your attention we would like to invite you to our Grand Sale



Melrose Hall

September 10th from 9-30 to 12-30



Ann's famous homemade cakes  
Light Refreshments

Loads of good as new items  
Jewellery

Get your gifts early for Christmas and avoid the last minute rush

The proceeds will be divided between Melrose Community Hall and the Friendly Cafe

The last sale made £100-50p for Diabetic UK we have so much more for sale this time

## WHATS ON:

MONDAY:	10am-12pm Friendly Café	
	7.30-10.00pm Peregrine Healing & Holistic	
TUESDAY:	4.00-7.30pm Petite School of Dance	
	9.30am-2.30pm Marnel Early Years	
WEDNESDAY:	10.00-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group	
	9.00-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic	
	12-2pm Oasis Lunch club	
THURSDAY:	9.30am-12pm Friendly Café	
FRIDAY:	6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years	
	8.00- 9.15pm age 11 plus.	
SATURDAY:	9.00-12.30pm Petite School of Dance	
SUNDAY:	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.	

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions and conferences. Please ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at [tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tiscali.co.uk).

# Longfellow Parade Regeneration Update

Demolition of the Longfellow Parade shops and flats began in July and will take around a month and a half to clear. Mansell and their sub-contractors, L.A. Moore LTD, are working hard to minimise disruption and we'd like to thank residents for the positive comments and compliments about the way the work is progressing.

Although all lorries are being assisted on the roads while removing material it is still very important to be aware of the possible danger. Sadly, we've had reports of young people putting themselves at risk by jumping in front of the lorries. Please encourage your children to keep themselves safe.

The final phase of this development project is scheduled to be complete by August 2010 providing a further 30 new homes for rent and 12 for shared ownership.



# Sentinel

new football club needs



boys & girls  
u/6 - u/15's



all home games played at  
everest community college

please call karen to enquire  
01256 - 466442

Dear friends

My grandson said to me the other day “Grandad do you realise that there’s only four months left in this year? Wow! What happened to 2009? It seems to have strapped on a scram jet and is now fast disappearing over the horizon at mach 3! At least that’s how it feels! Perhaps that’s because it has been a very busy year for me personally and for St Gabriel’s.

One of the joys has been to conduct so many wedding, baptism and thanksgiving services – one or sometimes two a week since the beginning of June! The weather for many of those occasions was not always what it might have been but the joy of those attending was irrepressible and more than made up for the damp squib of a summer.

What I love about the British people is that no matter what the weather they’re always hopeful of better to come and I so often pray that those I marry or baptise will continue to look forward to their future with each other and with God and to live in constant hope through both the good and the not so good times. So let me offer both my congratulations and prayers to all those with whom it has been my privilege to come into contact with over the past months whatever the occasion.

In St Gabriel’s we’ve had the pleasure of welcoming many new young families into our congregation. As the church continues to flourish and grow there is a real sense of excitement, family, belonging and growing together.

The really exciting news is that we have spent much time and effort in looking at the longer term future of our church and how we can have an even more positive impact in the community. Part of our thinking has been to look at the possibility of recruiting a full time Young Families and Youth worker. The funding for a five year post is now almost in place and we hope that we will have someone in place before Christmas. So watch this space!

We have so much to praise and give thanks to God for, not least for the promise of future hope! Can I take this opportunity to invite you to two special services we are holding at St Gabriel’s: firstly to our Battle of Britain Service on the 20th September together with the RAFA and Air Cadets and secondly, to our Harvest Festival Service taking place on the 4th October both services at 10.30 in the morning.

As the new season begins and the end of 2009 approaches may we all find the time in our busy lives to make space for God and the good news of Jesus Christ and the hope he holds out to us for the future.

With every blessing from your friend and Vicar

Arthur.

St Gabriel’s C of E Church  
Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way.

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# World Sight Day 2009

Thursday 8th October has been designated as this year’s World Sight Day. This is the day when local, national and international organisations which support blind and visually impaired people raise awareness of living with sight loss, its causes and its prevention.

With this in mind, Open Sight, the principal organisation working with people with sight loss in Hampshire, is no exception. The charity supports over 4,000 men, women and children across the County who have a visual impairment. This figure is predicted to increase due to an ageing population and lifestyle choices; for example, poor diet, lack of exercise, obesity and diabetes, and hence diabetic retinopathy, is already escalating among children and young adults at an alarming rate.

We know that good eye health is vital; yet, statistics show that over 100 people in the UK begin to lose their sight every day, however, the majority of these cases would have been avoided had a regular eye test been taken; early diagnosis of a problem and subsequent treatment could have saved or preserved sight.

So, to coincide with World Sight Day, Open Sight is proposing that Hampshire residents use this day as a reminder to think about their eye health and to consider an eye test (for those over 60, your test is free). Your sight is precious, please take care of it.

Further information about Open Sight can be found at [www.opensight.org.uk](http://www.opensight.org.uk) or call 023 8064 1244.

World Sight Day information is available at [www.v2020.org](http://www.v2020.org)

Open Sight

25 Church Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 6BL

Charity Registration No: 1055498

Registered in England & Wales Company Registration No. 3178631

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We have had a fun filled time at Pebbles Children's Centre over the summer holidays. We have run a variety of activities both at the Centre and at other venues. The winner of our free prize draw (donated by Kingfisher Housing) of a complimentary family ticket to Legoland was won by Alison Hedges at our Family Fun Day on Friday, 31 July.



Music & Dance  
At Family Fun Day



Presentation of  
Legoland ticket

Trip to  
Wellington Country Park



Parachute Fun



Puppet Workshop



Camps & Dens

### Groups and Courses starting in September

MONDAY:	Coffee morning & Rhyme Time; Baby PEEP, JobCentre Plus (every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)
TUESDAY:	Stay & Play; Understanding Behaviour; Stay & Play
WEDNESDAY:	Early Pregnancy Information; Big Chef, Little Chef; Numeracy, Fun Fits; Bumps Mums & Dads
THURSDAY:	Baby Massage; Breastfeeding Support Group; Stay & Play; English as an Additional Language
FRIDAY:	English as an Additional Language; Chill & Chat
SATURDAY:	Dads' Club (every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday)

If you would like to know more about any of our activities, please contact us at Pebbles Children's Centre. We are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. Many of our activities need to be booked in advance as numbers are limited. There are crèche facilities available for some activities.

“Hello, my name is Philippa and I am a Community Development Worker based at Basingstoke Voluntary Services”. For the past 6 months I have been focusing on Popley, finding out about local groups and consulting with people as to what they would like to do in Popley. From these discussions emerged a need for more creative activities, such as arts and crafts. In response to this need, I am putting on a range of activities at different venues starting in September and going through to December. Below is the programme of events. If you would like to join in any of the workshops, please come to the sign-up session at Melrose Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, from 1pm – 3pm. These workshops are on a first come first served basis. This is a pilot project from which a clearer picture of what to do longer term may be obtained. I look forward to seeing you at the various sessions, hoping that you will find it an exciting and stimulating programme.”

## “GET CREATIVE IN POPLEY”

Join our forthcoming workshops. No prior experience needed. Bring a friend. Refreshments provided. Donations welcome.

<b>MELROSE HALL</b>	
<b>Thursdays (1pm - 3pm, Refreshments 'til 4pm)</b>	
<b>September 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Workshop sign ups</b>
<b>September 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reminiscence Workshop</b>
<b>September 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Creative Writing Workshop (Poetry &amp; Rhyme)</b>
<b>September 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Art Workshop—exploring stereotypes</b>
<b>October 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Textiles workshop</b>

<b>MAGNOLIA COURT</b>	
<b>Wednesdays (3pm—4pm, Refreshments 'til 4.30pm)</b>	
<b>October 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Card Making</b>
<b>October 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Silver Song</b>

<b>JUNCTION 6</b>	
<b>Wednesday afternoon (exact timings tbc)</b>	
<b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>“Positive Portraits” - Portray positive aspects of age courtesy of Junction 6’s young people.</b>



## WEEE can recycle your electronic and electrical equipment

Residents in Basingstoke and Deane can now recycle their broken televisions and out of date game consoles thanks to an innovative new collection scheme.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has become the first council in the country to sign up for Midex's free WEEECollect.IT service.

The year-long trial kicked off a few weeks ago and will enable most residents in the borough to recycle Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) or, put simply, anything that takes batteries or has an electric plug.

Everything from PCs, dishwashers and washing machines to cookers, kettles, vacuum cleaners and DVD players can be collected for free! The service also includes collection of household batteries.

The year long trial will see household collections take place on a quarterly basis. The aim is to collect around 200 tonnes of waste electronic and electrical equipment during the year for recycling.

It is estimated that UK households throw away around 1 million tonnes of WEEE each year and significant volumes of small domestic WEEE and batteries still end up in grey bins, putting a great strain on our already deteriorating environment.

Residents included in the trial will receive a leaflet with a set collection date and clear instructions on what to do. The first collection has already taken place and collected just below 40 tonnes of WEEE. The collection will be repeated in October 2009, January and April 2010.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change Cllr Elaine Still said: "We are delighted to be the first council in the country to sign up to this year-long trial. This is a fantastic opportunity for residents to dispose of their waste electrical and electronic equipment in a positive way. This scheme is hassle free and simple to do and we hope that people will support it to help reduce the amount of WEEE going to waste."

Midex General Manager Chris Spooner said: "Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been following our initial trials with great interest and we are delighted they are the first council to sign up in partnership with us. Their support will allow us to move our trials to the next level. Our target is to remove 200 tonnes of WEEE from the borough and we are confident that residents will rise to the challenge."

For more information on the scheme visit [www.weeecollect.it](http://www.weeecollect.it) or call 0871 2000 962 or call the borough council on 01256 844 844.

\*A small charge will be applied for the collection of a fridge/freezer.

## Quality, Flexible, Affordable, Child care



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

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

Our focus is on

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

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## Special Offer for Children over 3

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

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

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