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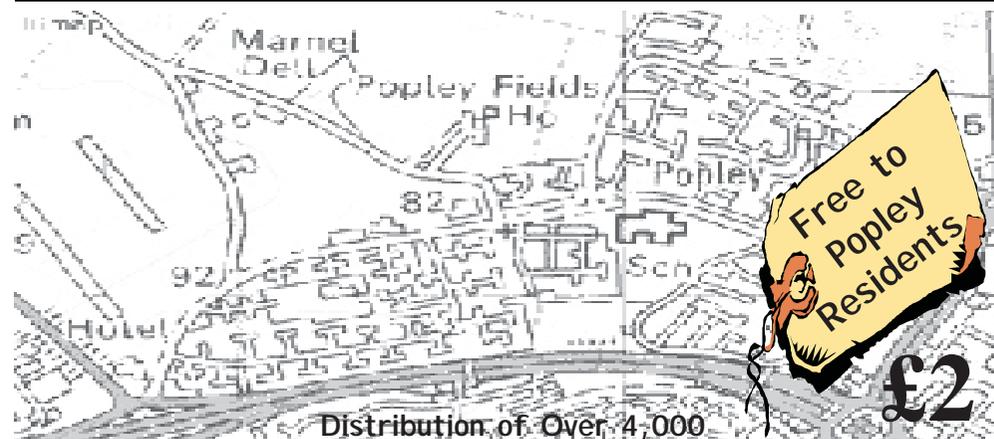
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

October 2009

Issue 92



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-10-09)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- Many residents across Popley will have known Ron Rowe who was an original founder member of this magazine. Sadly Ron has passed away on 26th August. There is an obituary on page 16 and 17. I will miss Ron very much he was an amazing gentle, gentleman.

October brings Halloween, closely followed by Bonfire Night. I wonder how long before the first firework, and how many long weeks we will be hearing the bang, bang, bang of fireworks after? I do love fireworks and go to the main display in the Memorial Park.

I also watch from my house the fireworks lighting up the sky with all their colours. I just don't see why it should go on for weeks and weeks? The Fire Service send out warnings every year, however in this month's page they are highlighting child safety seats. Their concern was highlighted in an event at Basingstoke station when only 6% were suitable and fitted correctly, so for advice see page 5.

Details of the competition to rename Aldermaston Open Space, now that the work has started, is on page 1. If it is easier to contact me, or drop your suggestions at my house 405 Abbey Road, we will make sure they are handed in. It is open for everyone to enter. There is a £30 Festival Place voucher as a prize. Good luck.

An absolute huge, great big thank you to the Everest Health and Fitness Club situated in the grounds of the school. They delivered the magazine to Merton Rise and Marnel Park that's 660 homes Thank you and they are delivering the magazine again this month. THANK YOU.

If there are any other residents that could help we would be really grateful. We have an amazing group of deliverers but we do really need more. Contact Iris King on 411113 or me, Jane Frankum, on 819924.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

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

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck and Kate Lomas.

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Chloe's column.

Hello readers, as you all know it will soon be Halloween. This is great for toddlers and young kids- they get to dress up, and eat sweets till they're sick. For rest of us it can be just another boring day of the year. I don't think this is good and there should be more to do. However, it is the Fireworks Night on 5th November, which is something good to look forward to. Information about this can be found on <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayor/events/Mayors+Charity+Fireworks+2009.htm> But for Halloween there is, as there is every year, on Halloween a fright night at Thorpe Park which should be quite entertaining (and scary.) But unfortunately going on a train and buying tickets to a theme park doesn't come cheap, but if you can afford it good on you! There are also Halloween parties yay! Or should I say woooo! (Scary ghost sound)



Last month and the month before there were loads of great concerts and festivals going on in places like Reading and London. Unfortunately, a weekend ticket to one of the festivals costs around 150 pounds! Plus travel. So I think we should have a proper concert or festival in Basingstoke because as good as Basingstoke live is, we don't know most of the artists performing and it would be great to be able to see our favourite singers or bands here in Basingstoke. At the moment Basingstoke is more like Boringstoke.

A moan of mine this month is that I keep seeing sewage coming out of the ground I don't think the manholes are being put on tightly enough. I have seen them open in Popley Poets and Popley Abbeys they stink and are not nice to have to walk by (trust me). The worst one is in Fountains Close and it really needs to be sorted as I have noticed over the years that the same one keeps doing it.

Anyway on a lighter note it will be half term soon so I am looking forward to that. Time off school and lay-ins.

It is also my friends' birthday this month so happy 16th birthday twins!!
Have a spooky Halloween everyone!



Till next month,
Chloe.

Name Your New Park

As many of you will be aware, improvement works have started to create a new park in the open space between Popley Way and Merton Rise.

As this new park is for the people of Popley, we would like you to choose its name. Email your suggestion to Margaret.mcgrath@basingstoke.gov.uk by Monday 30 November or post to Margaret McGrath, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH.

The suggested names will then be voted on by Popley residents through the December issue of Popley Matters.

The person who suggests the winning name will be presented with a £30 Festival Place voucher by the Mayor. If more than one person has suggested the winning name, then there will be a draw to find the winner of the voucher.

Good luck!



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Exciting new developments at the Pebbles Children's Centre
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Sherborne St John Parish Council

The Perfect Life in Merton Rise and Marnel Park

Following the total of just two attendees at the special Sherborne St. John Parish Council meeting held last Wednesday at the Everest Community College, it can only be assumed that life in these newer areas of the Parish is perfect! The meeting was organised to hear the views and concerns of these residents to discuss car parking, speeding, petty crime, litter and access to local amenities such as shops, pubs, schools, and sports clubs.

Clearly there are no burning issues!

Nine County, Borough and Parish councillors gave up their time to attend this meeting in order to listen to concerns of the local residents. Just two attended! The town planners and developers of this should be congratulated for doing a great job.

This follows the lack of volunteers to distribute the parish magazine, The Villager, to the residents of Merton Rise and Marnel Park.

The SSJ Parish Council meeting is held at 7:30pm on the fourth Monday evening of every month in the Village Hall. It will continue to discuss the more rural issues affecting the village and administer the annual precept paid by all parishioners.

Parish Clerk - Mrs Clover Morgan
24 Vyne Road, Sherborne St John,
Basingstoke RG24 9HX
Phone 01256 851715
clove4@btinternet.com

Vice Chairman - Chris Cooke
1 Cranesfield, SSJ, RG24 9LN
Phone 01256 850837
chris@2cookes.co.uk

Paul Ashley
3 West End, SSJ, RG24 9LB
Phone 01256 850620
paul.ashley@responsivedesigns.co.uk

Chairman - Julian Crawley
The Old Post Office
Kiln Road
Sherborne St John
Basingstoke
RG24 9HS
Tel/Fax: 01256 851003
Julcrawley@aol.com

Other Parish Council Members
Linda Agnew
Malindi, Sherborne Road, SSJ, RG24 9LP
Phone 01256 320911
agnew936@btinternet.com

Carole Stanley
14 Tyfield, SSJ, RG24 9HZ
Phone 01256 851250
stanley_carole@yahoo.co.uk

Becky Jones
Rosemoor Cottage, Vyne Road,
SSJ, RG24 9HX
Phone 01256 850693
Bexterjones@hotmail.com

Jonathan Eales
48 Speckled Wood Road
Sherborne St John
RG24 9SR
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Did you know:

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- ✿ It is the law that all children up to 135cm tall (around 4'5"), or the age of 12, whichever comes first, in the front or rear seats in cars, vans and other vehicles must travel in the correct child restraint for their weight.
- ✿ As a driver you could face a fine of up to £500 for failing to ensure that a child passenger is using the appropriate restraint.
- ✿ In addition to the legal penalties this could affect any claims against your motor insurance cover.

Child seats come in 3 categories/groups:

Rearward-facing Baby Seat:

- Group 0: for babies up to 10 kgs (22 lbs) roughly from birth to 6 - 9 months.
- Group 0+: for babies up to 13kg (29lbs) roughly from birth to 12 - 15 months

Forward-facing Child seat:

- Group 1: for children weighing 9 - 18 kgs (20-40 lbs) roughly from 9 months - 4 years.

Booster seats and booster cushions:

- Group 2: for children weighing 15 - 25 kgs (33-55 lbs) roughly 4 - 6 years.
- Group 3: for children weighing 22 - 36 kgs (48-79 lbs) roughly from 6 - 11 years.

DO NOT put child seats in the front passenger seat if there is a passenger airbag!!

Useful contact points and further information:

RoSPA & THINKE! car seat page: www.childcarseats.org.uk
 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
 Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8064 4000
 Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



Councillors Page: I had a meeting along with Cllr Paul Frankum with a senior Highways Officer to talk about the proposals for improvements for walking and cycling in Popley. The main concern were safer routes to school and to the shops for our residents. There is a substantial amount of 106 developer money, so we talked about safely crossing around Popley, and also about the positioning of the bus stops in Carpenters Down, Paul pointed out the two nearest the new development as needing to be relocated. We spoke about safe crossing from Popley West to Everest College especially for our residents in Abbey Court and Magnolia Court who need a safe place to cross. We were pleased to see at last firm proposals for measures to reduce the speed on Popley Way and Carpenters Down

The Travellers continue to illegally camp around the town, and Popley seems to have taken the major share of the camps and mess. I went to a seminar in Winchester to learn more about Travellers and Gypsies as part of my desire to find a proper and more permanent resolution. I am even more convinced that there is a need for a Transit Camp and that reopening up the site at Dummer would make the most sense, as it would not require planning permission as it is still licensed as a transit site! It would have to be managed properly though.

Cllr Jane Frankum 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

Popley West: The new park is starting to take shape and some play equipment can be seen being installed. I hope we get lots of entries for naming the park as it will be our Popley Park, and for the residents to enjoy and take their families.

The Travellers have illegally camped in the Popley East area in Carpenters Down and we all are working at getting a permanent solution. They will have been moved on by the time Popley Matters is delivered and lets hope they have taken the Traveller Liaison Officer's advice to move on to an official transit site which is in Salisbury!

It was disappointing that only two residents came to the special meeting called by Sherborne St John Parish Council. But these are busy times and people work shifts and with young families it is not easy to get out in the evening. However the residents that came asked about the litter collection as part of their Parish precept and the speed of the traffic through the area.

I am always contactable by phone 472496/819924 email cldr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk at Popley Labour 405 Abbey Road Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EL

DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER



Now, I will only say a few words on this then move on. On Popley we have always been proud of not only the things people do to help others, but also our many different heritages. We have become multi national and we must remember this. We do not expect people to come in and ridicule what people try to do in helping each other as I have seen of late. Popley Matters is not a political magazine it is our community magazine, to let people like myself and others enjoy giving people a few laughs each month and to let people know what is going on around us. I hope I have done so over the years. I know I get a few thumps from "Her Indoors," well, I only get a chance to talk this way rarely, I get it in the ear each day from Her Indoors. It is another clip round the ear when she reads this, but I am used to that now.

So let us live in the spirit of Popley be proud of who you are and where we come from. My father and grandfather instilled that in me at an early age and I have passed their words of wisdom on to my children, in turn they are will do the same with their children.

As a young lad we never had the things our children have now, in fact we went to the park and the ducks would feed us! What great fun we had in the park getting hold of the groundsman to see if he had any broken bats in his hut so we could all play cricket. If by chance we saw the rugby players out now and then we would cadge an old ball from them. If you remember back then the ball was brown and when wet it doubled in weight. As a young kid I could just about throw it, if you tried to catch it when wet you went flying. But what great fun it was out in the open enjoying fresh air. Now the new park is well underway I hope to see families enjoy using it. We should all thank our local council members and other groups for the very, very hard work that has gone into this project.

The "OLDGIT" my scooter has gone to the scooter heaven in the sky. The cost to get it fixed was way too much. I am going to struggle on with it for a while and see if I can raise the funds to get a new one. As long as I can make the shops and back each day I can manage. Longfellow flats have gone I have taken around 250 pictures and a written story about the work as it went along. For the first time we can see Chineham Park and how open the end of Dryden now looks it is so bright. Lets hope it will stay that way after the new build. Well that is about it for this month except to say fellows, Christmas is around the corner again, time to hide the cheque book and credit cards from Her Indoors!

Two Part Time Centre Assistants Required

We are looking for two people to help the association achieve its aims and objectives, particularly those concerned with meeting the recreational, educational and social needs of the community it serves. They will ensure the smooth running of the centre facilities, which includes ensuring that the facility is clean, safe and set up ready for users and some maintenance of the facility and equipment. It is desirable for applications to have a full driving license and the use of own vehicle. They must have good communication skills and experience of dealing with the public. Plus they should also be confident, responsible and flexible.

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You can apply for this job by telephoning 01256 414494 and asking for an application form and job description or by emailing popleyfields@hotmail.com. Closing date for completed application forms is Friday 13th November 2009.

A special DROP IN CENTRE has been arranged for NHS hearing aid users to have aids re-tubed and checked at.

Melrose Community Centre

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Thursday 22nd October

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www.base2000.co.uk

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 Colin 01256410559



Five new recruits were welcomed to Beaver Colony at the beginning of September. The programme for the autumn session is based on three of the six Beaver Scout Challenge badges such as creative skills, adventure, and community. The Colony will take part in Hampshire Beaver Scouts' annual visit to Paultons' Park in November. The programme for the Cub section will include first aid, local knowledge and safety. Sixers could have the opportunity to attend Hampshire Cub Scout Sixers' Camp at Pinsent at the end of October.

The Scout section will extend their first aid knowledge and learn more about aviation skills. Hampshire Scouts' Patrol Leader Training weekend will take place at Lyons Copse towards the end of November. The selection process for Scouts to attend the next World Jamboree in Sweden in 2012 has begun. Hampshire Scouts will send two contingents of around 60 young people aged from 14-18 years.

Sadly the Group mustered only five walkers for the Scouts' Tri-District Walk in September in Baughurst. Across the three Scout Districts of Basingstoke East, Basingstoke West and Silchester however, just under 500 walkers took part including many parents and supporters. Together they have pledged just under £5,000 in support of 'Jacksplace' and local Scouting. Scouting is not just about 'us' it is also about 'them' especially the less able.

New recruits are always welcome in all sections. Scouting is open to all young people within the age range regardless of religion or disability. Leaders are trained to adapt the activities and programmes to cater for young people who are less able or have special needs. Base 2000 is fully accessible to the disabled. The first meeting is free but thereafter the subscription is £1.50 per week (can be paid termly by cheque if preferred)



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

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



Boys and girls aged 10½-15
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Colin Karslake 410559

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Jean 01189814880



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"GET CREATIVE IN POPLEY"

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

MAGNOLIA COURT

Wednesdays (3pm—4pm, Refreshments 'til 4.30pm)

October 7th Card Making

October 14th Silver Song

JUNCTION 6

Wednesday afternoon (exact timings tbc)

October 28th "Positive Portraits" - Portray positive aspects of age courtesy of Junction 6's young people.

SHAKESPEARE MEDICAL CENTRE

Mondays (1030—12noon)

November 2nd Pamper Session

November 9th The Joys & Benefits of Exercise
(including Chair-based exercise class)

November 16th Positive Mental Attitude
(tips and techniques for remaining happy)

November 23rd You & Your Garden
(how to make looking after your garden easier and more straightforward)

Popley Fields Community Centre

Monday 7th December 1030 12noon

Celebration Event and review of our Creative Journey from September to date & Sign up for New Year activities.

For further info contact:-

Philippa Secretan (01256) 423828

Basingstoke Voluntary Services

www.voluntaryservices.com



Good Start!

The 2009/10 Season has begun with the U7s playing against Loddon Sports with a 5-0 and 3-2 win for the Raiders and a 0-0 and 2-3 loss for the Knights, Alfie Austen and Ryan Bassett scored 3 a piece and Jake Lunnon scored twice for the Knights.

The U9s Dynamos have played against Loddon and Chineham Tigers with a 1-0 and 2-0 victory. The main game was against Loddon, who beat the Dynamos in the final of the Sentinel Tournament, but revenge is sweet and the boys played and battled hard. Cole Oates popped up with the winner.

The U10s have had a great start to the season with a 9-0 and 7-3 win over Tadley and Cold Ash, I think Kev and Mini have done a great job with the Spurs. Alfie Mitchell adds pace and skill to the team and I am looking forward to working with him in the school team.

The U11s Tornados have played 2 games, beating Thatcham 5-4 and Tigers 5-3. The boys have had to work hard for both games and are still struggling to come to terms with the size of the pitch and goals. Fynnlie has earned the Man of the Match for both games and thoroughly deserved it. There have been some cracking goals scored with Jacob, Fyn, Scott and Georgie Graves scoring some absolute screeeeeeaaaamers!

The U13s Scorpions haven't had a great start losing 7-0 twice and 5-6. The score doesn't do them justice as the boys play some stunning football but lack concentration and awareness, but they'll get there in the end.

Thanks for your support
United always!

Lee Austen, Director of Football



Dear residents,

The Beat Team have been working towards the three core priorities, as chosen by you and voted on by the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

These are 1) Arson and Anti Social Behaviour in Carpenters Down Woods 2) Anti Social Behaviour at the One Stop on Shakespeare Road 3) Longfellow Parade Anti Social Behavior.

Many patrols have been conducted in the woods by all patrolling agencies and perhaps because of this the arson has seemingly stopped. However a number of youths have been seen riding motorbikes in the woods often at high speed. I would still encourage residents to report incidents in the woods as it is often difficult to patrol such a large area and walkers/dog walkers are in a good position to witness current activities in the woods.

Anti Social Behavior at the One Stop on Shakespeare Road was chosen by and large due to the association with the previous shop in Longfellow Parade where there was often conflict. There seems to be a good balance at the new shop with far fewer incidents. The shop is also far more open. A number of youths have been located in the bin stores next to the shops smoking cannabis. This resulted in an arrest and a street caution. The cannabis and drugs paraphernalia were seized and destroyed. Currently the bin stores are insecure and consultation with Sentinel Housing has taken place to resolve this issue. Longfellow was selected as a priority due to its demolition. So far we have had no issues at the Longfellow Parade site as security measures appear to be sufficient.

The schools continue to be targeted by youths intent on causing damage. Last week Merton Junior School was attacked leaving a large window smashed and a bill of over £300. Please remind your children that they are trespassing by being on school grounds and that we are taking a proactive approach in dealing with offenders.

The Beat Team will be very active during the Halloween and Bonfire night period and we will do our best to ensure the safety of the Popley Community. If you have any concerns or information that will help the team and the community then please let me know.

If you would like to influence the work conducted by your Local Beat Team and relevant agencies please make contact. Tel: 0845 045 45 45 or email us on basingstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

I am the Beat Manager for Popley West. My PCSO is Steven Smith

The Beat Manager for Popley East is PC Paul Thorne and his PCSO is Phil Rapley.

All the best
PC 20686 Dan Carter
Popley West
Safer Neighbourhoods Beat Manager
☎0845 045 45 45



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Halloween Family night:

This is on Saturday 31st October 7.00pm till 10.00pm with fancy dress competition, Tombola, Halloween games, raffle, food, music and licensed bar

All Tickets: £3.00 Adult and £2.00 Child.

Come along and have some spooky fun.

Christmas Fayre

We are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 5th December 10.00am till 12.00

Anyone interested in doing a stall at the cost of £5 per table, please call the centre.

Aerotone: Legs, Tums & Bums

Thursdays 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 21st September 2009. Courses include beginners computing, internet & email, digital photography and more.

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

MAD Academy

This high energy dance group for under 4s is continuing in popularity but there are always spaces available. Come along on Tuesday mornings from 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 12s children’s parties all at very reasonable rates. Call now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the Centre every week.

Tel: 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com



We have received our results from both Basingstoke in Bloom and South & Southeast in Bloom. We were awarded a Highly Commended and an Improvement respectively. We are very pleased with these results and would like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers for your hard work in the garden this year. We hope you all had fun and would like to carry on to help get even better results next year.

This time of year the garden is starting to close down for winter, but there are still plenty of jobs to do including bulb planting, hedge trimming, and leaf raking. We have a new composter this autumn and will be making our own leaf mulch to use in the spring.

On Saturday 17th October our resident group, Peregrinus, will be holding a psychic evening. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start. These evenings have been hugely popular in the past, with a sellout crowd so be sure to get your tickets early! Tickets are £5.50 per person and can be bought from Gloria on 07593509232.

WHATS ON:

MONDAY:	9.30-12pm	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	4.00-7.30	Petite School of Dance
	9.30-2.30	Marnel Early Years
WEDNESDAY:	10.00-11.30	Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
	9.00-11.00	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm	Oasis Lunch club
THURSDAY:	9.30-12PM	Friendly Café
FRIDAY:	6.30-7.45	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.

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

A new telephone 'scam' has arrived.

“I received a call from a 'representative' of BT, informing me that he was disconnecting me because of an unpaid bill. He demanded payment immediately of £31.00, or it would be £118.00 to re-connect at a later date.

The guy wasn't even fazed when I told him I was with Virgin Media, allegedly VM have to pay BT a percentage for line rental!

I asked the guy's name - the very 'English' John Peacock with a very 'African' accent - & phone number - 0800 0800 152.

Obviously the fella realized I wasn't believing his story, so offered to demonstrate that he was from BT. I asked how and he told me to hang up and try phoning someone - he would disconnect my phone to prevent this.

AND HE DID !! My phone was dead - no engaged tone, nothing - until he phoned me again.

Very pleased with himself, he asked if that was enough proof that he was with BT. I asked how the payment was to be made and he said credit card, there and then.

I said that I didn't know how he'd done it, but I had absolutely no intention of paying him, I didn't believe his name or that he worked for BT.

He hung up.

I dialed 1471 and his fictitious 0800 number - was not recognised.

I phoned the police to let them know. I wasn't the first! It's only just started apparently but it is escalating.

Their advice was to let as many people know by word of mouth of this scam. The fact that the phone does go off would probably convince some people it's real, so please let as many friends and family aware of this.”

Editor's Note: We decided that after checking, that this was a genuine warning and it has also been reported in the media. These sort of scams are really distressing. If you hear of any others or you are unsure that something is genuine, don't hesitate contact Trading Standards on 01962 833620

Drainage Problems?

After recent problems with overflowing drains in the Popley area, hopefully this information will help people reporting issues to the right organisation.

Most drainage problems occur due to blockages caused by things like nappies, and other large items being flushed down the toilet; tree roots blocking pipes; fats and oils being poured down drains. Occasionally blockages may also occur due to disrepair of the pipe work itself.

Sewer pipes between houses and the main sewerage drainage pipes are privately owned and are the responsibility of the occupiers of the property concerned. This means that if there is a blockage or breakage close to a house or block of flats, it is the people connected to the sewer that will be responsible for getting it unblocked.

If the blockage or breakage is in the public sewer pipes, it falls under the responsibility of either Thames Water or Southern Water. You might need to check your water bill to find out which company you need to contact. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have no legal responsibility over sewer pipes. They may become involved where disputes arise over ownership and if there are ongoing public health issues.

Thames Water can be contacted on: 0845 9200 888 (24 hour emergency number) Minicom: 0845 7200 898, e-mail: www.thames-water.com . Or at Thames Water, PO Box 286, Swindon, SN38 2RA; Southern Water can be contacted on: 0845 278 0845 (24 hour emergency number) Minicom: 0845 275 0845, e-mail: www.southernwater.co.uk

If you need to make a complaint about either water company, contact OFWAT at: Consumer Council for Water Thames, Fourth Floor South, High Holborn House, 52/54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL. Telephone: 0207 831 4790, Lo-call: 08457 581 658, Fax: 0207 831 4850, E-mail: thames@ccwater.org.uk . Office Hours: 09.00-17.00, Mon-Fri Or the same address under Consumer Council for Southern Water. Telephone numbers are the same, E-mail: southern@ccwater.org.uk , and office hours as before.

Blockage of drains and gullies at the side of roads is the responsibility of the Highway Authority, Hampshire County Council. This is for rain water draining from roads and footpaths, and they can be contacted on 0845 850 4422, or 01256 764444 from outside Hampshire.



Relationship Matters

Are things not going so well with your partner at the moment? Problems with employment, worries about making ends meet, or changes in circumstances can all put a strain on relationships. Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau can offer free confidential advice to you about this. You may benefit from mediation, such as with Relate or Hampshire Family Mediation - we can help you to make contact with these organisations. We can advise on separation or divorce and help complete paperwork, provide information on your housing options, check your benefit entitlement or help with debt problems.

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau can also put individuals in a violent relationship in touch with local refuges.

Living together vs marriage - your rights

Did you know that legally there are big differences between living with your partner (cohabitation) and being married to them? Generally speaking you will have fewer rights if you are living together than if you're married.

If you are not married some points to be aware of are:

Financial Affairs

If you separate it can be harder to sort out your affairs, particularly if you have money and assets (e.g. house, vehicle, furniture) that you share. You cannot claim maintenance from your partner.

Parental Responsibility

Generally unmarried mothers have sole responsibility for a child, unless the birth is registered with the father, or a formal agreement (parental responsibility order) is made. If you're an unmarried father, you are not automatically assumed to be the child's father. You can get legal responsibility (parental responsibility) for your child by registering (or re-registering) the birth of your child together with the child's mother or making a formal parental responsibility agreement with the mother. You could also marry the child's mother.

Death and Inheritance

If one partner dies without leaving a will, the surviving partner will not automatically inherit anything unless the couple owned property jointly. As an unmarried couple, you need to make wills if you wish to make sure that the other partner inherits. If you inherit money or property from an unmarried partner, you may still have to pay inheritance tax, unlike a married couple.

Debts

You are liable for any debts which are in your own name only, but not for any debts which are just in your partner's name. You may be responsible for the whole of debts in joint names and for other debts for which you have 'joint and several' legal responsibility. For example, if you owe council tax, you and your partner will both be responsible for the debt, regardless of whether one of you contributes or not. If your partner has a debt for which you have acted as guarantor, you will also be held legally responsible for paying it.

Housing

Tenants If you are the unmarried partner of a tenant, whether in private or public sector accommodation, you will usually have no rights to stay in the accommodation if the tenant asks you to leave. It is therefore advisable for partners who are living together to be joint tenants, as this gives them equal rights and responsibilities.

Owner Occupiers If your partner is the sole owner, you may have no rights to remain in the home if you are asked to leave. You may have increased rights if you have children or you can show a 'beneficial interest' in the property

Need further information or Help?

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau can help you with queries you have on relationships, immigration, employment issues, benefits and debt and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10-3.30 Monday to Friday (except Thursday) and Saturday mornings 10-12.

The Advice Line telephone number is 01256 322814

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



the charity for
your community

Dear Friends

As I write this we are basking in the early Autumn sunshine and temperatures of late September. All around us the signs of autumn are beginning to appear; the gold, russets and reds of the leaves on the trees; the migration of the birds, foraging squirrels and other wildlife storing up for the winter. It is a time of cooler nights and shorter days. Across the northern hemisphere it is a time of celebration as the harvest is completed. That's reflected in the many Harvest Festivals in churches and schools at this special time of the year as we give thanks to God for farmers and food producers worldwide and the fruits of their labours that we enjoy.

This year at St Gabriel's in our Harvest Festival we will be supporting the Water Aid campaign. They are a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that seek to end water poverty in poorer countries. Check out their website for some staggering statistics! Across the world today 2.5 billion people are without improved sanitation (no proper toilets or means of disposing waste); 884 million people do not have access to clean water and 5000 children die every day of diseases contracted from infected drinking water!

I am forever banging on in church about how much of a blessing it is to be able turn on a tap and have access to clean water, to be able to flush the loo, to climb into a hot shower or bath. Can you possibly imagine what it would be like to be deprived of that luxury; to have to walk five miles there and back just to fill an empty plastic container with dirty water?

The world has enough resources (for now) for everyone. Yet, sadly our western culture encourages selfishness and self-centredness so we tend to hoard what we have and while for the most part we are aware of the plight of others we do little to alleviate their suffering. The Bible encourages us always to be aware and to offer help to those in need, even the alien and the stranger in our midst – a good example of what I'm talking about is reflected in Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan – 'who indeed is my neighbour?'

So! Next time you make a cup of tea, drink a glass of water, take a shower or flush the loo give thanks to God for that blessing and offer a prayer taking and some positive action to make someone else's life that much better.

With every blessing and prayer for a fine autumn and a kind winter.

Your friend in Christ,

Arthur

Vicar of St,Gabriel's

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

Sunday 1st November at 4.00pm in St Gabriel's Church

Followed by light refreshments in the hall.

A quiet opportunity to give thanks for those whom we have loved and lost.
Memorial lilies available for the service – please contact the church office 324734

THE PASSING OF AN ERA

It is with deep sadness that we have to announce that Ron Rowe the spritely 82 year old ex chairman of the Bermuda Community Association Hall passed away peacefully in his sleep after a long and arduous battle against cancer on 26th August 2009.

Our condolences go out to Ron's family at this sad time. Ron was well known to the Popley Matters team as he was one of the original committee members many moons ago. Ron was also one of the original founders of the Popley Two Residents Association when it started in 1976 at the Madiera Hall Popley Two.

He organized many functions from the hall including the Residents summer fete on the green outside the hall, a Popley Princess competition for entry into the main Basingstoke carnival procession, and decorating the floats over the years for the carnivals which he always enjoyed and won many awards with these entries. He also loved playing Father Christmas for the children at the Christmas bazaars which was a regular event.

Ron was never happier than when he was calling BINGO for the regular residents of Popley at the Monday/Tuesday evening bingo. This was extended more recently when the 3 Community Halls in Popley got together to organise the Family Prize Bingo evenings, where it is often said by many players it is their best social night of the week, for many it is the only night in the week they go out. He also arranged the annual Bingo summer outing to the coast. Of course we had to play bingo on the coach or he wouldn't have called it a bingo outing.

Ron was not just the bingo caller, he cared very much about the members of the club. If he missed seeing someone at bingo for a couple of weeks he would enquire about them and if they were poorly he would make a point of visiting them at home, or in some cases in care homes or hospitals.

In January 2005 the Popley Two Residents Association moved from the Madiera Hall to its new home at Bermuda Close, and was renamed the Bermuda Community Association. Ron was again at the forefront ensuring that everything went smoothly, organizing the weekly routines for the new clubs.

Just recently, although in bad health, Ron continued to play an important role within Association by redecorating rooms in the Bermuda Hall and carrying out minor repairs as well as being the Treasurer he also was a valued member of the Community Forum and a keen support worker with the Police Community

Officers of Popley.

Ron will be sadly missed by all those who knew him but not forgotten for all the dedicated work he has put into the community and his infectious smile and attitude towards everyone.

Goodbye Ron from all his friends and the members of the BCA



26th January 1927 - 26th August 2009