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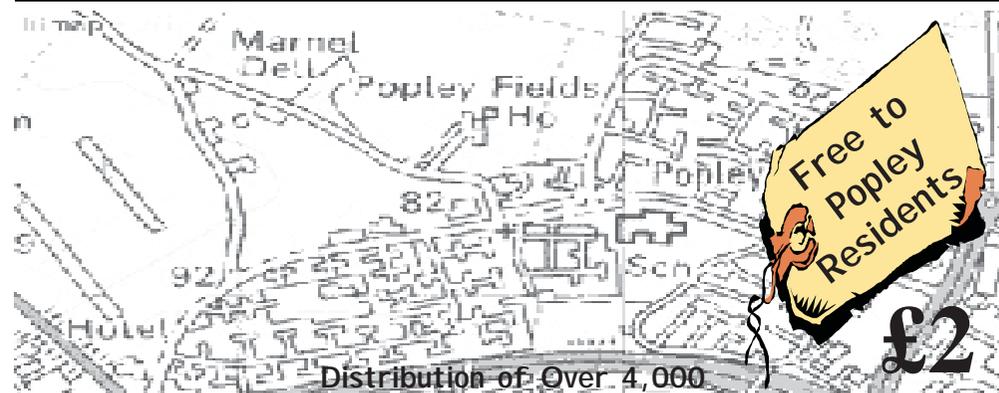


POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

February 2010

Issue 96



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Marnel Community Infants	Page 20
A New Park for Popley	Page 1	What's on @ Everest Community	Page 21
Fire Safety- Smoke Alarms	Page 4	Popley Safer Neighbours Team	Page 23
Message from Arthur	Page 5	Sherborne St John Parish News	Page 24
Councillors Page	Page 6	We Need Your Help	Page 25
Air Scouts Report	Page 8	Basingstoke Deane Over 55s Forum	Page 25
MFC Popley	Page 9	Women's World Day of Prayer	Page 25
Cornerstone Nursery News	Page 12	CAB: Fuel Bills	Page 26
Phillips Solicitors Legal Advice	Page 13	Pebbles SureStart	Page 27
Lions Club of Basingstoke	Page 14	Bermuda Community Association	Page 28
Popley Conservation Volunteers	Page 14	Children's Soccer Academy	Page 28
When Did You Last Visit The Willis?	Page 15	Popley Fields News	Page 29
Philips Legal Corner	Page 17	Age Concern	Page 32
New PCSO	Page 18	Popley Fields Fire Station	Page 34
New Team for Popley	Page 19	Chloe's Column	Page 36
Training for Everybody at Everest	Page 20		



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- February, and I wonder how many of you celebrate Valentine's Day? Spring is just around the corner but it hasn't felt like that with all the cold ice and snow we had. It was good to see so much community spirit in Popley. When Paul and I called many of our residents they were telling us of some wonderful neighbours who were looking out for them.

With the recent changes to the bus times and routes that have an impact on the residents that use them there is an opportunity

for us all to make comments about their local bus services to bus user champions BUS USERS UK and PASSENGER FOCUS at a forthcoming surgery. The event is at the bus station on 10th Feb from 3pm to 5pm. All welcome - Pass it on! If you need to know more about this group you can find details on their website. <http://www.bususers.org/contact.htm>

We try to get as much useful information and to let our readers know what is happening in Popley with articles that can be helpful such as legal advice, news from schools, charity events and reports from groups and clubs. If you go to a club or group and would like a mention in Popley Matters the details to contact us is below. We really do like to get your feedback on the magazine and any ideas of subjects we could cover.

If you want to write an article or advertise please contact Jane Frankum (Editor) or Paul Frankum (Sub Editor and Layout Manager) on 819924, or email 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. 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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Advertising Index		Boatman Cleaning Services	Page 10	The Knights Circle	Page 31
B.Handy	Page 2	PKG Plumbing	Page 11	M H Autos Service Centre	Page 31
Sueils Driving School	Page 2	PC Martin	Page 11	Petpals	Page 32
Youngis Chinese Food	Page 3	Nancycz Crafts	Page 11	Unique Block Paving	Page 32
Accountancy (Small Businesses)	Page 3	Peteris Fish & Chips	Page 11	Oakridge West Community Hall	Page 33
Paul & Lee Plumbing	Page 3	TechtoSolution	Page 16	North Hampshire Services	Page 33
Devine Windows	Page 7	Araw Film Services	Page 16	Oakhouse Foods	Page 33
Billy Zinc Tattooist	Page 7	Sentinel	Page 22	Your Country Florist	Page 35
MAD Academy	Page 7	Ist Direct	Page 30	Affordable Plumbing	Page 35
Leak Seek	Page 7	IRepair Systems Ltd	Page 30	Kids Nursery	Page 35
CSA 07 FC	Page 10	Stonham Housing	Page 30	Cornerstone Nursery	Inside B/P
Kylies Whipper Snappers	Page 10	1st Response	Page 31	Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
		Piccolo Pre-school	Page 31		
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Chloe's Column

Hello readers, since I am quite a forgetful and ditzzy type of person I actually forgot what date I had to submit my column for Popley Matters last month! I tend to forget about things lately and I am very clumsy (my family likes to call me Clumsy Chloe!) Anyway I just wanted to apologize for the loss of my lovely Column. Moving on, I wanted to say I am actually amazed at how much snow we have had in 2010! It's like another Ice Age. I suppose the snow is great for younger children as they seem to find it never-endingly entertaining and I will say I like the snow, to some extent. But In January I did get bored of all the snow because it is just cold and wet and the fun of it wears off quickly for me. Also, older people have trouble getting around in it as they may get seriously injured if they fall over so I hope everyone has been helping the elderly with their shopping and all of the rest. Another thing I can moan about is, whilst I was waiting at the bus station in town, in the (literally) freezing snow, I noticed about 3 number 3 buses to East Popley came along, long before a number 5 Hospital bus (and West Popley). Why is it that number 3 buses run every 5-10 minutes lately and number



5 buses run every 15 minutes or more? I think both buses should run every ten minutes; it's only fair to the poor people waiting in the cold. It's not warm enough out to walk too far. The travellers are still up at Everest and apparently there has been verbal abuse and stones thrown between students and the travellers. All I can say is if any parents are reading this just tell your children to avoid the travellers as much as possible. That's what I do. On a lighter note it's nearly Valentines Day so I hope everyone does something nice. Happy 16th to Katerz for the 22nd.



Happy Valentine's.

Till next month,

Chloe.

New Park for Popley

The competition to find a name for the new park on Popley Way has now closed and the name which received the most votes was "Popley Community Park"

The winning name was suggested by Laura Collins of Austen Court and Laura will receive a £30 voucher for Festival Place.

The name of the park will be included at the entrance to the new park ready for an official opening being planned for March.

Thank you to everyone who made suggestions for names and to those who voted.

Keep an eye on Popley Community Park over the next few months as there will be additional play equipment arriving as well as the official opening.



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Fire Service Restoration at Popley Fields
Community Centre

After a hugely successful five year pilot scheme in Basingstoke, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is set to build on the success of its temporary fire station at the Popley Community Centre.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service took the decision in 2005 to run a pilot scheme which would see the Service operate a temporary fire station from the Popley Community Centre in Basingstoke. The pilot proved so popular that the temporary station remained in place for the following three years.

However all good things must come to an end and as a result of the works undertaken by fire service staff the number of incidents in this particular area of the Basingstoke and Deane area has decreased significantly. There is also a greater level of fire, road, and community safety awareness - as well as more properties fitted with smoke alarms than ever before!

Group Manager Dave Norgate of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "The pilot scheme has been a great success and we wish to thank everyone who has assisted us, in particular the staff of the Community Centre who have been most accommodating. Our final vehicle movement to Popley will be on Friday 12th February after which a period of restoration is required to return the site to its original condition.

However the Fire Service have been in discussion with the PFCC management and some of the original changes made to accommodate our staff will be retained on site as they benefit the Centre. Such facilities as the outside toilets, storage units and other ancillary items will be retained by PFCC to be used in the day to day running of the Community Centre. Other restoration works will follow once the actual portacabin unit has been removed but all works will be completed by the end of March.

Group Manager Norgate added: "We want to take what we have learned from Popley Fields and use this knowledge in other areas. We will still have a visible presence in the Popley area and of course, the Fire and Rescue service is only ever a phone call away. Residents will still see us carrying out Home Safety visits in the area, working in partnership with Forestry Commission wardens, and undertaking life-saving arson reduction activities in the community."

Dave Norgate

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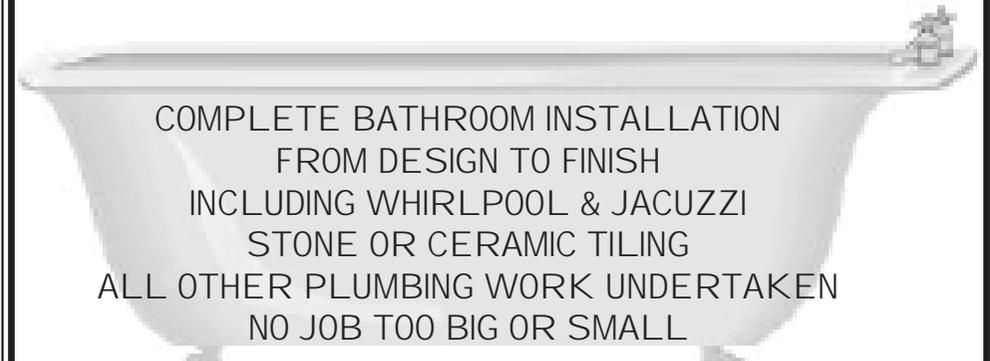
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Useful contact points and further information:

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Dear Friends

Snow! Snow! Snow! As I write the thaw is just beginning and all that white stuff is slowly turning to mush and washing away – but wasn't it fun while it lasted? Even though it brought much disruption with it, that at least broke for many the tedium of a long January.

On the positive side it was so good to hear the squeals of delight from the children playing on sledges, building snowmen and having numerous snowball fights. There was also a greater sense of community as folk pulled together to help one another; clearing paths, digging out cars and looking in on the more vulnerable neighbour. On the not so positive were the delays on the roads, frustrations getting to and from places, including work and the occasional time when those frustrations boiled over into unpleasant incidents – one such happened on Tewkesbury Close – but for the most part everyone seemed happier sharing in a common purpose and being part of the community.

Family and community are vital aspects of what it is to be human and there seems to be an innate sense that compels us to help one another and the stranger in our midst when difficulties arise.

As the church begins another journey through the year we are already looking towards Lent and Easter. Much of our time will be taken looking at Jesus' journey with his family, friends and community and how we as Christians reflect that in our everyday lives today. God created us to live in families and communities, Jesus taught us what it means to be committed to that end and how, when we strive for the common good, how much happier we can be and how much more we can achieve together.

St Gabriel's regards itself as a family – there to help and support in the tough times as well as rejoicing together in the good. If you would like to learn more of what it is to be part of Jesus' family then why not join us one Sunday. I promise you will be amazed and richly blessed by the experience. In the meanwhile I continue to wish you peace for the coming year.

With every blessing.

Arthur
Vicar
St Gabriel's

Councillors Page: The last review of a severe weather policy was in 2004, Hampshire, and in particular Basingstoke, has changed and grown with many new developments and roadworks. I will be demanding that a full and thorough review is done with Basingstoke getting a lot more of the attention it deserves.

There will be a large amount of damage to our roads with the bad weather creating many more potholes. If you see any then please contact me as I am compiling a list to present to Hampshire County Council.

There have been many complaints to me about poor and inappropriate parking all around the estate. One of the main problems is from parents and carers picking up the children from school, especially at St Bedes. Despite being asked by residents and school the problem is getting worse. I objected to the planning application on the lack of provision of a drop off zone, a solution needs to be found. Rev. Arthur Botham was kind enough to extend the use of St Gabriel's car park to be used, as long as they don't walk through the hedge. Cllr Jane Frankum 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

Popley West: As I write my report I remember the conditions in the bad snow conditions were treacherous. There just were and are not enough grit bins. Earlier this year we asked for more grit bins at full Council. We were told not to be ridiculous and waste the administrations time. Well I don't know about you but a lot of people's time was wasted. Lots of very vulnerable people were trapped indoors and dared not go out with all the icy surfaces. There was however some wonderful community spirit and people out there working to help others. There was some good advice and some that was wrong, for instance to use cat litter to clear the snow and ice. Although it does melt the snow it is based in clay and the water is soaked up then it goes slushy, it leaves a stain on your carpets that is almost impossible to move, and it can rot them too. Advice is now not to use it. The repairs to pathways in Tintern, Buckfast, Romsey, Fountains and Glastonbury will be done over the next financial year. I will be pushing for all the pathways to be repaired in a rolling programme. The environmental improvements from 1 to 213 Abbey including creating 7 more formal parking places there will also be completed this year.

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.

Popley East: I hope all you readers had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's the first Christmas I can remember in Basingstoke with snow on the ground. The bookies may define a "White Christmas" as one where snow is falling but to me if there's snow already on the ground that's good enough. What was not good enough was the farcical response by both Borough and County councils to the snow on Dec 21, when 2,000 cars were abandoned in Basingstoke. A lot of excuses in the press about how they did all they could, but the simple truth is they were caught out, with a woeful deficiency of planning. It's a miracle nobody died that night. In contrast, the people who helped out were real heroes, with many shelters set up on the spur of the moment. While HCC was blowing its own trumpet about the 5 centres it set up in the Basingstoke/Alton area, I'd like to pay tribute to those who put people up overnight in the hospital, the Apollo Hotel, Morrison's, and a long list of other places. Then on Jan 6 we had our worst snow since 1963. Thankfully it fell overnight and most people stayed at home, with memories still fresh about taking hours to get home two weeks earlier. If we had lost power across the town, a lot of people would have had no heat as central heating needs electricity to work, and some would not have access to hot food either - we could have had a major crisis on our hands. Cold winters appear to be getting more frequent. We were caught out in Feb 09 as well and no lessons appear to have been learned from then. Both councils must learn from this winter and have better plans in place for the future. Cllr Andy McCormick 01256 419376 or 07879 436985

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Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

The spring session got off to a 'snowy' start with some meetings being disrupted as a result. Many of the Beavers managed to attend the District Beaver Scouts' New Year party at the end of January however. The Cubs enjoyed their visit to the Haymarket Theatre for a performance of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The Cub Pack will enter a team for the District Cub Scout Mastermind competition and the Six-a-side Football competitions in February. Members will also attend a performance of the Gang Show. The leaders have set out their programmes for the session and it is hoped many new activity and interest badges will be gained as a result. The Beaver section will be concentrating on experimenting and exploring. The programme for Hampshire Scouts' Winter Camp at Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre in the New Forest in March has been announced and we wait to see how many members in the Scout section 'take up the challenge' this year.

Basingstoke Gang Show is fast approaching. It runs from 11th - 20th February and promises to be better than ever with a cast of around 60 young people aged from 6 -18 who have been rehearsing for over six months. Tickets from Haymarket Theatre or Anvil Box Office 01256 366935 or www.anvilarts.org.uk

New members are welcome in all sections although Beaver section may be running a short waiting list until 'older' member move on to the Cub section. Scouting is open to all young people within the age range regardless of race, religion or disability. Leaders adapt activities and programmes to cater for young people who are less able or have special needs. Base 2000 is fully accessible to the physically disabled. The first meeting is free but thereafter the subscription is £2 per week (can be paid termly by cheque if preferred). Gift Aid can be applied to subscriptions.

Base 2000 has two halls which can be hired for meetings and community group activities. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10 per hour for large hall at weekends. Enquires to bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559.



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

Page 8



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



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

Youth club

Monday evening 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Come along and have a fun evening with your friends

Any new members wishing to join please come along.

Free Computer Classes

Free* computer classes at the Popley Fields Community Centre include:

Beginners guide to computing: Wednesdays 9.30am-11.30am

Beginners guide to the Internet & email: Mondays 12.30- 2.30pm

Beginners guide to spreadsheets: Wednesdays 12.30-2.30pm

To Book or for more information please call 01256 414494.

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 8.00pm 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 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 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

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

Tel: 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com



BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE
BASINGSTOKE HANTS
RG24 9PE

TELEPHONE
OFFICE: 01256 363156
HALL: 01256 308442

We have excellent Popley Explorers Pre-school here

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 3.00pm

Also available- Breakfast and Lunch club (for further details contact Elaine on 01256-308442)

- Monday evening - C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick boxing from 6.30pm - 8.00pm
- Tuesday evening - Community Bingo doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm. Finish around 9.45pm. (Light Refreshments available half time)
- Wednesday evening - C.M.A Kick boxing from 7.00pm - 8.30pm
- Thursday evening - C.M.A Martial Arts from 7.00pm - 8.00pm
- Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 6.30pm - 7.30pm
- Sunday Afternoon- Christian Family Fellowship 4.00pm - 6.30pm

This hall is also available to hire for parties etc at a very REASONABLE RATES.

The Bermuda Community Association is still looking for a VOLUNTEER RELIEF BINGO CALLER, to help out once or twice a month. For its TUESDAY evening community bingo sessions between 7.45pm - 9.45pm .

If anyone is interested please call Linda.Austen on 01256 363156 or 07786138149

Must be over 18 years old

Children's Soccer Academy

The Children's Soccer Academy (CSA) established just four years ago in and around Newbury has now moved to Everest Community College, Basingstoke having taken over all that was Ludwig Leisure.

CSA is run in a fun, friendly and positive manner open to all, starting with the very young, boys and girls between 2 and 5 on a Thursdays between 5 and 6pm in the Sports Hall at Everest Community College.

After that we manage the training and development of 15 teams in the Under 7 to Under 15 age groups as well as an adult team. Our teams are known as CSA 07 FC and some are now beginning to make their mark in the various Leagues we play in. CSA is different from most football clubs because; not only do we provide good organisation and top quality coaching to build skills, team play, team spirit and self-esteem, we also have a policy that low ability, disability and learning difficulties are not barriers to playing for CSA 07 FC - we try to provide football to everyone who wants to play. Of course, like all clubs, we want to develop quality winning teams and we will certainly encourage that where possible.

Players, particularly girls and those currently under 10 years of age, are now wanted for the rest of this season and to prepare for the next, so if you are interested please call Karen on 0845 095 65 25 or email Karen@csafc.co.uk



MFC Popley Recruitment

Well unfortunately there was no football played in January by all age groups due to the snow, but I'm sure the kids didn't mind, I know I copped a few snowballs from the boys.

As a club we are always looking at recruiting new players for individual age groups, at the moment

U8s (year3) U9s (year 4), 10s (year 5) and 13s (year 8) are looking for players NOW!

U7s for next season

We will be starting training for the U7s (year 1) for next season, 6th Feb 2010 at Chineham park school 12.15pm till 13.30pm, shin pads, boots and drink required. If interested please contact myself.

There is a café with refreshments and bacon rolls!

Signing on fee is: £8.00 at all age groups

Training: £1.00

Games: £2.00 U11s and under / £2.50 U12s and over

Thanks for your support.

Lee Austen.

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

Tel.: Lee Austen/Director of Football, U6s, U7s&U11s 07946340730

Justin Taylor/Treasurer, U9'S 07876684981

Kevin Rush U10's, 07946179677

Daniel Oates U13's, 07765341679

Damien McKeaveney/Secretary 07918706153

Claire Morris/Welfare Officer 07786514548



new football club needs boys & girls u/6 - u/15's



all home games played at everest community college

please call karen to enquire 01256 - 466442

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Happy New Year From Pebbles Children's Centre!

We hope you have all enjoyed the snow and time off work (those of you that were lucky enough to have that!!) Pebbles staff will always do their best to open as normal which is 8am-6pm Mon-Fri. Don't forget during this time we welcome any parents/carers with their under 5's to drop in for a cuppa and to let your little ones play!



We have **Computers** available to help you find out information from the Web, or to fill in job applications. These are free to use any time the centre is open. We also have a **Speech & Language Therapist** visiting the Centre once a month where parents can come and have a chat about any speech development worries they may have. **Are you a childminder?** If you are or are interested in becoming a childminder, the National Childminding Association are offering 1 to 1 informal sessions for advice or

support at Pebbles Children's Centre.

Just to help you get ready for the February half term here is what you can put in your diary!

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

MONDAY: Coffee morning & Rhyme Time 10.00-11.30 at Pebbles



TUESDAY: MAD Academy 10.00-11.00 & Chinese craft & story time 1.30-2.30 both at Melrose Hall



WEDNESDAY: Messy play 10.00-11.30 at Popley Fields & Craft activity 1.30-2.30 at Pebbles

THURSDAY: Outside Fun! 10.00-11.30 at Pebbles



FRIDAY: Chill & Chat Tea time 1.30-2.30 at Pebbles
 For more information about any of our activities please contact us - 01256 357028 or email: pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk

Concerned about paying your Fuel Bills?

Citizens Advice has the following top tips for people struggling with, or worried about fuel payments.

1 You might be able to reduce your costs by changing fuel supplier.

Shop around for the best deal and compare by telephoning suppliers in

your area or using one of the approved online comparison services (listed on www.consumerfocus.org.uk) Ask about different tariffs and ways to pay, and make sure prices quoted include VAT. If you do decide to switch suppliers contact the new supplier and they will take responsibility for organising the switch. The whole process can take up to 6-8 weeks, during which time your gas or electricity will continue to be supplied by your old supplier. You should take a meter reading in the day you change supplier.

2 Even without changing supplier you could save money.

Speak to your existing supplier and check that you are on the best tariff for you. You may be eligible for what is called a 'social tariff' which offers cheaper prices to low-income or vulnerable customers, such as older people, or people with long-term ill health. Check if you can reduce costs by using a different method of payment e.g. Direct Debit, card, key or token meter. For more information, contact your fuel supplier.

3 You may be able to take advantage of one of the various energy efficiency schemes and grants that are available, such as the Warm Front scheme.

There are various energy efficiency schemes and grants that are available. The main scheme in England is a home energy efficiency scheme known as Warm Front. The scheme is government funded and provides energy advice and grants to help with the costs of home insulation. It also helps to improve energy efficiency for certain groups of people including those on low incomes. The scheme covers both owner-occupiers and people renting accommodation. In some cases, the maximum grant available does not cover the full cost of the work and you have to pay something towards the costs. You can get more information about the Warm Front and details about how to apply by going to the Warm Front website at: www.warmfront.co.uk, or by calling eaga on freephone 0800 316 2805.

4 If you're on a low income you might be entitled to extra help during the cold weather.

You might be able to get a cold weather payment for every week of very cold weather in your area. It doesn't matter what you spend the money on, and you don't have to pay it back.

This year, the Cold Weather Payment is £25 for each period of cold weather.

To get a Cold Weather Payment you have to be receiving certain benefits. If you are and the weather is cold enough in your area you will automatically receive a cold weather payment. You don't have to apply for the payment.

If you think you should get a Cold Weather Payment but you are not paid, you should contact your pension centre or Jobcentre Plus. You can also find out more about Cold Weather Payments and check whether a payment is due for your area on the Directgov website at: www.direct.gov.uk.

5 If you are 60 or over, you can get a Winter Fuel Payment to help with your fuel costs.

The Winter Fuel Payment is a tax-free payment paid every year over the winter months. For the winter of 2009/10 the Winter Fuel Payment is £250 per household (£400 where you or your partner are aged 80 or over). Most people who are entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment do not need to make a claim. You will automatically get a payment if you get Retirement Pension, Pension Credit, or one of a number of other benefits in the qualifying week.

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 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



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Cornerstone Nursery News

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way - 01256 840300

The children have shown a great interest in building and construction so we have built our topic word around that. The children have spent a lot of time

in the garden with construction apparatus e.g. bricks, sand, stones, diggers and spades, all the staff have had fun with helping and teaching the children on how to use and play with them.

Our younger children have been looking at colours and shapes. They have been using different shapes during the day to do craft and sensory activities. The babies have also had lots of fun body painting for a big art display, which has been put up for all the parents to see.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road - 01256 818118

This month we were very lucky to have the police come to the nursery to show the children their car and allowed them to sound the sirens and put on the lights, the children were spoken to about road safety and enjoyed speaking to the policemen about the car.

The Grasshoppers children have been learning about their families and making family trees. The parents have been involved in bringing in pictures of the children's relatives and the staff have been doing self-portraits with the children to go with their family trees.

The Glow-worms children have shown an interest in transport and different types of vehicles so have been reading transport books, painting pictures and doing vehicle painting using the wheels of our toy cars.

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

The children are really enjoying small world play and role-play at the moment. They liked dressing the dollies, feeding them and putting them to bed as they have been watching the staff with the smaller babies in the baby room.

They have been working together as a group learning to build very large train tacks that wind round under the tables in the nursery. We practised counting the trains and carriages and learning about how to take turns and share.

The children have been thoroughly enjoying all the snow in December and January. The nurseries have remained open throughout this period and the children that have come in have loved making snowmen, throwing snowballs and making footprints in the snow. We have even brought the snow indoors when it was too cold for the children to carry on going outside.

All settings currently have spaces in all age groups but spaces are limited so please contact the managers at your preferred setting.

WE Need YOUR Help

The Governing Body at Merton Junior School is a hard-working, committed group of individuals. Our membership is composed of parents, staff, local authority and community governors.

We need to add to our number by recruiting members of the local community who have an interest in helping to provide high quality education at the school and to support the headteacher and staff in their work. There is no need to have a direct association with the school.

You will need to be able to attend at least six meetings of the Full Governing Body each year. These are held in the evening and generally last about two hours. You may also decide you want to join one of our sub-committees that has oversight of a specific area of the school's work. You will also be expected to play an active role in the life of the school, including visiting the school in session.

We undertake to provide you with on-going training (through Hampshire Governor Services) and to provide a mentor/buddy from within the Governing Body to support you as you take on this rewarding role. Naturally you will be required to have a Criminal Records' Check prior to appointment.

For more information about this exciting, challenging role please contact the Clerk to the Governing Body, Janet Cullinane, on 01256 326573 or e-mail: adminoffice@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk

Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum.

We wish to bring to the attention of members, that Membership fees are now due for year 2010. The Committee have agreed to keep the fee at £6 which is still good value. If members can not get to the February Open Forum meeting, they can send their fee to G L Merritt 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS. It would be appreciated if a stamped addressed envelope could be included to return receipt.

Our February Open meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th February 2010 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, 10.00am to 1.00pm (registration from 9.30am) Guest Speakers will be Cllr Elaine Still (Recycling Issues), Kate Hardy B&NH NHS FT (Arthritis & Rheumatism) and Tony Strafford (Ex Tower of London).

Other Open Forum dates are; 14th April 2010, 9th June 2010, 11th August 2010, 13th October 2010 and 8th December 2010.

Our membership stands at 566. Any person wishing to join is most welcome to attend.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 5th March at 10.30am at St Bede's Church, Popley Way

On Friday 5th March over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian women in Cameroon. Representatives of various churches will be taking part in our local service at St Bede's Church.

Dr Alphonse Alasah will be speaking on the theme 'Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God'.

A very warm welcome is extended to all women, men and children.

For further information please call Maureen on 356454

Merton Rise and Marnel Park The Parish Council's views on the future of the Merton Rise/Marnel Park areas within the Parish were discussed. The differing outlooks and requirements of the two areas are well understood and will lead to differing demands in the future. As resident numbers in MR/MP continue to increase, the Parish Council as presently constituted will eventually become unsustainable. However, the economic downturn has resulted in a reduction of new houses in these areas being built and occupied and also delay in construction of many of the promised community facilities. The choices available to the residents are no change in parish status, incorporation into the existing Basingstoke borough or the creation of a new parish for these areas.

Logo SSSJ Parish Council will use their new logo from 1st January 2010.



Replacement bus service Following the announcement that Stagecoach were discontinuing their No 36 bus service through the village, Steventon Transport are commencing a new route 56 which is linking the village to Tadley and Basingstoke. Services start on 4th January and there are seven trips in each direction Monday – Fridays and five trips on Saturdays. The service takes passes and tokens. It is fully commercial at its inception, but will survive only if it is used. So use it or lose it!

Sherborne St. John, Cranes Rd	07:48	10:48	12:02	13:48	15:02	17:48	18:02
North Hampshire Hospital	07:52	10:52	12:06	13:52	15:06	17:52	18:06
Houndmills, Lansing Linde	07:56	10:56	12:10	13:56	15:10	17:56	18:10
Alencon Link, Railway Stn (Arrive)	08:00	11:00	12:15	14:00	15:15	17:00	18:15
Alencon Link, Railway Stn (Depart)	06:45	09:30	10:45	12:30	13:45	16:30	17:45
Houndmills, Lansing Linde	06:47	09:32	10:47	12:32	13:47	16:32	17:47
North Hampshire Hospital	06:50	09:35	10:50	12:35	13:50	16:35	17:50
Sherborne St. John, Cranes Rd	06:54	09:39	10:54	12:39	13:54	16:39	17:54

NB: Monday–Saturday, no service Sundays and Public Holidays (1st and last bus not Saturday).

Bottle bank The quest for a quiet bottle bank and its location are continuing. The proposed location is on the right-hand corner car parking space at the front of the Village Hall (next to the hedge). Environmental Health stated that noise tests carried out in 2007 from this position were satisfactory. However, it is now apparent that Basingstoke & Deane is considering the option for kerb-side bottle collection in 2011/2012 (as currently in place in neighbouring Hart DC)

Tree Survey at the Chute Recreation Ground A comprehensive survey of all the trees at the Chute Recreation Ground has been carried out. Only one tree was highlighted as Medium to High risk with a 'high' priority for (limited) action; all others were rated medium to low risk - the advisory comments have been noted. Remedial work will commence as soon as possible.

The Parish Spirit Praise and thanks go to all the SSSJ residents who helped the stranded motorists on our roads during the recent snowfalls - especially those who assisted well into the night along the stricken A340 and Elm Road. Sherborne St John community spirit lives on and we thank you all for your efforts.

Jonathan Eales, Councillor, SSSJ Parish Council

Helping our clients to achieve

'Good fences make good neighbours?'

If this title of one of Robert Frost's best known poems does not quite ring true, you may be one of those people heading for a boundary dispute. Property ownership is an emotive subject and what starts as a minor disagreement can quickly escalate into a full-scale boundary battle that can spiral out of control, resulting in astronomical court costs and acrimony that can ruin your home life. A boundary can change over time for many reasons: a diverted water course, or a wooden fence that moves slightly every time it is replaced. So how can you be sure where your boundary is and what should you do if your relationship with your neighbour is rapidly going downhill?

Call the experts

Your first move should be to ask a boundary expert, such as a chartered surveyor, to work on your behalf and advise you on whether or not you have a case. For example the red line drawn around a property on your Land Registry plan only shows the general boundary, it does not identify whether the boundary runs along the centre of a hedge or along one side of it.

They will look at the problem, prepare any technical data that may help solve the dispute at an early stage and, if necessary, work with your solicitor to provide a court with the appropriate advice and information needed to make a judgement.

It's much better if you can settle the matter before going to court, but if you can't, the court will define a boundary line and write out an order. This means that the boundary line is then set in stone and you can if you wish ask the chartered land surveyor to supervise any fencing or building contractors to make sure there are no further arguments. You should also ensure that they prepare a new plan, to the required specification, showing the agreed boundary line for submission to the Land Registry.

But there is another way

The best way to avoid going to court is to ask your solicitor to help you with alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation – this works by getting both parties together, resolving the dispute and defusing allegations concerning one another's conduct, which can often get out of all proportion. So if you feel the temperatures rising, don't take an entrenched position, take some good legal advice. Howard Gardener, senior partner and civil mediator at Phillips says "The financial value of the boundary often bears no relation to the importance of the dispute to the client but good advice and, even better, a good mediation can result in both parties ending up as good neighbours and saving the costs of going to court".

Howard Gardener is senior partner at Phillips Solicitors and specialises in disputes, mediation and family law. You can call Howard on his direct line: 01256 854632 or you can email Howard on:

hgardener@phillips-law.co.uk



Lions Club of Basingstoke

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For more information contact Barry Morgan on
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email; barrybmorgan@btinternet.com

POPLEY CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Hi everyone, 2009 was not a very good year for Popley Conservation Volunteers. Our Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all gave up their posts within a short space of time. This was quite a blow for a group of about 12 members. We knew that it would be quite difficult to find volunteers to fill these posts, however, a meeting was called and I am glad to say that 3 existing members nominated themselves and were subsequently voted in to form a new committee.

If we hadn't filled these posts and formed a new committee, the next item on the agenda was dissolution of the group.

Because of this difficult situation, Popley Conservation Volunteers have no scheduled agenda for this season but hope to have one or two ad hoc work parties — please contact us for details.

Popley Conservation Volunteers always welcomes and needs new volunteers. We will shortly be running as normal and our work load is expected to increase as we get involved in more projects in and around Popley.

If you are interested in wildlife, conservation and getting out in the fresh air, meeting people and doing something for our environment, please contact:

Alan Wilkinson
01256 334062
atw0126yahoo.com

Dear Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel (PSNP) and the work we do in the community. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel is a group of individuals from all backgrounds and working environments set up to help you the residents of Popley decide on three issues the team can work towards over a quarterly period. The panel includes Popley residents, local businesses, local Headteachers, local Councillors and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. The team also includes various agencies dedicated to assisting us with the Panel. These agencies include the local Police team, CSPO (Community Safety Patrol Officers), Housing Association representatives and local council representatives. Each quarter the Panel meet at one of Popleys Community Centres in order to discuss proposed issues from residents and vote on 3 new priorities which will be worked on by all members. For example if "Anti-Social Behaviour on a certain road" was voted for by PSNP members then all of the team would discuss ways at which these issues could be prevented and stopped.

The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel (PSNP) relies heavily on our residents input whether this is by residents informing the local Police team of issues or concerns in the area, or by residents sitting on our panel and discussing these issues and assisting the team with voting. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel are currently seeking new community members to join our Panel. Joining the Panel is a great opportunity for community members to get their point across to other organisations and make their voice count. You could be responsible for identifying a problem in the area and work with the other members of the team in order to solve this. Joining the Panel is easy and not time consuming and it is entirely up to you how much work you want to contribute too.

If you are interested in joining the Panel and want to work with other members of the Popley Community in order to identify and solve issues other members of your community are suffering from, please contact me on the details provided below.

Thank you very much

Phil Rapley
Police Community Support Officer 13284
Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Old Basing Beat Office
(T) 0845 045 45 45 (ext) 626125

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/basingstoke/town/Popley.htm>

Sentinel

Popley area Neighbourhood Manager for Popley Steve Thorn explains what Sentinel Housing Association is doing to improve life beyond your doorstep.

The worst winter for 30 years will soon be a distant memory, but in our experience, the fallout is likely to continue for months to come.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be walking around your neighbourhood to identify repairs to walls, garage areas, or footpaths caused by the arctic conditions. Of course, there may be areas which needed some TLC before the snow and ice descended on our part of Hampshire, so if you want to join us on a brief wander around your neck of the woods, it's a great time before the next financial year to tell us your priorities.

Similarly, if you've got any ideas to make your neighbourhood a better place to live, give us a call and, we'll either do it ourselves or raise it through the Popley Partnership

We've just had our busiest month ever for delivery of new homes, with 170 handed over to Sentinel across North Hampshire in January, including the latest phases at Marnel Park and just up the road in Bramley.

As with all new developments, we've had a few teething issues mainly around cleaning communal areas and maintaining outdoor spaces, but all the appropriate contracts have now been set up, and the new areas will be maintained to keep them looking fresh.



Steve Thorn – Neighbourhood Manager for Popley, Bramley, and Chineham



Larissa Trussell – Neighbourhood Coordinator for Bramley and Popley Islands



Dawn Stanley – Neighbourhood Coordinator for Popley Poets, Popley Abbeys and Marnel Park

When did you last visit the Willis?

Located in the former Basingstoke Town Hall, the listed building dating back to 1832 on the north side of the Market Square, the Willis Museum is one reason why our town is a place to be proud of.

If you haven't been there recently you have yet to see the results of the extensive make-over carried out in 2009. You really must see the new Sainsbury Gallery on the ground floor. Here the Willis is able to show high quality touring exhibitions that only selected museums are allowed to take; *China; Journey to the East*, from the British Museum, no less, that finished on December 24 was a real coup for Basingstoke, but the next major touring exhibition (from January 23 to March 20) promises to be equally exciting: *Celebrity – Up Close and Personal* will feature personal belongings once owned by famous show-biz personalities including one of Marilyn Monroe's dresses, Fred Astaire's shoes, and Chuck Berry's guitar. Then comes a celebration of 60 years of holograms from April 3 to June 9.

After you have seen these exhibitions, how about stepping through to the *Mayor's Parlour*, the Willis's new coffee shop for a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of delicious home made cake? There are interesting local things on sale there too.

Part of the first floor has had a make-over too. It has become the Community Gallery where local societies or individuals now put on exhibitions that change monthly. 2010 begins with *Stitched Inspirations*, an exhibition of textile interpretations of the Willis Museum Collection, and the Basingstoke scene, by the Basingstoke Embroiders' Guild (January 9 to February 6). This is followed by *Eclectic*, expressive works by local artist Peter Davis, inspired by isolated seascapes and bustling cityscapes (13 February to 13 March), and *Made to Fit*, a celebration of International Women's Day by local organisation *Women's Work* (March 20 to April 17).

There is much more to see on the first floor in the *Time Tunnel*, the Willis's imaginative permanent exhibition of the town's history.

Go up another floor and you will come to where the *Archaeology Gallery*, formerly on the first floor, is to be re-displayed from March. This is also where the Friends of the Willis Museum hold their monthly meetings. This body was formed in 1978 "with the object of promoting, supporting, assisting and improving the Willis Museum". The meetings, held on the third Thursday evening of the month, starting at 7.30pm (except in August), are very friendly get-togethers where a talk is given about practically anything of historical or local interest. Anyone can go to one of these talks for a small fee payable on entry, but if you enjoy good company and learn more about the world about you in an entertaining way, and like to play your part in making Basingstoke "a place to be proud of", we think you will want to join the Friends for free admission and discounts in the museum shop.

These are the talks for 2010:-

January 21: "Development of the British sword from the Civil War to the Great War", by Ian Williams

February 18: "From Cream Teas to Clapperboards: a local's view of Lacock", by Sue Tapliss

March 18: "Living with Jane Austen", by Richard Tanner

April 15: "Signposts, Milestones and Village Signs", by Brian Locock

May 20: "Updating the Victoria County History", by Jean Morrin

June 17: "The work of the Wessex Film and Sound Archive", by David Lee

July 15: "The Basing Raised Work Embroidery", by Ruth Smith

September 16: "Home Truths? A Closer Look at Domestic Technology", by Stephen Hoadley

October 21: "AGM and Developments in Domestic Lighting", by Derek Anthony and David Carwardine

November 18: "The History of Thornycrofts, part 2", by Chris Tree

December 16: Friends' Christmas Party

Find out more about the Friends at the Museum itself (01256 465902) or visit our website on www.friendsofwillis.hampshire.org.uk

Peace of Mind

Peace of Mind Care is a registered charity that is putting on affordable activities for young people in Tadley and Basingstoke. We are running the following activities in Melrose Hall Starting 20th January 2010. Places are limited so please call 01189812823 to book a place.

Drama – Melrose Hall, Popley Basingstoke :

Wednesdays 4-5pm (Ages 5-7) Wednesdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

Drama – Melrose Hall, Popley :

Thursdays 4-5pm (11-16s) Thursdays 5-6pm (16s and over) £1.50 for 1 hour

Art & Craft – Melrose Hall, Popley,

Wednesdays 4-5pm (ages 5-7) Wednesdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

Art & Craft – Melrose Hall, Popley,

Thursdays 4-5 pm (ages 5-7)

Thursdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

Chair of Peace of Mind Care Trust Fund

Telephone Number: 01189 812823

Website : www.peaceofmindcare.co.uk

Registered Charity Number : 1129258



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What's On @ Everest Community

Hi Everyone,

Where did January go? We hope you are all well and thawed out! Here is an update of what is on and planned in the coming months.

Half Term 'Mini Get With' - Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb (8-17yrs) - 10am-12 noon and 1pm-3pm

50p per session - £1 per day

Proposed activities include Multi Sports, Fencing, Poster Design on Computers, Off Road Mountain Biking, Family Cooking and Wii Sports.

BOOKING DAY SAT 6th FEB 10am-12pm. Details will be distributed through schools.

Basketball – Every Sunday with the Reading Rockets – 9-10am Years 5 & 6, 10-11am Years 7, 8 & 9 (there will be a small charge).

Netball – We are very close to securing some 'back to netball sessions' – watch this space.

Fencing – We have had a good response and are currently on the verge of organising something – watch this space.

Dance – Classes for all ages and abilities are ongoing – call Amy Fowler for more details 07811299484

Family Fun Programme – Each child with a parent, guardian or relative (over 18) to engage and have some fun and maybe learn a few new skills in the following activities. **To book please call Community reception – payment confirms booking – 01256 337573.**

Family Cooking – A 4 week course cooking a variety of menus

Starts Monday 1st March 4-6pm – Course fee £16 per couple – Tutor Teresa Paice

£2 Dance Workshops – Learn a fun routine with Amy Fowler – all ages and abilities

Mon 1st March 6-7.30pm – Dance Michael Jackson

Mon 8th March 6-7.30pm – Dance High School Musical

Mon 15th March 6-7.30pm – Dance Saturday Night Fever

Mon 22nd March 6-7.30pm – Dance Grease

Adult Education – Short courses and workshops that are current and fun. To book see details above.

Internet Workshop – What Does Your Child Get Up To On The Internet? – **FREE session** to try to answer the questions you have – Monday 1st Feb 9.30am-10.30am – Tutor Sarah Mainprise

Intro To Drama – Mon 22nd Feb 7.30-9pm, 6 weeks, min 10 persons - A relaxed & fun introduction to many aspects of Drama – Tutor Cathy Clarke – Course fee £20 per person.

Intro To Basic French – Mon 22nd Feb 6-7pm, 6 weeks, min 10 persons – What you might need to get by in France – meet and greet, directions, questions etc – Tutor Nadia Habibi – Course fee £20 per person.

Intro To English As A Foreign Language – Mon 22nd Feb 7.15-8.15pm, 6 weeks, min 10 persons – Open to nationals and non nationals – A fun intro to the language featuring basic literacy and numeracy – Tutor Nadia Habibi – Course fee £20 per person.

See You Soon
Community Team

Training For Everybody At Everest

Ian Weston

At Everest Health & Leisure Club maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle is attainable for all individuals. A typical example of this is Ian Weston.

Ian is blind and trains under the guidance of fitness instructor Kayley Hancock. He trains like any other client and his personal training sessions are predominately written with his physical capabilities in mind.

Ian has been regularly training with Kayley for the last 18 months. He describes their work as “extremely encouraging and motivational”.

Ian uses a wide range of equipment including cardio vascular machines, resistance machines and free weights. He currently trains twice a week, with one day committed to improving his heart and lung efficiency and the other focused upon improving his muscular strength.

Kayley says that “Ian is a truly inspiring individual. The work that we have done together has allowed me to approach my work from a totally new angle. Working with Ian allows me to take a more all round approach to my personal training and I hope the work we do together can inspire other individuals to get into a gym environment and aspire to their own health and fitness goals”.

Ian is always motivated by new and exciting challenges and is currently learning to walk on the treadmill without using the hand supports at the front and side of the machine. There really are no limitations at Everest Health & Leisure Club - a welcoming, all inclusive and friendly place to train!

Call Kayley on 01256 337573 or email k.hancock@everest.hants.sch.uk

Marnel Community Infant School.

Happy New Year to everyone! It has been a difficult start to our term with the snowfall making access to our site impossible for a few days. Thanks to Mr Allwright for helping to clear it with the tractor, and for all the people who valiantly helped to dig. Luckily the Councils snow plough arrived and cleared enough snow to make the site safe and accessible again. Thank you all for your patience and understanding through these exceptional weather conditions.

Before Christmas we held our first Generation Tea Party. Year 2 children invited their grandparents into school for drinks and cakes. The children then gave them a creative presentation entitled ‘Fire Fire!’ which told the story of the Great Fire of London through dance, drama and singing. The cakes were made from an authentic Tudor recipe and everyone enjoyed themselves commenting on how much they had learnt.

We also had a visit from The Happy Puzzle Company. Children from all year groups enjoyed a busy and challenging day solving puzzles. Groups of children were also invited to take part from Four Lanes and South View schools. The puzzles were varied and interesting and some even had the staff puzzled! Mrs B. Cole, Head Teacher



‘Legal Corner’



Question

I've been snowed in and couldn't get to work – what are my rights in regard to taking time off and my pay?

Answer

Kelly-Jean Rayner, employment solicitor at Phillips Solicitors, replies:

There is no 'cut and dried' answer to this as there is no standard policy or position in respect of people's inability to get to work in adverse weather conditions. There is no legal provision which obliges your employer to pay you if you are unable to get to work, although many employers do exercise some discretion to do so in these circumstances. There are many different reasons why people can't get to work in adverse weather. Some employees live far away and may be subject to impassable roads or public transport failures; others may live nearby but have a physical condition which precludes them from walking in snowy or icy conditions; others may have childcare responsibilities when schools are closed or be carers for an elderly or vulnerable adult. Your legal rights will differ depending on your individual circumstances.

There are legal provisions which allow time off for parents to care for children or carers time off to care for dependants which would be required by many employees in bad weather. These are however rights to unpaid leave only. What is also clear is that employers cannot and should not force someone to come to work if they are concerned about their health and safety, or discipline or dismiss someone if they are not able to get to work due to the weather conditions or personal circumstances caused by the weather (unless of course they are seen about town when they are supposed to be stuck at home!).

Employees need to know where they stand and employers need to consider how best to balance running a productive business against the difficulties encountered by their most valuable resource, their staff. There are no hard and fast rules as every business will have its own unique operating requirements. Some employers are giving options to staff to make the time up on returning to work or to work from home where feasible. Others are allowing employees the choice of taking the time off as paid annual leave, though this shouldn't be forced on employees. At the end of the day, any policy that is implemented by an employer should be tailored to fit their business and communicated clearly to employees so they know where they stand.

Kelly-Jean Rayner is a solicitor at Phillips, specialising in employment law. Call Kelly on 01256 854670 or email your question to krayner@phillips-law.co.uk.

Visit our website at www.phillips-law.co.uk

Dear Residents,

Happy New Year, I hope you all had a good Christmas and enjoyed the festivities along with a much deserved break.

I'm PCSO Sarah Danks, new member to the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team, and I shall be working alongside PCSO Phil Rapley and PC Dan Carter. You will no doubt be meeting me over the next few months when I'm conducting patrols either on foot or on my bike.

The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods teams have been working hard with issues that residents had raised their concerns about previously, such as criminal damage, anti social behaviour on our school sites and garage breaks in the Peots area of Popley. We have still been receiving reports of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, but this was expected over the Christmas period.

Recently we have received an increased amount of reports concerning motor cycle theft. We advise for this issue, if you have a garage, use it. If not, always try and park, in a well lit, open location. Alarms and immobiliser are also useful deterrents.

If you would like a problem which you are currently having resolved, or one of your concerns raised as a potential Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team priority please contact one of the team members on the number below.

Thanks for your time and hopefully speak with you soon.

Sarah

Sarah Danks
Police Community Support Officer 14587
Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Old Basing Beat Office
(T) 0845 045 45 45 (Ex) 626125
<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/local/policing/northeast/basingstoke/town/popley.htm>



New team aims to get people more involved in their neighbourhoods

The new team who will be working with residents and local groups to make their neighbourhoods even better places to live has been introduced by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

From Monday 4 January, the Council's new team of Community Development Officers will be working across the borough, spending the majority of their time based in the communities they cover.

Stephen Bate is the Community Development Officer for Popley East, Popley West, Chineham, Basing, Bramley, Sherfield and Sherborne St John

The role of the Community Development Officers is to work with residents to identify what is needed in their areas, for example youth clubs, children's holiday programmes, lunch clubs for older residents or exercise sessions to promote healthier lifestyles.

Part funded by Sentinel Housing Association and Kingfisher HVHS Housing Association, the team will be a key link to bringing together public bodies, the voluntary sector, local businesses and the community. Focussing on helping local communities to find their own solutions to issues, they will work closely with residents, community groups, schools, churches and local service providers.

Cllr Clive Sanders, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Development and Transport, said: "We are putting more frontline resources into communities, committed to meeting their needs and making a difference to people's lives.

"The team aims to increase volunteering and community participation, as well as supporting existing community groups and organisations to meet local needs."

Stephen's first priority will be finding ways of addressing gaps in community activities that have already been identified. Residents who have ideas about community projects to benefit their local area are encouraged to get in touch with Stephen via the Council's contact centre on 01256 844844.