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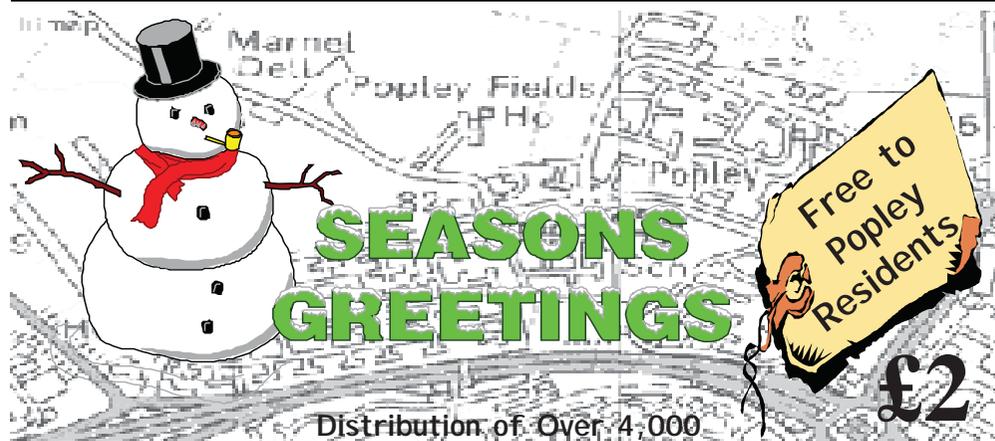
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

December 2009

Issue 94



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (13-12-09)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** Seasons greetings to all our readers. As I write this message the sun is shining and the cold snowy weather seems miles away. However, I wonder if by the time you get this magazine, and before the next one, we will have some snow. Please look out for your neighbours over the winter months especially with the threat of flu.

Sadly there is a report in the police report page of a Staffie type dog attacking a cat. This can give the impression that all Staffie dogs are dangerous when it is nearer the truth to say it is how the owners look after and treat them, as with any type of dog. There is a letter on the subject in the letters page 15.

There are lots of sales and functions over the next month or so. That it is worth reading through especially if your looking for reasonable or different types of presents. Details for the Basingstoke Voluntary Services main Christmas event can be found on page 23.

The naming of the new Popley Park has been extended for a month to give the schools and residents a chance to put in their suggestions. So far there have been only eight entries. There is a prize of a £30 Festival Place Voucher.

I have to confess to being a Dragon type and the reason is on page 1, and may I say they were worthy winners. We have our regular items but always welcome new articles from our readers. Contact Editor Jane Frankum 819924, or email at [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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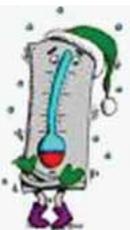
## Chloe's column

Hello readers! Or should I say Happy Christmas? Well it almost is. I, myself, cannot wait. I love Christmas as it means spending time with your family or friends, and opening lots of presents. You also get a big Christmas dinner and lots of food. Tis' the season to be jolly!

I should admit, though, that I have not finished my

Christmas shopping yet- in fact I have barely started. I really need to learn to start earlier next year; but I am sure I am not the only one. I am so happy that I will be on my Christmas holidays soon because I have been under pressure with coursework and exams like every other Year 11 student. We have to think about studying, prom, college and money on top of everything else- which can be a bit overwhelming. But I am pleased to say at the moment I have enough time to juggle writing my monthly column also. (You don't have to miss me now!)

In November the travellers were once again back down by Everest. I don't see why they are allowed to be there. If they weren't so disruptive and didn't leave so much mess than it would be OK, but since they do I am sure lots of you will agree that something should be done.



I have passed by the building space of the nearly-built family park in Popley. I have to say it's looking great and gives the public something to do/ somewhere to go. By the time this is printed the park may already be built but I wanted to say how great it's coming along.

There is not a lot worth doing outside as it is a bit cold and rains a lot lately. It's also dark at around 5-ish so unless

your nocturnal it's not really the weather to go out. However, if you feel like getting out and about I strongly recommend shopping or the cinema. Bowling is also always good for a laugh. Anything that keeps you occupied is good.

There should also be workshops or something like that in Festival Place. I have just realized that I won't be writing again till January 2010! This year has sped by. Happy New Year to you all!

Have a very Merry Christmas everyone.

Till next issue,

Chloe.



## Everest Community College: Business Challenge Champions 2009!

On Monday 5th October 2009 the Basingstoke Business Challenge 2009 was hosted by Everest Community College. The event, organised by Basingstoke Consortium in conjunction with Barclays Bank, was fiercely contested by schools from across the borough as all the teams were challenged to create a unique and innovative proposal for a Year 11 Leavers Ball.

Each team was assigned a commercial expert, courtesy of Barclays Bank, to offer support and advice if and when asked and had full use of the Everest Community College facilities including the state of the art ICT suites. The teams quickly set to task and all successfully designed and calculated budget for their events and prepared their presentations in just 3 hours.

Facing a 'Dragon's Den' style panel the teams stepped up to present their 'pitch' whilst facing probing questions and skilfully presenting while the judges made notes. After seeing all the presentations the judges slipped out for thirty minutes of hot debate and deliberation, finally returning to the hall to announce the Business Challenge Champions.

With a hall full of anxious students from around the area awaiting the result, judging panel member Lee Price took the stage to announce the champions. Great motivational and developmental feedback was given on all teams' presentations before the announcement was made that Everest Community College had won the trophy and the honour of Business Challenge Champions for 2009. Their innovative concept was an open air masquerade ball to be held in the grounds of Eastrop Park making use of all the existing facilities, and researching and costing marquees, DJs and attractions.

Well done to all who took part and congratulations to victorious Everest Community College students Patrick Callaghan, Daniel Hollis, Matthew Harrison, Lauren Hope, Mwalula Lundu and Thomas MacDonald-Grute!



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Exciting new developments at the Pebbles Children's Centre Nursery!

From 27th July KIDS' assumed management responsibility for the Nursery based at Pebbles Children's Centre. KIDS is the disabled children and young people's charity. There is no other organisation dedicated to working in partnership with parents and carers to provide such a wide range of services to disabled children, young people and their families irrespective of medical condition or impairment aged 0-25 years.

'We work to give disabled children a happy childhood'

Based within Pebbles Children's Centre in the beautiful grounds of Chineham Park Primary School, the Nursery provides a stimulating and fun environment for children to grow and learn. Educational grants are available term time only, for children from the first term following their 3rd birthday.

Places are available 5 days a week all year round and the children have either a full-time or part-time place, depending on availability of places and the family's needs.

We are currently taking enquires and bookings  
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The Beavers have been learning about their bodies, in particular their senses. They have also been learning basic emergency skills including what to do at the scene of an accident. They even had a day out to Paultons Park to see Santa!

The Cubs have been busy learning about environment issues and how they affect us. They have also had a visit from PC Dan Carter who discussed how to keep safe and what it is like to be a Police Officer in Popley. And as ever have had fun being creative, making firework pictures, and building their own towers out of newspaper!

Over the last few months the Scouts have been brushing up on basic scouting skills with a twist. This has included pioneering, route planning using London underground maps and advancing onto Ordnance Survey maps. Also cooking a full cooked breakfast! (At 8.00pm!)

IT'S CHRISTMAS! And to celebrate we are holding a Christmas Fete on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009, 1.00pm at Melrose Hall, Popley to help raise funds for the group. This fun event will be opened by Bud Bison (Basingstoke Bison Hockey team mascot!) and will include a raffle and the chance to meet Santa Clause! All ages welcome to the event.

We are always on the look out for people of all ages to enjoy the adventure that scouting offers. If you have a young person who is interested in becoming a member in any section or would like to help young people achieve their potential please contact Martin Lee (Scout Leader) on: 07854860895.



Boys & Girls 6-8  
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Boys & Girls 8-10 ½  
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Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15  
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Hello Folks,

It has been a while since I last wrote for the Popley Matters. I trust you have all been well and are enjoying living in the vibrant Popley Community.

I continue to plod on and I am still enjoying my work. You may be aware that the three current priorities in Popley are as follows: 1) dangerous dogs 2) criminal damage at Popley schools 3) drugs misuse in Glastonbury Close.

I recently attended an address in Melrose Walk and spoke to a resident who had her cat attacked by a Staffie type dog. In recent months I have heard so much about dog issues and this is not just isolated to Popley but rather the whole of Basingstoke. We are currently working towards establishing set protocols when dealing with dangerous dogs, or dog owners who are unable to look after their dog or purposely cause anti social behaviour with their animals. Future proposals could see dog owners being placed on Acceptable Behaviour Agreements should they come to light on a number of occasions. If you have any information about such cases of dangerous dogs then please contact me or the team to discuss. You may have seen that criminal damage at schools and drugs misuse in Popley have been the theme for previous community priorities. These issues will always be there in some shape or form but the community has a voice and has once again chosen the priorities that matter to them. If you know of community issues, or problems that you would like the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel to work towards, then please get in contact. The Panel is only what the community make us and we need your continued support in order to ensure a safer Popley for all.

On a personal note I have added a string to my bow in that I am now a HLO (Hunt Liaison Officer) The reason for this is because historically Carpenters Down Woods has been subject to a number of hunts. On one occasion the hunt spilled into Popley along Carpenters Down and I am led to believe that horses ended up in some of the residents' gardens. I am appealing to those who dog walk and any other resident to let me know if they are aware of any local hunts or indeed if they see any such hunt in Carpenters Down. I will then be in a position to either attend and monitor the site and update the chain of command should there be a need for a follow up. I am still the Popley West Safer Neighbourhoods Beat Manager so don't panic!

I know I mention this every year but with Christmas coming up it is a timely reminder that, unfortunately, thieves operate in Popley and indeed everywhere! It would be wise not to display Christmas presents in the windows of your homes. Be mindful also of leaving presents and other valuables in your car. If you must do this make sure they are not in view. If you can see them then so can the opportunist thief. If you are concerned about your home security, or if you know someone who may be vulnerable in the community this Christmas, then drop me a line and I will give them a call or pay them a visit.

On a sad note, and due to an operational need, unfortunately Police Community Support Officer, Steven Smith is no longer the Popley West PCSO. He has joined the Norden team to boost numbers and offer support. I hope you will join me in thanking Steve for all the hard work he has done in supporting the team and the Popley Community. The good news however, is that a new PCSO Sarah Danks will join me either late December or early January. When she joins I will ask her to write an article introducing herself, so watch this space!

As always, I would invite you to contact me with your community issues and we as a team will endeavour to find a solution,

All the best,  
PC 20686 Dan Carter  
Popley West  
Safer Neighbourhoods Beat Manager  
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**Xmas & New Year.**

Fairy Lights And Candles:

- ❁ Fairy lights make your home look festive and bright, but it is important to remember to use them safely.
- ❁ Fairy lights and Christmas tree lights don't get used very often, so you should ensure they're in good working order before using them:
  - Check that the fuse in the plug is the right size.
  - Replace any blown bulbs
  - Check the wiring is in good working order
- ❁ Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, such as paper or fabrics (be especially careful with other Christmas tree decorations).
- ❁ Always unplug fairy lights when you leave the house or go to bed.
- ❁ Candles can be dangerous, if you do use them in your home, always put them out when you leave the room, and keep them away from flammable materials such as greeting cards and decorations.
- ❁ Never place candles on a Christmas tree.
- ❁ Candles and nightlights are often used in celebrations for Christmas, they should never be put in or by a Christmas tree, plants, flowers or other foliage. You should also be careful that ribbons and other decorations aren't near any candle flames.

Don't Drink & Drive: Have a soft drink and stay alive!

- ❁ You can't calculate your alcohol limit.
- ❁ It takes less than you might think to become a drink driver.
- ❁ Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.

*Making Hampshire Safer*

At Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service we hope that you do not have to invite us round during your festivities and hope you have a safe, enjoyable, fire and incident free celebration.

**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 hope you all have a great Christmas. I have been to many meetings on the proposal to consult to close Chineham Park School. The decision on whether the consultation will start will be announced in December. The most important element is the children and what is best for them. The numbers of children in the school are low and we were told that one way of saving the school was to increase the numbers of pupils.

Like Paul, I was very concerned to read that 3,800 people and families are no longer on the housing waiting list. This seems an enormous number and I urge you to check that you are still on the housing waiting list. Phone 844844 and they will put you through or take your details, and you will be contacted later.

We are one step nearer getting safer crossings across Popley Way and I am constantly demanding that these vital crossings and paths are needed sooner rather than later. I will continue to work on this issue. Yet another accident, it is time for action!

I will be having a meeting with the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to talk about the pilot scheme at Popley Fields Community Centre. Cllr Jane Frankum 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

**Popley West:** I wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Residents are having difficulty in getting around Popley due to the thoughtless act of cars and vans being parked wholly or partially across dropped kerbs. Two residents have had injuries whilst try to get around in their electric buggies. There are also cars and vans parking at the edges of T junctions, making it impossible to see around for both drivers and pedestrians. Evenings are drawing in and children will be coming home from school. Parking infringements should now be reported to Basingstoke and Deane Parking Team on 845775. If you know of an area that needs a dropped kerb let your Councillor know and we will try to get one installed.

If you did not fill in your forms to reregister earlier this year you may have been taken off the housing list. It may be worth checking to ensure that you are still on the list.

We have managed to secure path repairs in Tintern, Romsey, Buckfast, Fountains and Glastonbury, and I am working to get a rolling program for repairs across the whole estate.

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

## Diaries from the Old Codger



I have decided that this will be my last “Old Codger”, unless of course I am asked to make a guest appearance from time to time.

I would like to go back to when I was about ten or eleven years old when my grandfather thought I would understand the meaning of what he was about to tell me.

As you know from the past Old Codgers I was forever in his house and spent hours talking about all sorts of subjects.

However this day he said “Listen son I want you to remember these words and pass them on”. With that he took my left hand and said :

“This finger is “Trust”. By trusting in people you will never do harm even if they harm you.

“This finger is “Reliable” if you are reliable people will ask you to help knowing that you will without question because of the way you were brought up.

“This finger is “Unselfish” to be this is being able to see a person that has become down on their uppers and giving them a helping hand for one day they may help you.

“This finger is “Tactfulness” This is to be a person that can see both sides of the coin and by doing so will help all parties that need his help and every one is a winner.

This finger is the most important finger “Honour”. It is the greatest thing a man can have and if you go through life with honour and bravery, no man can ask more of you than that”.

I said “Is that it Granddad? “What about this hand”, as I held out my right one. With that he got hold of it and wrapped it round the other hand and just said hold on to all these things son as they spell out the word

TRUTH

From Her indoors and I, with the greatest affection to you all for supporting me over the years with all your letters, emails and stopping us in the street or town to talk. I hope you have enjoyed reading the column as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Have a good Christmas and a safe New Year

THE OLD CODGER  
Take care all, The Old Codger

## What's Happening in Community at Everest

A quick mention of another successful half term children's activities – Mini 'Get With' Oct 09 attracted over 100 different children, taking part in 26 sessions over the five days, 15 of which were full. The theme this time was Dance and Creative Arts, and these proved very popular, particularly the dance which was a precursor to our current Dance@Everest project which is under way offering various dance forms for young and old (for more details please call Amy Fowler 078112 994840). Family Cooking was one of the most popular activities whereby parent and child worked together in a fun relaxed environment to produce some excellent meals, and tasty too! We hope to launch a number of family activities in the near future so if you are interested please let us know at reception and we will contact you. T Shirt Printing was also a hit during the week with some excellent and innovative designs created.

Our Classes Programme is proving very attractive and you do not have to be a member to attend. Yoga, Pilates, Pump, Fab Abs and many more are available – details on the website [www.everest.hants.sch.uk/health\\_leisure](http://www.everest.hants.sch.uk/health_leisure). A programme of the popular activity of Spinning is also available.

Lunchtime Ladies has now been launched offering both a relaxed back to fitness opportunity and an intro to those who have never been to the gym before. Under the expert guidance of Kayley Hancock, sessions take place on a Wednesday and Thursday 12-1.30pm followed by a cup of tea or coffee – cost £2 per session inclusive on a casual pay-as-you-come so there is no emphasis on commitment, only your desire to come along – we would love to see you.

We are also currently trialling a 14+ gym membership with our Everest College pupils, giving them access to our community gym at various times during the week. If this is successful we hope to open this out to the community. Again this will be a pay-as-you-go scheme under the guidance of our fitness professionals. Other plans in the pipeline are to set up a sports activity afternoon club via the Over 55s Forum for the more senior members of our community coupled with an opportunity for a bit of a social chit chat and a cuppa!

Plus we are exploring the provision of a programme of Adult and Family Learning which it is hoped will combine fun and engagement. If you have any requests, requirements, or ideas then please let us know.

Keep smiling and keep in touch!

Community @Everest Community College

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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



The Beaver Scouts had a wet, windy but wonderful day at Paultons Park in November and were pleased to meet up with Father Christmas on one of his first 'practice' runs of the season. Each received a present and a pack of sweets to take home. Beaver Colony meetings have included topics such as microscopes and their use, making a guy for Guy Fawkes' night and a BBQ, and learning about life in Egypt and the country's main attractions.

Cub Scouts programmes concentrated on personal safety and astronomy during November. They enjoyed a talk from a member of the Railway Police and completed various tasks to achieve the Personal Safety badge. They also had an evening on the theme of Ghana and celebrated Guy Fawkes' Night. Three members, Chloe, Austin and Thomas completed the requirements to achieve the Chief Scout's Silver Award. This is the highest award in the Cub Scout section and represents a great deal of hard work. Well done!



(left) Andy Cullen District Commissioner with Austin, Thomas and Chloe after the presentation of Chief Scout's Silver Awards (right) Esther is invested as a Cub Scout



The Scout section joined with other Scouts from Basingstoke East District in Old Basing on Bonfire Night. They had built the most enormous 'guy' (it was a plane actually complete with two pilots!). It certainly provided a highlight at the bonfire in more ways than one!

New members welcome in the Cub and Scout sections but the Beaver section is currently running a waiting list until the older members 'swim-up' to the Cub section in the New Year. Scouting is open to all young people within the age range regardless of religion or disability. Leaders adapt the activities and programmes to cater for young people who are less able or have special needs and Base 2000 is fully accessible to the physically disabled. The first meeting is free but thereafter the subscription is £1.50 per week (can be paid termly by cheque if preferred). Gift Aid can be applied to subscriptions. Subscriptions will rise to £2 per week in January 2010.



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



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



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

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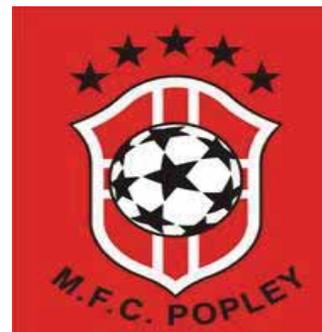
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## 4 years and still going strong.

It's been 4 years now since I started the club, and with over 100 kids now playing football for the club and over 95% of them coming from Popley is a great achievement. I have a great team backing me up in regards to coaching, managing and general running of the club over the last 4 years, and I thank them all.

## Unbeaten!

Lets start with the U9s who are unbeaten all season, so far, with the likes of Blaise Ely, Cole Oates, Taylor Ross and Callum McKeaveney, banging' em in. There's no wonder they're top of the league. I went to watch the boys when they played against one of their main rivals Woolton Hill Argyle, and the Dynamos beat them with ease winning 7-1 (I think, I lost count). Even though they lost D'Andre early on in the season to Southampton Academy, the boys have carried on in great style and determination to try and win the club their 2nd title in 4 years. Bring it home boys!

The U7s Knights are also unbeaten and to say they are only 6 years of age, they play the game how it should be played. I have had numerous amounts of comments regarding the Knights from opposing managers saying that they can't believe how good they are! The passing and battling on the pitch is unbelievable, and some of the tackles that are flying in is cringe worthy and I have to close my eyes sometimes. The determination is great from the Knights and they deserve all the success that is coming to them, future Tornados. Probably even better dare I say!

**This month's star player: Cameron Merrit** ★

From all at MFC Popley, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have a good one!

# Popley Explorers

[Formerly Marnel Explorers]

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

## Under New Management

We are pleased to announce that as of 2nd November, Marnel Explorers playgroup has changed its name to Popley Explorers to encompass the wider community.

If you would like to register your children with us or just come and look around, our excellent management and staff will be happy to talk to you.

Please telephone in the first instance and ask to speak to either Filomena (deputy) or Elaine (manager) telephone: 01256 308442

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### Christmas Fayre

This is taking place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am till 12.00pm. Various stalls including, tombola, raffle, guess the name of the teddy, number of sweets in a jar, write a letter to Santa, plus refreshments

### Free Computer Classes

Free computer course at Popley Fields Community Centre on including beginners computing, internet & email; digital photography; and more.

For more information please call Popley Fields on 01256 414494 or pop into the Community Centre for details of course times and days. Alternatively call Queen Mary College on 01256 417517.

### 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 10.15-11.15am and speak to Cathy.

### Silverwings Line Dancing

Wednesday evenings 8.00 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 50s

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

### Dynamics:

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday Evenings 5.00 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



## Melrose Hall Christmas Sale

Thank you to everyone who braved the awful weather to come to our Christmas Sale. We raised £73 towards the hall funds.

## 1st Popley Cubs and Scouts Sale

On Saturday 5th December the Cubs and Scouts will be holding a sale to raise funds for their group.

## Help for Heroes

On 3rd December we will be holding a coffee morning in aid of the Help for Heroes charity. 9am-12pm.

## Find us on Facebook!

We are now on facebook. Join our group: Melrose Hall. We will be keeping this group updated with up coming events. We would love to hear from you.

### WHATS ON:

MONDAY: 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café  
7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and 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 MCF Youth Club - age 11 plus.

SATURDAY: 9.00-12.30 pm Petite School of Dance

SUNDAY: MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, and conferences. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.

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Winter programme

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Friday December 11	Canvas Hand Printing From £1.50 (book in advance)
Friday December 18	Pinecone Decorations + Visit From Santa
Friday December 25	Closed



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Olesea on 01256 419868



Hi, my name is Janice, the Centre Manager at Pebbles Children's Centre and I am Head of a great staff team. We are here for all families with children under 5 who live in and around Popley. We run different activities and courses and are a great place to come for advice on any family issues! Even if you think we can't help you, try, because we could put you in touch with someone that can!

A warm welcome will always await you! We see lots of mums and dads enjoying the Centre's activities as much as their kids. Our groups are not just held at Pebbles Children's Centre. We have other outreach venues including Melrose Hall, Popley Fields and Shakespeare House so take a look at what we have for you, near you!

We have a coffee morning and Rhyme Time at Pebbles every Monday morning and Chill and Chat every Friday afternoon. Other popular groups include:

Baby Massage, Big Chef Little Chef (cooking with your child on a budget), Funfits (keep fit with your child) & Bumps (for those who are pregnant).

Breast Feeding support is readily available by contacting the Centre.

### Get Crafty:

Sign up to do art with your child and work on big projects within the centre. This is great fun and your child will get to take home a piece of work each week. Tuesdays 1.00-1.45pm and 2.00-2.45pm. Please call the centre to book your place. 01256 357 028. This is a FREE course for YOU!

### New Courses in January:

We are planning some completely new exciting courses to start in January. Watch This Space!

**Dads' Club:** Every second Saturday of the month. The next one is on 12 December 9.30 – 11.30 am. (Note to mums:- take the chance to do some Christmas shopping! – send dads with your under 5s to Pebbles Children's Centre to play and chat with other dads and their kids!), (Note to dads:- Play with your kids or shop? Not a difficult choice!!)



### Stay and Play Sessions:

We will show you how to learn to have fun with your child without spending a fortune on expensive toys. Each session is planned to include a range of activities for babies and small children to enjoy with their parents.

The sessions are on:

Tuesday morning	9.30 – 11.00am
Tuesday afternoon	13.00 – 14.30pm
At Melrose Hall & Thursday afternoon	13.00 – 14.30pm
At Popley Fields	



### Volunteering

We have some openings for volunteer work at the Centre for those of you with some spare time, especially if your children are older now. Admin, publishing and fundraising are just a few of the areas - you tell us what you can do.



If you would like to know more about any of our activities, please contact us at Pebbles Children's Centre. We are open from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday.

## Don't miss out on more help to pay the rent

More and more families are struggling to make ends meet and finding it increasingly hard to afford to pay their essential household bills, including their rent.

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More families with children will now be able to get help towards paying their rent, thanks to new changes to benefit rules. These changes also affect the way pension credit is considered in housing benefit calculations.

The Citizen Advice Bureau is urging parents who receive child benefit and rent their homes but who at present get no housing benefit to check their entitlement again. The rule change also means some parents already receiving housing benefit will automatically see the amount they are entitled to go up, and more people will also become eligible for help in paying their council tax bills.

The extra money will be available to help all tenants with children, whether they live in Council housing, Housing Association property, or private rented accommodation. Some people receiving pension credit may also be entitled to extra money.

It comes about because from Monday 2 November income from Child Benefit will no longer be taken into account when it comes to calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. There are also changes to the way the capital limit considered for Pension Credit is calculated.

The Citizen Advice Bureau would urge all parents in rented accommodation who are not at present getting any housing benefit to contact them or the Council's Housing Benefit Department as soon as possible to find out if they qualify for this much-needed extra help, as well as anyone who feels they may be affected by the change in capital limits in calculating pension credit.

### **Need further information or Help?**

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

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.

Dear Friends

One of the most oft heard reactions on Christmas morning as the children unwrap their presents is "look, they'd rather play with the wrapping paper!" Have you ever found yourself saying that? I know I have! Which begs the question – why do we spend so much on presents when we could just buy a roll of wrapping paper? I'm only kidding of course! We all love to unwrap presents, just to see what's inside – sometimes we're absolutely delighted and other times we exercise a great deal of tact and hide our disappointment. I can remember doing that a few years ago when my mother-in-law insisted on buying me sweaters of the Val Doonican sort! What would have been worse would have been to unwrap the present and find nothing inside!

In the past few weeks the Children in Need appeal on TV raised over £20m, the Poppy Appeal a similar amount and several million was raised for the Help for Heroes campaign. It's an extraordinary display of the public's generosity – even in these hard times and yet for many, this Christmas will be an especially tough time! The economic downturn has meant companies making redundancies or closing altogether leaving high unemployment and financial hardship. This means that presents, food and drink and all the usual trappings of the festive season will be harder to come by for many families, and wrapping paper may be all they can afford!

Some years ago I was in that very situation, it was a very painful and frustrating time and yet when Christmas came it turned out to be the best we'd enjoyed. The absence of all those usual distractions provided the opportunity to get back to the real meaning of Christmas – a baby boy, born in circumstances of poverty to teenage parents who would become the Saviour of all.

We had a much smaller Christmas tree and dinner and little to unwrap that year but for the first time we truly unwrapped the greatest gift of all – God's true purpose of Christmas and a chance to get to know the Saviour.

Whether you find yourself in difficult circumstances in the coming weeks or joining in the shopping frenzy, may I encourage you to seek out that same Saviour and then whether it's just wrapping paper, a Val Doonican sweater or the world's most wanted gadget that you tear open to reveal on Christmas morning, I promise you will have the best ever Christmas.

May the eagerness of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.

Yours in Christ

Arthur  
Vicar, St Gabriel's, Popley.

# Ant & Dec's Push the Button ITV1, Saturday Nights

Ant and Dec are back with their brand new series 'Ant and Dec's Push The Button', and we'll be coming to a town near you soon for a series of national auditions.

Each show will feature two families of five, going head to head for the chance to win a large cash prize! Our contestant families will take part in a series of fun studio games, where the only way to stop their money from slipping away is to Push the Button!

The show will be scouring the country over the coming weeks for the nation's most outgoing and competitive families, so if this sounds like you then get in touch now for your chance to audition!

Families wishing to apply as a team can be a mixture of both immediate and extended family, but your team must consist of five members in total. Each team must include at least two adult family members, and the youngest family participant must be 15 or older.

So if you and your family are confident, fun-loving, and not afraid to give it your all for the chance to win big, get in touch now!

Email your request for an application form to [pushthebutton@gallowgatetv.com](mailto:pushthebutton@gallowgatetv.com), telling us what makes you a winning family.

Full terms and conditions can be found at [www.itv.com/terms](http://www.itv.com/terms)

## Charities Team up for Xmas 2009 Charity Fayre on 10th December

A whole host of the borough's charities will join together for the Xmas Charity Fayre, organised by Basingstoke Voluntary Services to give an opportunity for local charities, voluntary and community groups to fundraise and raise awareness of the services they can offer to the community of Basingstoke and Deane.

The fayre – generously supported by The Malls Management, will be held in Castle Square, The Malls, from 10am to 4pm on Thursday 10th December 2009 (near to the station end of town where The Malls have their Christmas tree), and 14 stalls will be selling Christmas cards, wreaths and table decorations, Christmas puddings and gifts for Christmas presents. There will also be tombolas and lucky dips to try your luck on.

Christmas music and entertainment will get us all in the festive spirit, so everyone is invited to come along to support your local charities and pick up some Christmas gifts on the way!

Any queries, do contact the Charity Fayre Coordinator, Penny Hampson on 01256 423827.

Many thanks for your help and support

## Over 55s Forum.

Our December Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, 10.00am to 1.00pm, First, we will be holding our AGM Guest Speakers will be Mary Edwards and Gordon Holdcroft (B/s Hospital) - Judith Richards (Tax Help for Older People) and Ian Kennedy (talk about the Panama Canal) and finish with the Carnival Chorus. You can see it will be a full morning and the final swing before next year.

Our membership is in the region of 540 and still growing.

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Merton Poppits Playgroup  
c/o Merton Infant School  
Romsey Close  
Basingstoke  
RG24 9HB

Telephone: 01256 351036

At Merton Poppits playgroup we have been busy practising carol songs, and turning the playgroup into a feast of festivities. We are holding a carol concert and bazaar at St Gabriels Church on 11th December at 6pm till 8pm. Parents are looking forward to seeing their angels sing. All of the community is invited to the bazaar which will start at 6.30pm. Any money raised will help to buy more much needed equipment for the children to support their play.

We are a small playgroup which is attached to Merton Infant School. We are open from Monday to Thursday 9am – 3pm, which encompasses a lunch club, and Friday 9am – 12pm. We have an enclosed garden which we use in all weathers, and we now have a canopy, so children can still benefit from playing outside and stay dry if they wish. We also do make use of the school amenities and we work well with the school to ensure smooth transitions. We were graded a GOOD grade at our last OFSTED inspection.

If you would like to find out more, or you would like to have a look around please come along during opening hours or telephone Carey on 01256 351036 or email [mertonpoppits@aol.co.uk](mailto:mertonpoppits@aol.co.uk)

## “L'école Maternelle”

The first term of local foreign language group, Linguatastic, is nearly over. Of course, children of Popley have previously attended “L'école Maternelle” and were already well-settled into its activities, but now these sessions (and more) come under the umbrella of “Linguatastic” offering a variety of languages at a variety of times. The children have been learning lots this term. At L'école Maternelle (French playgroup) they've been learning about different types of transport, practising counting and making advent calendars – all in French of course! In El Círculo (Spanish playgroup), they've been learning the names of fruit and practising the colours in Spanish. In Le Goûter (French after school club) and Club Nounours (French Saturday club), they've been learning about the different elements and shopping. In La Merienda (Spanish after school club), the children have been learning about celebrations such as “European Day of Languages” and Christmas and how it's celebrated elsewhere in the world. To help celebrate the festive season, on Monday 14th December, Linguatastic will be holding a Christmas party for pre-schoolers from 09.30-11.00am at Chineham Village Hall Community Rooms. All young children accompanied by an adult (whether they attend the regular Linguatastic sessions or not) are welcome to join. Advanced booking appreciated. For further information on any of the above activities, please visit: [www.linguatastic.com](http://www.linguatastic.com) or tel: 811100.



## Letters to the Editor.



Dear Editor, I was reading your column in the Popley matters today about dogs, or dangerous dogs. And although I do totally agree that some people do not look after or control their dogs properly, I feel that I need to tell you about about our plight for the Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

Yes, they are strong dogs with strong jaws, and yes if taught to they can cause a lot of damage, but so can any dog taught to do so. My partner and I own a Staffie and I know that they are also the most caring, fun loving and energetic dogs you could wish to meet. There are literally thousands, though, that are being put to sleep daily through no fault of their own, just due to not having a home to go to. The main cause of this is that they are taken on as a cute puppy then usually dumped when costs mount or they are no longer ‘cute’ enough. The reason it is so hard to find them a home is due in part to the bad press they receive, for example, in your column.

You may have seen youngsters with their Staffie getting him to bite and tug an inner tube but that is what Staffies love to do. It doesn't mean they're being trained to fight or cause damage, it probably means they are having fun and although this could look intimidating, if it was most other breeds no one would bat an eyelid and it probably wouldn't even be mentioned. I know some of the youths around here and they take very good care of their dogs and have them trained better than I can train my own.

So although I completely agree that something should be done about

mistreating or mistreating of dogs, I would really appreciate it if you could have a look at [staffierescue.co.uk](http://staffierescue.co.uk) and maybe add a small note in the next issue that Staffies are not a bad breed and they badly need kindness and help.

**Editor's reply:-** *I agree that most dog owners are very responsible and said so in my report.*

*We have been working with our Police and Beat Officers and they have been reporting incidents in Popley and in Basingstoke, and, as in their report on page 4, they have reported yet another attack by a “Staffie” type dog. This does not mean that all Staffies or Staffie type dogs are dangerous, it is more about the owners of the dogs and how they treat and handle them. I am sure that you will agree that if any dogs are being made to fight, this is a practice that most people find abhorrent. The police have evidence that sadly this is happening in Basingstoke.*

**Note:-** *You can find interesting information at [www.staffierescue.co.uk](http://www.staffierescue.co.uk) about the breed of dog.*

**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**





## Health & Leisure Club

Everest Community College  
Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

T: 01256 337573

### Gym Membership Categories & Prices September 2009

Per Month

Single*	£30.00
Corporate*	£25.00
Staff*	£20.00

All The Above Memberships Include –

**Free Access to All Classes**

**Free Badminton and Table Tennis**  
*(Bookable on the day)*

**Free Tennis** *(March-September)*

**Off Peak Gym Only\* £15.00**  
*(Weekdays 8am-4pm)*

**Pay-As-You-Go £5.50**

#### FREE CLASSES INCLUDE:

Body Balance - Body Pump - Step n Pump  
Fab Abs - Yoga - Pilates - Legs Bums & Tums  
Boxercise - Body Blitz

*\*One-off Administration Fee of £15.00 per person*



## Health & Leisure Club

Everest Community College  
Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

T: 01256 337573

### Classes

All Classes are Free with a Gym Membership  
Visitors/Guests are Welcome - £4.75 per class

**Starts Monday 28th September 2009**

DAY	TIME	CLASS
<b>Monday</b>	6.30-7.30pm	FAB ABS
	7.30-8.30pm	JOGGING CLUB
	7.00-8.00pm	STEP N PUMP
	8.00-9.00pm	BODY BALANCE
<b>Tuesday</b>	6.00-7.00pm	BODY PUMP
	7.00-8.00pm	HATHA YOGA
<b>Wednesday</b>	6.30-7.30pm	BODY BLITZ
	7.30-8.30pm	PILATES
<b>Thursday</b>	6.15-7.15pm	BODY PUMP
	8.00-9.00pm	BOXERCISE
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00-11.00am	PILATES
	11.00-12noon	BOXERCISE
<b>Sunday</b>	10.00-11.00am	LEGS, BUMS & TUMS
	11.00-12noon	BODY PUMP

## Would you like a free magazine containing local news, opinions, events, clubs, and trade services delivered to your door every month?

If you live in Merton Rise or Marnel Park, you can have! The **Villager Magazine** is produced for the residents of Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne and Pamber Villages. As part of Sherborne St John Parish you could receive the Villager Magazine free of charge on a monthly basis.

The Villager Magazine gives you access to local issues, news, schools and clubs, local tradesmen, events etc. occurring near you!

If you would like to receive a free copy each month please let me know, as from the December issue we will only be distributing it to those who really want to read it.

Call or email me now on 01256 851715 or [ssjclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:ssjclerk@btinternet.com) with your name and address.

Would you be willing to join a small sub-committee meeting monthly to discuss any issues in Marnel Park and Merton Rise?

Would you deliver The Villager magazine to other houses in your street?

**Thank you**

Clover Morgan

Clerk to Sherborne St John Parish Council

# Sherborne St John Parish News

Road safety has been at forefront of the agenda for the Parish Council this month, and for many others in the parish. Following the incident at Elm Bottom on 27<sup>th</sup> October, concerns have again risen regarding the danger of turning right into Elm Road from the A340 - and indeed exiting onto the A340. The PC has been campaigning for over two years to get Hampshire Highways and BDBC to acknowledge just how dangerous this junction is, and is currently awaiting a further response following this latest incident. We shall persist with our efforts to establish a safer A340 at this junction - and keep you up to date on the results. Concerns also continue regarding the speed of vehicles travelling through the Village on all roads. WPC Edwards urges anyone who sees persistent offenders to note their number plates and pass the details to the Parish Clerk. We have also received many complaints about vehicles parked obstructively (ie on pavements); photographs again forwarded to the Clerk are invaluable evidence - we do need your help if we are to move forward in this matter.

The Parish Council has now made a formal request for the hand-held speed data recorder to be booked for Kiln and Elm Roads.

We noted (as I'm sure you did too) that Roger Shelvey, Editor of the Villager, has decided to step down once he has found a successor. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Roger for his sterling work, creative flair, diplomacy and humour that has made the Villager the informative, attractive community magazine which we are all extremely proud of. Thank you Roger!

The Social Club and Post Office have also taken on new outlooks. The Social Club now sports a very nice new porch and disabled access along with a packed calendar of events, whilst the Post Office has lit the way up its path for late-night lottery tickets and other shoppers - now the evenings are darker.

Thank you both for making your businesses welcoming and attractive features of the Village.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, with Open Forum beginning at 8.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contact details for The Clerk, Clover Morgan 851715 or [ssjclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:ssjclerk@btinternet.com). Our website – [www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk).

Rebecca Jones

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An A5 leaflet could cost £50 to print and £124.20p to deliver. You could have a page here from

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or

£44 Half Page

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## A Big Thank You.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many people when I became so ill last month. The ambulance crew that came out to me at 2:30 in the morning, and the staff in A&E who quickly acted and then the staff on E4 then E3. When I say staff I include **all** the staff: the porters; domestic staff; nurses; doctors; Xray; CT; even the "blood takers"; the catering staff for the excellent food; and the staff at Oaklands House for their patience in explaining the new regime that I will have to follow for at least 6 months. Thank you for the get well cards and the mass of flowers waiting for me when I got home. Last, but by no means least, my wonderful friends and family that rallied round so last month's Popley Matters got to you, with a special thanks to son Paul who took on all my responsibilities and coped so well. *Jane Frankum*



# Chineham Park Primary School

Our Virtual Learning Project is now underway. We have teamed up with Andover College to Recycle, Reuse and Redistribute IT computers in order for all of our children and their families to have access to the internet and for our school children to access WizKid and other on-line homework activities. Keep an eye out for our new exciting website to be launched in the New Year 2010.

'Save Our School' the children along with the support of 'Out of the Ark' music have professionally produced a song and video for the children to 'Have their say' on the proposed school closure. The CD and video will be launched on Youtube, Tues 24th November..... any proceeds from sales will go to 'Children In Need' so we hope you will support not only the children in their efforts to save their school, but help to raise money for Children In Need.

Chineham Park Standards for School Performance for 2009 is back up across the school with good value added 100%.....ARE YOU SUPPORTING US ?

The school is part of this community, building work has re-commenced in Popley.... school places will be needed.... The public consultation ends on 25th November. Go online to [www.hantsweb.gov.uk](http://www.hantsweb.gov.uk) and follow the link for Education and Learning. Chineham Park School Closure consultation is in the box on the top right hand side of the page.

Don't Miss Out. Make sure You Have Your Say BEFORE it is Too Late ! *Sharon Lunn*

## Chineham Park Primary School

Why not come along to our whole school Christmas performance of 'Peace Child' by 'Out of the Ark' music, on Tuesday 15th December. Performances at 2pm and 6pm. Tickets available from the school office at Shakespeare Road, or phone 01256 325420 to reserve tickets. **Available now.**

### Annual Christmas Fayre

Fancy some last minute shopping then why not come along to our Christmas Fayre on Thursday 17th December at 2pm.

Gwen Clifford

## **Christmas at St Gabriel's**

We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate the reason for the season!

St Gabriel's is your parish church  
Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way.

### **Advent Service**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 a.m.

### **Carol Singing in the Woods**

Carpenters Town Woods  
Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm

### **Christingle Service for all the family**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm and again at 5 p.m.

### **Carols by Candlelight**

a service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.

### **Midnight Communion**

Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m.

### **Christmas Celebrations**

A short Service of celebration for all the Family  
Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m.

We look forward with pleasure to welcoming you and your family to these or any of our services over the Christmas period.

Please contact the church office on 324734  
for further details or information.

*Look backward with gratitude,  
look forward with hope,  
look upward with confidence.*