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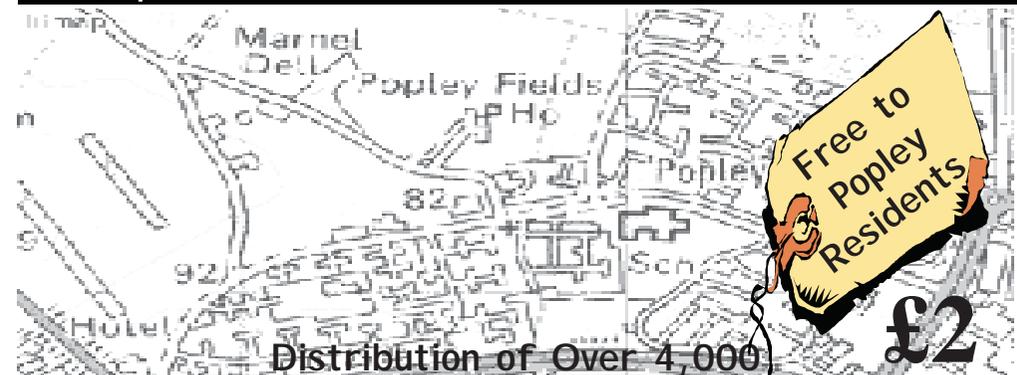
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2010

Issue 98



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Summer Time Special	Page 21
Initial Results from Questionnaires	Page 1	Meeting Regarding Traveller Sites	Page 23
Over 55s Forum	Page 1	Sherborne St John Parish News	Page 24
Fire Safety-Hoax Calls	Page 4	Basingstoke Dog Training Club	Page 25
Message from Arthur	Page 5	CAB: Home Access	Page 26
Councillors Page.	Page 6	Knitting Club in Popley	Page 26
Air Scouts Report	Page 8	Pebbles SureStart	Page 27
MFC Popley	Page 9	Bermuda Community Association	Page 28
Fire Safety-In High Rises	Page 12	Disability Forum "Question Time"	Page 29
Rotary Garden and Craft Festival	Page 13	Library Closes for Refurbishment	Page 30
Merton Infants School	Page 15	E-Learning @ Everest	Page 32
Age Concern Information Day	Page 17	Marnel Ofsted Results	Page 32
Police News	Page 18	Run4Fun4Men	Page 34
Landlords Preparing to Let Property	Page 19	Chloe's Column	Page 36
What's on @ Everest	Page 21		

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-04-10)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- I am impressed at how many residents from all parts of Popley have already filled in, and posted the free post questionnaire. To date there are about two hundred. There is still time for you to fill yours in. There are spare copies in the community centres and doctors surgery in Shakespeare House. You can also contact me at jane@popleymatters.org.uk and I will get a copy to you. There is an initial report on the page opposite.

On Friday 20th March Paul and I were asked to take round a young lady called Niki as she is on work experience for her college course, and is working at The Basingstoke Observer where they have assigned her Popley as her area to cover. Niki met quite a few people as we went around Popley. The outstanding thing she said she noticed was what a great community we have here. When she has completed her 18 week course I hope she will write an article for us at Popley Matters about her experience. Julie Johnson, a resident of Popley Poets, came to the first meeting on the scrutiny looking at the solution to the Traveller problem. Julie has written about it for us on page 23. There will be more meetings as it is a permanent resolution that is needed.

There is a chance for the men folk of Popley and your colleagues at work to take part in the Run4Fun4Men race to raise funds for fighting men's cancers. Around 5,000 women did the Race for Life and so far only about 1,200 men have entered. If you feel you would like to join our 83 year old resident David, you will find the details on page 34. If you have any comments or want to write an article you can email to editor@popleymatters.org.uk or write to Popley Matters, PO Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG.



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

LA Hair & Beauty	Page 2	PC Martin	Page 11	The Knights Circle	Page 31
Young's Chinese Food	Page 3	Nancyz Crafts	Page 11	M H Autos Service Centre	Page 31
Accountancy (Small Businesses)	Page 3	Peter's Fish & Chips	Page 11	Oakridge West Community Hall	Page 33
Sue's Driving School	Page 3	Marnel Bowls Club	Page 14	North Hampshire Services	Page 33
Devine Windows	Page 7	Sell Your Gold	Page 14	Oakhouse Foods	Page 33
IRepair Systems Ltd	Page 7	QPS Lettings	Page 16	Your Country Florist	Page 35
MAD Academy	Page 7	A30 Driving School	Page 16	Affordable Plumbing	Page 35
Leak Seek	Page 7	Araw Film Services	Page 16	Kids Nursery	Page 35
CSA 07 FC	Page 10	Sentinel	Page 20	Cornerstone Nursery	Inside B/P
Kylikes Whipper Snappers	Page 10	Sentinel	Page 22	Fastfare Store	Back Page
Boatman Cleaning Services	Page 10	1st Response	Page 31		
PKG Plumbing	Page 11	Piccolo Pre-school	Page 31		

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Chloe's column

Hello readers, its April, my favourite month of the year! Not just because it's my birthday this month (even though that's partly why) also it's because it starts to warm up in April, and it's Easter this month too. Easter is a pretty good holiday, two weeks off school and loads of chocolate? I love Easter! It's great for kids as well as they love chocolate and it's probably their favourite holiday (apart from Christmas). I think anyone can enjoy Easter, even adults can eat a sneaky bit of chocolate. It's also very important for Christians who like to think about the



resurrection of Jesus and eat a hot cross bun to remind themselves. Anyone else hungry yet? Anyway, moving on from Easter, lets see what there is to do this month apart from eat chocolate. Well, to be honest I haven't really found anything much. But fear not there is plenty to do, for example there should be a set of the usual activities going on at Everest during the holidays if you enquire. There is also a youth club up at Junction Six (right next to Everest) for 13-18 year olds if they get bored and need somewhere free to go. If you do have a bit of change in your pocket you could do lots such as visit the cinema, go swimming, go ice skating or my 4 year old sister's favourite, bowling! There is a lot to do in Basingstoke and I'm sure you don't need me to tell you. But as it's spring time perhaps its time for a bit of spring cleaning? Literally. It might be nice to have a good clear out some old stuff (so you can buy new stuff for the summer time). Speaking of summer, personally, I think we deserve a very hot summer because we had a very cold and snowy winter. I'm sure everyone agrees it's good to see the sun out! I can only think of two things wrong with summer: wasps and hay fever but there are fly swatters and pills to fix that. Well, it's a couple of months till summer anyway.

I hope everyone enjoys April and I hope the Easter Bunny brings lots of chocolate.



Till next month,
Chloe.

The Initial Results from Questionnaires

The initial results of the questionnaires show that most people that have responded to the questions like living in Popley, enjoy the green spaces and parks; the facilities and shops; and feel there is a good community spirit and like the people who live there.

At the moment, the key issue that people want to improve is the inadequacy of parking spaces and people parking their cars on verges; cleanliness of the area; traffic speeding and road safety.

These first findings are from an initial analysis of only 150 questionnaires and we hope that many more will come in, and then a fuller examination of the issues will take place. We need as many cards as possible the closing date will be 30th April. This will give time to do a full analysis for inclusion in the June edition of Popley Matters.

You can still get copies of the questionnaire at community centres and Shakespeare House surgery. You can also Contact Steve Bate on 07500987638 Popley Community Development worker.

The questionnaires are freepost, So just fill them in and pop them in a post box.

Over 55s Forum

For our Open Forum meeting on Wednesday 14th April. The Organic Framing speaker is unavailable so we are looking at a representative from Saga Holidays. This is to be confirmed.

We still have places available for our Splendid New Year Celebrations at the Imperial Hotel, Ilfracombe, Full Board is £249 per person.

Day Trips.

27th April 2010 Abbey Gardens, Malmesbury (£18 members, £20 Non Members includes coach and entrance fee.)

29th May 2010 Do-As-You-Please trip to Worthing. (£11.75 Members, £13.75 Non Members)

Prostate Cancer Users Group are staging a Music & Dance Concert on Sunday 18th April 2010 at Queen Mary College, 2pm to 5pm - All Top local performers. Tickets are still available. Partly sponsored by LILLY UK. Ring Gerald on 01256 412119 or 07792535116.

Anyone wishing to join the Forum, please contact Gerald 01256 412119.

All the best.
Gerald (Secretary & Tour Organiser)

Run4Fun4Men

Men and boys are being urged to help the battle against male cancers by signing up for the Alberta Culver 2010 Basingstoke Run4Fun4Men.

Organisers are asking for entrants of all ages to register and take part in this annual 5 km run on 5th May at Down Grange. All entrants must be at the course by 6.45 pm and have their race numbers attached to their chests.

Run4Fun4Men will begin at 7.15 pm with an aerobics warm up and the run will start promptly at 7.30 pm.

Men and boys of all ages and abilities are welcome. Even if you can't get sponsors, just paying the entrance fee will help the fight against all types of cancer. You can also just show up on the night.

Around 1,200 men and boys took part last year. The women's race saw around 5,000! One of the Popley entrants was David Cockerill and he will run again, David, who will be 83 on 4th May, says "If I can do it I am sure most men could". It would be good to have a good amount of Popley residents taking part. If you belong to a company, group or school, why not ask if you could form a team? Whether you do it individually or as a team you will help to make a difference.

It is a fun run not a race. Teams dress up in all sorts of costumes from Spiderman to pirates, whatever you fancy.

To enter or volunteer to help with the event, you can go online to www.run4fun4men.co.uk or write to Run4Fun4Men Old Down Hall, 364 Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5UY 2010. This will be the 9th year that Run4Fun4Men has been staged in Basingstoke. In the past 8 years some 9600 men and boys have completed the course and between them raised in excess of £280,000. So come on all you men, young or old. Give up one evening in May, put on your running shorts or fancy dress and either run, jog or walk our 5 km course, that's only 3.1 miles in old money. Every entrant completing the course will receive a medal and a goody bag, and as anyone who has been at our previous runs will tell you, it's a fantastic occasion with a great atmosphere. Our target for this event is 2000 entrants. If the women can do it, so can we!!! PS. If the women in your household would like to volunteer to help on the night please ask them to contact us. The venue for this fun run is the Down Grange Sports Complex, Pack Lane, Basingstoke. The course is a 5 km (3.1 mile) undulating and challenging route around sports fields and parkland.

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FACT:

Every day the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service control room receives hoax calls, reporting incidents that do not exist.

FACT:

Hoax calls commit fire appliances to incidents that do not exist, thus placing genuine caller's lives in danger, as fire cover in the county is reduced.

FACT:

People have died when the nearest fire engines were attending a hoax call. This could have been someone you know and care about. In a fire situation seconds can cost lives. It also puts the responding firefighters at risk whilst travelling to hoax calls.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

Calls from landline phones give Control Staff immediate access to the number and location of the phone and all calls are digitally recorded. In the case of hoax calls, these details can be passed to the Police for prosecution.

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

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

Useful contact points and further information:

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

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



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E-Learning at Everest!

A brand new state of the art e-learning facility was opened at Everest Community College recently. The E-Pod as it is known is probably the only one of its kind in the country at the moment, and is part of the College's programme to use new technologies to boost learning across all subject areas. Ever since it was awarded Maths and Computing specialist status last year, the College has been at the forefront of the drive to introduce innovative and exciting methods of engaging students in their learning to prepare them for life in the twenty-first century. The E-Pod room is stuffed full of kit – apple-mac computers, Nintendo DS, Wii Fits, plasma screens. Students were closely involved in the naming and design of the room and certainly enjoy making full use of the technologies that it has to offer. 'It's fantastic' said one student, a view that is shared by all of those who have visited E-Pod.

Everest Rocks

A group of took part in the Hampshire Rock Challenge contest held at

Global Rock Challenge 2010

In September Everest Community College embarked on a completely new and exciting challenge. It's Global Rock Challenge 2010! A group of highly committed students from Years 8, 9 and 10 rehearsed weekly for 6 months learning new routines, technical stage skills, set and costume design. Students performed at the Southampton Guildhall on Tuesday 2nd March 2010 against 6 other schools from Hampshire. After all their hard work and effort the students came away with two awards, 'Best Stage Crew' and 'Concept Interpretation'. I am so very proud of them all and want to thank them for all their hard work and commitment. Bring on Rock Challenge 2011!!!

Marnel Community Infant School is **OUTSTANDING!**

In February an inspection team from Ofsted arrived at school. After carrying out a full and detailed inspection involving; observing lessons, talking to pupils, the school council and parents; interviews with the Head Teacher, governors and teaching staff, the overall grade awarded to the school was **OUTSTANDING!** Obviously everyone involved is very proud and delighted with the outcome. By way of a celebration, the children were able to plan a 'Fantastic Friday'. The children planned and enjoyed learning about a wide range of activities in classes including painting, model making, science, cooking, PE and ICT.

This half term we have also been celebrating the achievement of some of our Year 2 children who were involved with the Katha Indian Dance Project. Kala Arts co-ordinated the project which culminated in a performance at the Haymarket Theatre by children from local schools and professional dancers from around the world. It was an amazing evening. We are all proud of the children's performance. *Mrs B. Cole, Head Teacher*

Dear Friends,

Sitting here in my study enjoying the early spring sunshine, the clear skies and warm sunshine, it is a marked contrast to the long, interminable months of hard winter that are at long last beginning to fade into memory. It has been one of the hardest and longest winters that I can recall. Those memories make spring and the prospect of longer and warmer days all the more welcome.

It is always a wonder to see the signs of new life slowly beginning to emerge from the hard ground. There are daffodils just waiting to burst open, buds on the trees and the dreaded weeds starting to make their annual appearance in the jungle that is my garden! It's a reminder that once again the seasons have come full circle from the new life of last spring, the flowering of summer to the dying and death of autumn and winter. Am I beginning to sound like Alan Titchmarsh???

By the time you read this, Easter will be upon us – it is the most important Christian festival of the year. We move from the new life of the birth of Jesus that we celebrated at Christmas, to the sacrifice of himself on the Cross on Good Friday and his bursting from the tomb on Easter morning. These events move towards the completing of the circle of God's plan to rescue all of Creation from, as St Paul puts it, '*the bondage that it is held in.*'

The Christian way is about new life, it's about the power of God to transform lives and situations. When Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning, something had changed so completely and forever. The power of sin and death had been broken and it was now possible for everyone to be transformed and share in the new life that he had died to give us.

This is what is at the heart of the Christian message. Sadly it all too often gets swallowed up in all the other messages we're daily bombarded with that falsely promise eternal good looks or lives and we miss the one real opportunity. Jesus said that we're pretty good at reading the signs for the weather but we can't see what is front of our noses.

As we wait expectantly for the warm spring weather to burst upon us, why not try reading the signs in your life that hint at the possibility of new life – new life in relationship with God through Jesus. I hope that you can celebrate Easter with us this year and that the sun shines on all of us as the Son shines on all of us!

Warm greetings
Arthur
Vicar of St Gabriel's

Councillors Page: At the public meeting at Popley Fields on 5th March, the plans were there for comment on £1.2 million scheme to improve safer access for pedestrians and cyclists. This includes slowing down the speeds to 30 mph in Popley Way and Carpenters Down; having safer crossings in both roads, and improvements to the bus stops. There was a good amount of residents that came and the leaflet in last month's Popley Matters gave details if you wanted to make comments but could not make the meeting. All the comments and suggestions will be correlated and I will report back in Popley Matters.

At a meeting I attended on Transport in Basingstoke with County Councillors, senior officers of both councils, the portfolio holder for BDBC and Andrew Dyer Director of Stagecoach, I brought up yet again the subject of the poor service to either end of the estate, in particular the hospital bus. Mr Dyer has promised to look again with the new manager of the Basingstoke area to see if re routing the number 4 might be an answer. There would of course be public consultation and I have said we would be willing to put forward any ideas in our local community magazine, Popley Matters. I will be contacting them to make sure that something is done. Cllr Jane Frankum 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road or email cllr.jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

Popley West: I was pleased to see that already many residents of Popley, in all parts old and the newer estates, have replied to the freepost questionnaire card. You can still make comments and fill in your cards as the closing date is not till 30th April. So far it seems that most people like living in Popley with the community and open spaces being high on the list. Things that need to improve so far are parking, litter and need for a better bus service to some parts of Popley. If you have not filled in a card and would like to you can either pick one up at Popley Fields, Melrose Hall or Shakespeare House Surgery. You can also contact us on 819924 or at 405 Abbey Road.

There have been complaints made about dog fouling again, this time in two of the play areas in Popley; one in Marnel Park and the new Popley Community Park. Both areas have the play area fenced off. Both are still the responsibility of the developers and we have asked for signs to tell the very few dog owners that do this that dogs should not go in the play areas fenced off. It is not fair on the children or the dogs.

If you have any concerns or want to contact me my details are phone 472496/819924 or write to Popley Labour, 405 Abbey Road, Popley West, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 9EL

Popley East: As we enter spring and the days get longer, so activities on Popley's building sites have stepped up.

Concerns have been raised about the height of the buildings at Phase 2 of the John Hunt build, with some people saying they are six stories high. This is not the case; there are six levels of scaffolding but the buildings are three stories with a pitched roof.

The parking restrictions have been removed from the roads in Phase 1. This will come as a huge relief to residents living there who have had to put up with indiscriminate fines and clamping. We even heard of disabled people being fined and people being fined/clamped when loading while moving house!

At Longfellow, we've had reports of lorries turning up too early and concerns raised whether the buildings are in the right place. We are currently trying to get some money spent on play facilities. Over the next few months the scheme should finish and I think Sentinel owe the residents a huge party!

Work continues on the demolition of the Faroe and Maldiva flats, and the developers have appropriated a large section of green next to Cayman Close and Ascension Close. This is in accordance with the plans but we need to make absolutely sure they don't deviate from them!

A group of Popley Poets residents met on 11th March at Popley Fields about setting up a residents group for the Popley Poets. The meeting was well attended, especially considering it was nearly 2 miles away. The Poets doesn't have a community hall of its own – we discussed using Chineham Park school or the empty shop unit in Shakespeare Road. Andy McCormick 01256 419376 or 07879 436985

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Basingstoke Library Closes for Refurbishment

Basingstoke Library will be closing on Sunday 25th April for a major refurbishment and upgrade to a Discovery Centre. We cannot yet confirm the date of re-opening but it is likely to be before the end of the year. I will of course confirm the date as soon as the final elements of the project are confirmed.

The new Discovery Centre has been designed with striking colours and a new layout to foster engagement with the wide range of services available. The entrance lobby will be transformed and opened out to create an impressive new foyer area and access will be markedly improved with a new lift. The building work will include the creation of two new flexible spaces for community and business use alongside unique facilities for adults with learning difficulties. A significant budget has been allocated for the purchase of new books to ensure the library service in the Discovery Centre responds to our customers high expectations. Self-issue technology will be installed which will free up staff to give more in-depth support to those customers' requiring it. The information offer will also be significantly improved through the introduction of "hantsdirect local" whereby Discovery Centre staff will be trained to provide information on all the County Council's services.

A feature of the new Discovery Centre will be close working with Hampshire Museum Services in and around Basingstoke to ensure efficiencies. There will be a museum display case in the Discovery Centre with a changing programme of use to reflect exhibitions in the Willis and elsewhere. The Discovery Centre team will also be actively engaging with other cultural providers in Basingstoke in collaborative working.

During the closure period, we will be significantly extending opening hours in the neighbouring libraries of Chineham and South Ham, including Sunday opening in Chineham. In addition we will be providing a mobile library in Market Square on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

As part of the project the CAB will also be refurbished. It will remain open most of the time whilst the library is closed, closing just for a few weeks for its own refurbishment which is being funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Please feel free to contact me or Debbie Jeffs, the Library Manager, if you have any questions. I would be very pleased to meet you as convenient to discuss the operation of the Discovery Centre in more detail.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Wills

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Charity number 267734 Headquarters Registration number 42755
www.base2000.co.uk
Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559
Base 2000 booking/enquiries - bookings@base2000.co.uk



The Beaver Colony visited the Willis Museum in Basingstoke to see the China Exhibition and were made very welcome by the museum staff. The Beaver Scouts enjoyed making a moon guitar before leaving for home. The lighter evenings have also encouraged the Colony to look and explore recent improvements in Basing Woods.



Six Beaver Scouts, Elliot, Harry, Annabel, Ellie, Lewis and Aidan, were presented with the Chief Scout's Bronze Award by the District Commissioner Andy Cullen. Congratulations to them all for achieving a whole range of activity badges and for completing six challenge awards. Well done.

The Cubs have been practising for the District Cub Scout Five-a-side Football competition and have also been looking towards completing the requirements to achieve both Navigator and Astronomer Activity Badges. The Pack took part in District Activity Badge Day at the end of March. Plans

are being made for a 'sleep over' at Paddicks Patch later in the spring.

The Scout section visited Hendon on 21st March and held at 'sleep over' the following weekend. Summer Camp will be at Buddens, a Scout activity site, in Dorset.

New members are welcome in all sections. Just come along at the appropriate time or give the Section Leader a ring. Scouting is open to both boys and girls 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. Consideration is given to anyone wishing to set up a regular activity in either hall as well as 'one-off' bookings for children's parties and meetings. 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 5½ to 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
Jean-Paul Keetch 810571
Colin Karslake 410559

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Do you have a question related to disability you would like to put to any of the above MP's?

This is your chance to tell the candidates what matters to you. Submit a question to the Forum in advance and then come along and hear what the candidates have to say.

When: 14th April 2010, 5.30 to 8 pm
Where: Everest Community College, Popley, Basingstoke

Places must be booked in advance. For more information and to book your place contact the Disability Forum on 01256 423869 or disabilityforum@voluntaryservices.com





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Wednesday evening - C.M.A Kick boxing from 7.00 - 8.30 pm

Thursday evening - Ladies keep fit from 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Sunday Afternoon- Christian Family Fellowship 4.00 - 6.30 pm

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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 7.45 - 9.45 pm .

If anyone is interested please call us on 01256 363156

must be over 18 years old



A good day for MFC Popley on Mothers Day.

At the beginning of March I was talking to my son Jacob, regarding football (SHOCK) and I was asking if there had ever been a day when every MFC Popley team had won, well on Mothers Day, it happened!

The U7s Knights and Raiders beat Tigers (K) 2-0 7-1 (R) 1-0 6-4. The Knights were excellent and for 6 year olds, played some wicked football. New boy Adam Poynter got his goal and Man of the Match. I didn't see the double back-flip and twist with a pike goal celebration though. The Raiders have had a new lease of life with Russell Graves and Glen Taylor taking charge. The Raiders were 1-3 down at half time in the 2nd game, but came back to win 6-4. Goal of the game was from Edward Graves taking on the defence and strategically placing it with skill and precision past the keeper. Shame it was his own keeper, Alllllriiight Teddd! LOL!

The U9s Dynamos beat Andover 3-0. The boys are on fire this season, winning some very important games to keep them in the race for the title. Taylor Ross broke his ankle earlier on in the season and is a big miss for the Dynamos; he's probably been driving his parents up the wall. Get well soon Taylor. Kallum Cousins has played a big part in Justin's set up linking up well with Blaise Ely and Cole Oates to supply goal-hanger extraordinary, Callum Mckeaveney, sniffing round the 6 yard box at every opportunity.

The U11s Tornados played against Down Grange, a team who always raise their game when they come up against us, but they haven't played us this season. The boys closed down and pressed the opposition at every opportunity, something we've been working on in training. Jacob Austen was instrumental in midfield playing some lovely football with Denis Brittain and Liam Wright. Fynnlie Judd and Scott Forder were also on fire scoring 5 between them in a 9-0 win. Jacob also trains with Chelsea Elite on a Monday and has been told that with hard work he could be playing Academy level football in 6-12 months. Well done mate.

The U13s Scorpions played up at Everest Community College on the next pitch to the Tornados against Hatch Warren. Hatch Warren looked very impressive with 2 to 3 boys hitting the 6 foot mark, I feared for the Scorpions to be honest and a couple of hours later I received a text from Danny saying that they had won 6-5, UNBELIEVABLE! Alex, who is Danny's goal keeper, had injured his shoulder and had to be subbed. Connor Oates went in goal and Alex came on 10 minutes later as a striker, scoring 2 goals, one of them being the winner. Great managerial tactics there from Mr Oates, LOL. Shane Pearce scored again with a header, which is great for Shane, an absolute pleasure to even know the boy. Legend!

Thanks for all your support, united always!

Lee Austen, director of football.

Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 07946340730



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Easter Holiday Activities for Families with under 8's

Tuesday, 6 April	Wednesday, 7 April	Thursday, 8 April	Friday, 9 April	Saturday, 10 April
10.00 – 11.00  MAD Academy at Melrose Hall Cost £2*	10.00 – 11.30 Craft & Messy Play Session at Popley Fields Cost £1 	10.00 – 11.30 Craft Session at Monk Sherborne Village Hall Cost £1 2.00 – 3.00 Easter Egg Hunt at Pebbles Cost £1	1.00 – 2.30 Chill & Chat 	9.30 – 11.30 Dads' Club 
Monday, 12 April	Tuesday, 13 April	Wednesday, 14 April	Thursday, 15 April	Friday, 16 April
2.00 – 3.30 Parachute Fun 	10.00 – 11.00  MAD Academy at Melrose Hall Cost £2* 2.00 – 3.00  Fun Fits at Sherborne St John Village Hall Cost £1	Minibus trip to Thatcham Nature Reserve Cost £3.50* per seat Depart 10.00 am Return 2.30 pm 	10.00 – 11.30 Messy Play outside at Pebbles Cost £1 	1.30 – 2.45 Play Session at Basingstoke Sports Centre Soft Play Cost £2 

If you would like to know more about any of our holiday activities, please contact us at Pebbles Children's Centre. We remain open throughout the holidays from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Many of our activities need to be booked in advance as numbers are limited, and some of them have a fee which must also be paid in advance.

We also now have our Summer timetable of activities and courses available. Please contact us for information.



Would you like Help to Get On-Line at Home?

The government has launched the Home Access grant scheme. They want people to be able to get online at home and have a chance to learn more. A Home Access grant might pay for a computer, a year's internet access and service and support.

You might be able to get a Home Access grant if:

- you have children in school years 3 to 9, or you are a carer or foster parent for children in school years 1 to 13
- your children are at a state school, or their education is paid for by the local authority or the government
- you get certain benefits, for example income support, guaranteed pension credit or free school meals for your child
- you haven't had a grant for a computer from a scheme like this before.

You can find out more about the Home Access grant scheme and get an application form by calling their helpline on 0333 200 1004, emailing them at enquiries@homeaccess.org.uk

Need Help

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau in The Library, Town Centre can help you any queries you have on relationships, mortgage repayment issues, debt, benefits and employment problems. We operate a drop-in service 10 am - 3.30 pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is 9.30-11.30 am) and Saturday mornings 10 am - 12 pm. Telephone 01256 322814

Please Note:- From 30 March, Popley outreach service will be happening on a Tuesday morning from 10am-1230pm, at the Shakespeare House surgery. We would like to thank The surgery for given us the room free of charge, for which we are very grateful

Knitting Club in Popley

Do you machine knit or hand knit, then there is a group who meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning of each month (excluding August) from 10 am to 12 pm at Popley Community Centre. We would love you to come and join us - we are a friendly lot, and it is very informal, and we learn from each other, and sometimes have speakers, or learn a different craft, and in the summer we have a small outing. We also knit to send items to children in need in other parts of the world, or to babies in Special Care Baby Unit. On Saturday June 19th we have the AGM for the Machine Knitters Guild with us for the day, with some suppliers, and speakers. It should be a good day. Do come along and give us a try, you would be very welcome. Mrs. Ann Moore 01256 413808, or email:- amoore808@googlemail.com



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Fire Safety In High Rises.

If you live in a high-rise building, or you stay in one on your holidays, you need to take extra safety precautions to ensure your escape in the event of fire. Follow the simple safety advice offered below.

Ensure you have an escape plan:

- Make an escape plan – this will give you peace of mind should there ever be a fire. Talk to everyone who lives in the flat and make sure they know where the fire alarm is.
- Go through your escape route – but also discuss a second escape route, should one become unavailable.
- Keep escape routes clear – ensure stairwells and corridors remain clutter free.
- If you can't escape, gather everyone in one room and tell the control operator how many of you there are and which room you are in (this will be passed onto the fire crews so they can find you quickly).

In the event of a fire:

- If a fire breaks out in your flat or room, remain calm, act quickly, get everyone out and shut the door to the room on fire.
- Don't return for valuables or to investigate the fire.
- When escaping your flat avoid using lifts and balconies.
- If you know of a fire in another flat, phone 999 and report it. Close your front door, remain in your own flat and await further instruction.
- When told to, quickly and calmly leave the building and gather at the designated assembly point.
- When evacuating, keep low as the air is clearest there.
- If you haven't already done so, activate a fire alarm as you leave.

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm in your flat even if the building has a warning system.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

Firekills website: www.firekills.direct.gov.uk/index.html



BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT DOG TRAINING CLUB

Training gets even better on Monday nights here at Oakridge Hall for All as the evenings get lighter...roll on spring. It's been a long winter.

Our Good Citizens Class are getting ready for their Bronze, Silver and Gold tests, which are now taking place on Saturday 10 April. Meanwhile our Beginners Training Courses continue to be very well attended. Puppy Class can get busy too so we've drafted in extra help to make sure our new pups and their trainers each get the attention they need.

Our Anne Bussey Training Weekend was excellent. Participants could either train their dogs with Anne or learn by watching. In addition to humour and endless patience, Anne breaks down complex things into simple steps enabling everyone to make good progress. We all took a lot away from the course and left enthused – and well fed! Here's to our next course.

Soon it will be time for The Hampshire Rally again. This friendly inter club obedience competition is a good day out for all the teams taking part. It's on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May, all day, in the War Memorial Park. It's great fun to see dogs and their owners working at different levels from beginners to the very advanced. Anyone can come and watch.

If you'd like any further information or advice please give Deb Steadman or Sue Marshall a ring on 01256 331495 or 355946.

We continue, as always, to keep our costs as low as possible as a not for profit club...and we're still the only Kennel Club registered one locally. Do come along and see what we do!





New Bus Service

At the January meeting of the Parish Council a petition regarding the new bus services was brought along and this was subsequently sent to HCC and BDBC.

HCC has responded and pointed out that the new No. 56 bus service serves Houndmills (Sentinel Housing) and the Rail Station. The bus stop for this is the new stop half way up Elm Rd and on Cranes Rd. This bus runs 7 times a day Mon – Fri and 5 times on Sat.

Cold Weather Planning

Following our very cold winter HCC is setting up a Scrutiny Committee, chaired by one of our County Councillors Keith Chapman, to review the response to the very cold weather. The report is due to be given later this year and the PC will await this before deciding on its future actions should such a winter occur again.

Grit Bins

On a related matter HCC will be making many more grit bins available to Parish Councils and once the PC has decided on the number needed by SSJ it will apply for some.

Break-ins

Sadly there has been increase in number of break-ins into sheds and other outbuildings in the village and surrounding area. Please take extra care to ensure your outbuildings are secure. Unhappily our brand new village notice board at the Village Hall has already been vandalised!

Speed Limits

A proposal for Popley Way to have a 30 mph speed limit and new crossing points is to be introduced. This will hopefully be started by August this year.

Bottle Banks

It has been reported to the Parish Council that BDBC are considering introducing kerb side collections of bottles in 2011. As a result the PC will defer any further action until the decision over kerb-side collections has been made.

Greening Campaign

A Greening Campaign is to be launched in Sherborne St John in the very near future. This will be a community led action and whilst it does not involve the Parish Council, the PC gives the campaign it's backing and support.

The Villager

Finally the meeting was attended by Roger Shelvey, his last in his capacity as Editor of The Villager. The PC wishes to offer Roger our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all that he has done for The Villager during his many years as Editor. It has been a voluntary position that Roger has performed excellently and with great skill.

We welcome and congratulate Andy Page as the new Editor.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Tuesday 26nd March at 7.30 pm

The AGM is Tuesday 4th May at the Chute Pavilion.

Carole Stanley

Sunday 25th April 2010

This year's Basingstoke Garden and Craft Festival will take place on Sunday 25th April at Milestones Museum, Basingstoke Leisure Park. Organised by The Rotary Club of Basingstoke, it has attracted involvement by Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Both will be showing aspects of their work in the community.

Described as 'a must' for local gardeners, the event features a large range of quality plants and shrubs from well known nurseries in Hampshire and neighbouring counties, plus stands devoted to garden furniture, tools and accessories. Advice on a range of gardening problems will also be available.

The local Shaw Trust, that provides people with special needs gardening experience and training, will also be attending.

For those not interested or not able to garden, there will be an extensive craft marquee with a variety of items for purchase, including handmade jewellery, handbags, toys and glassware.

A further attraction is a plant crèche where purchases can be left safely while customers visit the rest of the show or take advantage of the chance to visit the Milestones Museum. Nearby parking is free.

Profits from the event will be used to help finance various community activities or donated to local charities being supported by Rotary, such as Homestart, St Michael's Hospice, Neighbourcare and Basingstoke Young Carers

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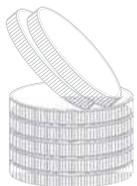
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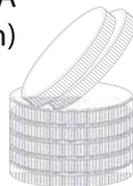
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Meeting Regarding Traveller Sites

A meeting of the council's Community Wellbeing Overview Scrutiny Committee was held on 17th March. Presentations were given by Council Officers who described the duties the Council has with regard to the Gypsy and Traveller communities. Attending the meeting were 3 Popley residents, one also representing Popley Fields Community Centre, who all had time to speak. The meeting can be watched online from the Council's Website. Councillor Robert Taylor, who chairs this committee, started the meeting by showing concern over reported allegations that a site would be built next to the Everest Community College. He categorically refuted that there has been any decision on a site in the Borough. There will be no decision made until after the Scrutiny process has been completed. This will be on-going until September 2010 at least. There will be 2 more meetings of this committee, one on 30th June and the last in September. The meeting on 30th June will allow representatives from the public, Travellers, Police and other local authorities provide further information on how communities are affected by unauthorised encampments. If you want to be heard at this meeting, please contact the council to make sure you are allocated speaking time. Otherwise, you can send letters or emails to get your point across.

During the meeting on 17th March, it became clear that under current law, Gypsies and Travellers who have no legal site on which to park their homes are regarded as homeless. The council has a duty to help if a family approaches them. It is expected that as more travelling groups use legal representation, more will come to the Council claiming homelessness. The Council must take into consideration the culture of Gypsies and Travellers when helping with housing – this means they would be expected to provide pitches as well as bricks and mortar housing depending on the cultural preferences. Some will be happy to accept traditional homes, while others will want to continue living in mobile accommodation.

Another issue was over Police and Council actions to remove encampments. Most of the questions raised will be referred to the next meeting when it is hoped the Police can explain their position.

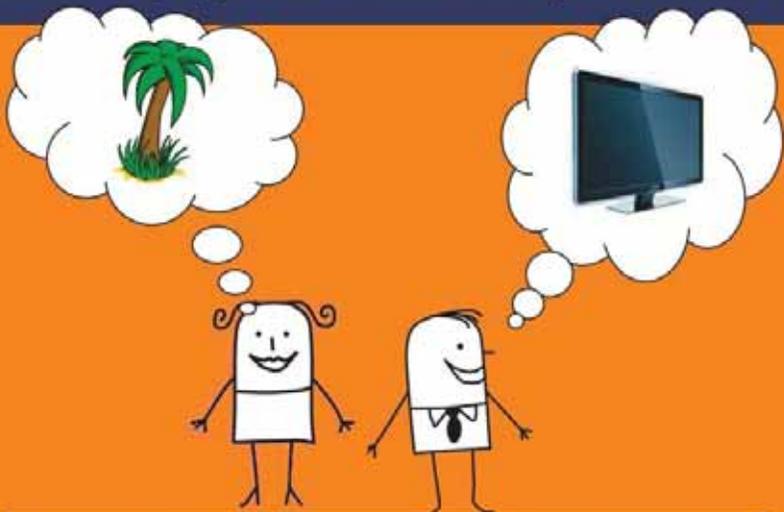
There is no easy solution to the problem of unauthorised encampments, but by law, the Council must look into providing suitable sites.

A list of questions was left with officers, and a promise was given to respond in writing.

If you have further questions about the meeting that has already taken place, or on the next scheduled meeting on 30th June, please contact the Editor in writing with your telephone number and your questions.

Julie Johnson

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"Aiming High, Achieving Together"

*** PRESS RELEASE***

With litter being a major issue for many schools across the country, our school Eco Team wanted to do something constructive. We registered our school for 'The Big Tidy Up'. By doing so we joined England's biggest litter pick and 'The Keep Britain Tidy' Campaign to help tidy up our school grounds.

Getting involved in The Big Tidy Up gave us the opportunity to become part of our local community. Not only were we making a positive contribution to our local area but we were also learning about the problem of litter and the importance of recycling.

On Friday 12th February, the whole school, parents and volunteers carried out our Big Tidy Up by collecting rubbish which had been deposited in our grounds. At the end of the day we piled the rubbish up and were amazed at just how much we had collected. As well as litter there were bits of carpet, chairs, pet cages and lots of wood!



The children were disappointed and angry to see that people had been dumping their rubbish in our grounds and we hope that we can stop them from doing so in the future.

The issues surrounding litter, waste and the local community fit perfectly into many areas of our school curriculum and this campaign was an ideal starting point for many group activities.

Fun was had by all !!

Larissa James, Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH





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What's On @ Everest Community

Back To Netball – Do you want to get active, back to sport or even try a new sport with Starz Netball Club. Aimed at females 16+ on Mondays 12/19/26 April and 10/17/24 May 7-8.30 pm £3 per session or £15 for 6 week programme. Call reception to book 01256 337573

Tennis – Nets are up as of Mon 19th April – Court prices per hour adults £6, under 16 £3 (members free).

Facilities – We are now taking bookings for Summer (April-August) for Sports Hall, Astro, Studio and Muga – contact marilyn.botham@hants.gov.uk

Easter Opening – Community will be closed Good Friday 2nd April and Easter Monday 5th April, but will be open Saturday 3rd April and Sunday 4th April and as normal for the rest of the holiday period.

Children's Activities – We will not be running any specific activities over the Easter holiday but there are a number of external partners who will be running courses over this period at Everest – these currently include Basingstoke Town FC and Rhythm Central. Our next Mini Get With will be during the June half term. We are currently working hard preparing a bigger and better programme of summer Get With, which kicks in week commencing Monday 26th July for four weeks.

Family Learning – Following the success, in particular, of the London Museum Trip, the cooking and the trampolining we will be looking to run more sessions in the summer term as well as continuing sessions for those who have already attended – details to follow.

Gym Open Day - Saturday 10th April 8 am - 4 pm - Come and have a look around – Join on the day and there is no joining fee and the first month is free!

For one day only!

SUMMER TIME SPECIAL

The Music and Laughter Show with artistes from the West End and TV

Saturday 26th June 2010

3pm and 7 pm

Haymarket Theatre Basingstoke

Join us for a stroll down memory lane, sing along to favourite songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s, West End and Broadway Musicals and much, much more.

Compiled and directed by Miss Helen Watson

All tickets £10

Box Office 01256 844244

Proceeds to Age Concern in Basingstoke

Registered Charity No:290874

www.ageconcernbasingstoke.org.uk

Telephone 01256 423874

Community Art at Popley Islands

Make your views count

●●● April 2010

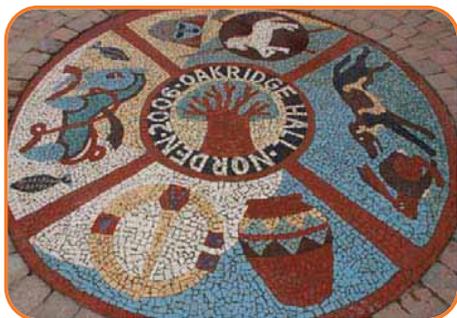
Millions of pounds will be spent on making Popley Islands a better place to live. To mark the first stage, Sentinel Housing Association has provided funding for a small-scale project to design a new piece of art to celebrate community life in your neighbourhood.

Sentinel and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council would like you to come up with ideas for a piece of work that encapsulates life in the area, to be installed as a centrepiece in the new development.

We've come up with a few suggestions to get you started, but this is a great chance to make your mark in your neighbourhood, so we'd appreciate your views.

Please either tick the option you like most, or note down a theme or idea of your own. The chosen option will be designed by an artist with local young people

- 1. A mural
- 2. A floor mosaic
- 3. A sculpture
- 4. Any other suggestions



Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Have your say and make a difference in your neighbourhood

Please send your ideas by Friday 30 April to:
 Andrea Weeks
 Sentinel Housing Association
 56 Kingsclere Road
 Basingstoke
 Hants
 RG21 6XG
 Or you can vote online at www.sentinelha.org.uk



AGE HAMPSHIRE IN BASINGSTOKE
Concern
 Over 50s

INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday 28th April

10.30 am - 1.00 pm

St. Michael's Church Cottage, Basingstoke

A wealth of information under one roof!

Chat to representatives of various organisations working with older people.

Find out more about Age Concern's local services.

Wide variety of printed information available.

Ask questions about sources of support, benefits, legal matters, leisure activities & much more.

Age Concern Café open as usual.

For more information or to book a place for your organisation, please call Tracey at Age Concern.

Tel: 01256 423874

NB: No parking on site.

Age Concern Hampshire in Basingstoke (Registered Charity No. 290874), The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF.



Dear Residents,
Hope you are all well and enjoying the start of spring with the small improvement in the weather.

The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods (PSNP) team have been working hard on the issues previously raised by residents, which were:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) at Tesco Express, at Carpenters Down;
- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour around the Barbican public house; and
- Speeding and driver related issues – Popley Way.

Unfortunately PSNP members and residents are still concerned about road users speeding in this area. We will continue to provide a visible presence in these areas.

We plan to launch Operation Vixen again soon. Operation Vixen is concentrated on anti-social behaviour, drugs and motorbikes in Carpenters Down Woods. This proved to be a success last year following reports from residents.

Once again a reminder that if you would like a problem which you are currently having, or one of your concerns raised as a potential Popley Safer Neighbourhoods panel 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
<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/local/policing/northeast/basingstoke/town/popley.htm>



Landlords Preparing to let a out your property:

Landlords, there are a few matters you will need to deal with before letting your property out to ensure that the tenancy runs smoothly, and also that you comply with the law.

Electrical, gas plumbing, waste, central heating and hot water systems must be safe, sound and in good working order.

At the commencement of the tenancy the property should be in a thoroughly clean condition. Your property can be let fully furnished, part furnished or unfurnished and gardens should be left neat, tidy and rubbish free, with any lawns cut.

It is most important that an inventory of contents and schedule of condition be prepared, in order to avoid misunderstanding or dispute at the end of a tenancy.

You will need to inform mortgagees if the property is mortgaged and freeholders if it is a lease property.

You will need an **Assured Shorthold Tenancy agreement**. Most tenancies will automatically be Assured Shorthold Tenancies (ASTs), provided the rent is under £25,000 a year and the property is let to private individuals. Tenancies are usually granted for an initial fixed term of either 6 to 12 months.

All deposits taken by landlords and letting agents under Assured Shorthold Tenancies (ASTs) in England and Wales must be protected by a tenancy deposit protection scheme.

An Energy Performance Certificate and recommendation report must be made available free of charge by the landlord to a prospective tenant at the earliest opportunity and before a let is agreed.

Health and Safety, and other Legal Requirements

The following requirements are the responsibility of the owner (Landlord).

1) Annual safety check: Under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 all gas appliances and flues in rented accommodation must be checked for safety within 12 months of being installed, and thereafter at least every 12 months by a competent engineer.

2) There are several regulations relating to electrical installations, equipment and appliance safety, and these affect landlords and their agents in that they are 'supplying in the course of business'. Even though there are no legal requirements, to avoid the risk of being accused of neglecting your 'duty of care', I would always suggest to arrange an inspection and certificate by a certified electrician.

3) The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 (amended 1989 & 1993) provide that specified items supplied in the course of letting property must meet minimum fire resistance standards.

Items that comply will have a suitable permanent label attached. Non-compliant items must be removed before a tenancy commences.

If all above has been prepared you would be ready to let your property out.

Vicki, QPS Lettings

Any questions: Vicki@qpslettings.co.uk