

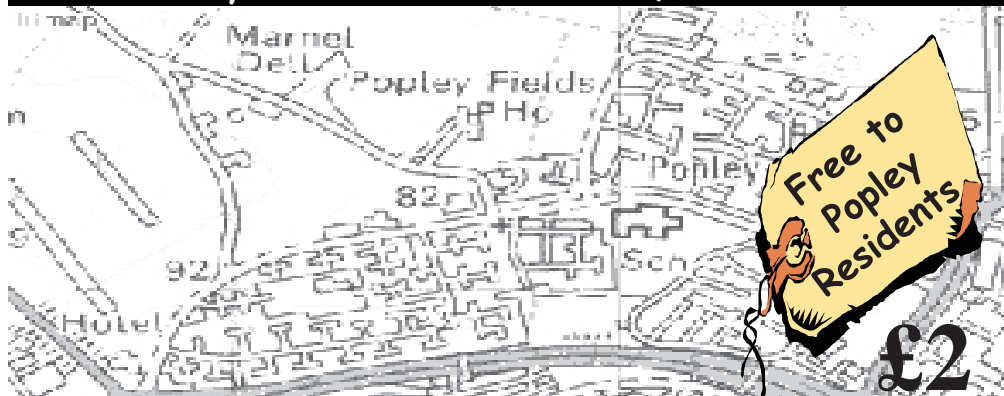
POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

February 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 120



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-02-12)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- Does anyone know how you reverse a disastrous time when all seems against you? Within the last few days I have had a leak in the kitchen, the curtain and track in the front room broke, I burnt the dinner, got hit by a car where the driver wasn't looking in Morrisons car park and later even broke my walking stick. Look for the silver lining, they say. Well thanks to son Paul who: fixed a new curtain rail; replaced the faulty pipe under the sink; pulled me away from the reversing car so all I suffered was bruising and shock (it could have been much worse); bought me a new walking stick, cooked me a meal and washed up. It made me appreciate how fortunate I am to have someone around to support me. I

wonder how people cope on their own.

David Wilson Homes seem determined to build another 450 units in the open fields in Popley, more about it on page 1 opposite. With February comes Valentines Day. Do you know the origin of where it came from? I didn't but Viv Washbourne has researched and found out, see what she wrote on page 10. If you are planning a wedding then page 28 will give you the opportunity to win £15,000 grant from Festival Place. If the long dark nights leave you feeling a bit down why not go to the Scouts Gang Show, details of cost and where to book are on page 4. I am told it is a fun show and good to see so many young people having a good time and entertaining us with the show. We still desperately need more people to deliver especially in the new housing. It is voluntary and could take up an hour a month and you will be helping the community to keep informed in and around Popley.

Finally we need a volunteer to take on the Treasurer's role. Tricia has moved out of the area so is having to give it up. In the meantime she will carry on and help anyone that may take on the position.

If you want to write an article, advertise, or be a volunteer for Popley Matters, contact Jane Frankum on 819924 or Iris King 411113, via email editor@popleymatters.org.uk, or write to Popley Matters Group, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9EL.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

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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Thank you for the support

Kiln Farm Fields

I have received an email from the company dealing with David Wilson Homes to say that they have presented the application to Basingstoke and Deane Planning Department with a planning application for 450 more units on the fields by the side of Jersey and Guernsey and behind the new Marnel Park development. As we go to print the application still has to be officially registered and assigned to a planning officer to deal with. It will then be given an official number and the official consultation will begin. We will be asking for a public meeting where residents can see the plans for the outline, and one later when the more detailed application of the content on the site to give residents the chance to see what they think about the plan when they can see what David Wilson Homes propose.

This site is on the border but is actually in the ward of Sherborne St John but the impact is mainly to Popley and stretches to all parts of Popley affecting the roads, schools and health services. I feel we have taken just about enough of the house building for this borough. Its too big an area, too many units and we need to be able to breathe some good clean countryside air.

I am not against development if it's the right type of housing like some bungalows for the elderly or disabled, and starter homes to give our younger residents a chance to get on the first ladder of owning their own homes, or social housing for families who are in overcrowded conditions, but we do not need 450 more in the open countryside and green fields that our residents enjoy with walking, taking their dogs for walks or, in the case of the Boys Brigade, doing a sponsored cycle ride around the outside of the field to get money to buy expensive equipment that otherwise they would not be able to afford, like Kayaks.

On these fields we can enjoy the peaceful quiet of the countryside and even watch the deer and skylarks. I have been told there is the last small family of badgers there too. There are rare butterflies and other species so why shouldn't our children enjoy all the enchantment of the open countryside?

At the end of the day it is about the council having to achieve the Government's house building numbers over the next five/six years, but if you look at all the sites proposed they don't need to build on this site. People keep asking me why aren't we building on the other side of the town on Manydown if we have to build to order? We the taxpayer paid ten million pounds to buy this land to build good quality housing on, and it was taken out of the list. If we started

to build on this land or more out in the villages we would not need to see this cramming on the north side of Basingstoke. Young couples have said they want to stay in their villages but there are not enough affordable houses there so they are forced to move to the urban area.

If you are against building 450 more units on this Kiln Farm Fields site, you can write into the planning department at Civic Offices London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH or email cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or contact any of your Popley Councillors. **Cllr**

Jane Frankum



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Basingstoke Gang Show



The 2012 Basingstoke Gang Show cast has been rehearsing for what promises to be another dazzling array of electrifying entertainment.

From The Carpenters to Queen, Westlife to Motorhead or Wicked to Fiddler on the Roof, there is something for everyone to enjoy in a show that is highly entertaining which has a reputation of being the leading Gang Show in the UK. So raise your voices and lose control while we take you on a musical voyage over the rainbow and beyond!

Book your tickets now and enjoy the highly talented cast made up of Basingstoke Scouts and Guides who are performing the 20th Basingstoke Gang Show at the Haymarket in February 2012.

The cast is made up of 70 Scouts and Guides aged between 8 years and 24 years old who have been rehearsing for 5 months and more than 230 hours to give you this spectacular show!

So if you're looking for an evening of fun, music, laughter and dance come and see the Basingstoke Gang Show who will take you on a diverse journey of variety.

The show runs from Thursday 9th February to Saturday 18th February 2012 with matinees on both Saturdays. Evening performances commence at 7.15pm, Saturday matinees at 2.15pm.

Adult tickets are £14.00 and children's are £10.00 (concessions available).

Book now by contacting Anvil Arts Box Office 01256 844244 Fax 01256 366900 Email box.office@anvilarts.org.uk

Take a look at the Basingstoke Gang Show website
www.basingstokegangshow.co.uk

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Are you suffering from the winter blues or feeling a bit down after Christmas? Is the winter weather increasing your aches and pains? Maybe we can help you.

We are a group of 8 healers who offer contact or near body healing, we offer individual healing on Wednesday evenings from 8pm until 9pm at the Spotlight Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley (please note the new venue).

We have male and female trained Approved Healers available; we do not charge for healing but welcome donations which are used to help us pay the rent of the room we hire. There is no need to book just come along and try healing for yourself.

We welcome visitors who wish to watch healing in progress, ask questions or receive healing.

Home visits are sometimes available in certain circumstances, please telephone for information or email as below.

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After a successful Christmas Party Popley Little People are back in full swing.

With new additions joining us all the time and many regulars returning time after time we are a friendly group offering a variety of toys and healthy snacks. Why not come along to our bright and cheerful hall and try us out? Whether you're a mum, dad, grandparent, childminder, or carer you'll be most

welcome with your first week free.

WHATS ON:

MONDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	4.00-9.00pm	AG Dance Academy
	9.30am-2.30pm	Pebbles Children's Centre
WEDNESDAY:	9.30-11.00am	Popley Little People, Baby and Toddler group
	9.00-10.45am	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm	Oasis Lunch club
	5.30 and 7.30pm	Slimming World
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
	5.30-8.00pm	Street Dancing
FRIDAY:	10.00-11.30am	Pebbles Children's Centre
	6.30-7.45pm	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00- 9.15pm	age 11 plus.
SATURDAY:	9.00-12.30am	MG Dance Academy
SUNDAY:	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.	

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

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.



Lions Club of Basingstoke

Join us for our 29th Annual Swimathon at the Sports Centre, Festival Place, Basingstoke on Saturday 3rd March 2012 from 5:30pm.

Raise money for your chosen charity and also help Basingstoke Lions to support your local community. Individual or team entries, open to people of all ages and abilities.

To find out more phone 01256 850254 or email: swimathon@basingstokelions.org.uk

Councillors Page: The fight to get the hospital loop and a bus service returned to the former service especially for after 9pm goes on. I have had such a strong support from across the borough as it affects so many people, from staff getting to and from work from the hospital that used the bus number 5, and night time workers in and around town. This is a large vibrant town but with people having transport issues the evening trade in town has been described as a ghost town. To date 23 businesses have signed the questionnaire to say it has had a bad effect on their trade and staff recruitment. That is incredible and I fail to see how Stagecoach can say the services do not pay when they made £153 million in profits last year in the UK alone! There are petitions at Fastfare Shop and the Pharmacy in Abbey Road and all the community centres. They are also in St Gabriels Church and if you want to contact me the details are below. I have also brought up my objection to the increase in taxi fares being put up at the beginning of the journey so that residents nearest to town would have the biggest impact with minimum fares going from £4.20p to £4.80p. I do realise that fuel and expenses have gone up but I believe it should be an inflation rise across all journeys and not a 17% rise to our residents. To contact me, phone 819924, mobile 07974098131, email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

Popley West: At the request of Sherborne St John Parish Council and after consultation, Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Oxford Way will no longer be a part of the parish. In effect the 830 new homes will remain as part of Popley West, the impact is that the residents will not pay the precept and added pound a month used to pay off the village hall. The village will now consist of 541 instead of 1,371.

Kiln Farm, the site that David Wilson Homes want to build 450 dwellings on, is within the Sherborne St John ward, but the major impact will be on Popley as it is behind the new development and to the side of Jersey and Guernsey Closes. I met with council officers and two residents who came to represent the views of the vast majority of residents. I am sad to say it looks at this stage that the officers are keen to meet their housing number targets. We are opposed to building there as Popley has got enough to deal with already with the Merton Rise 784 dwellings to start later this year and a possible 40 starter homes on the Fire Authority land by Popley Fields. We know we need homes for our young families but feel that other areas both urban and rural should take a share of building. As soon as we hear any more news we will let you know.

Popley East: This week I attended the first meeting regarding the creation of a new residents association for the islands. The new residents association would be tasked with creating a community plan for the area. The community plan is a vision for the community developed by everyone in the community. It would set out short term goals and long term aspirations. The group would also be a good social forum and provide an opportunity for residents to come together. It's your chance to have your say on what happens in your area. If you would like to be involved then please contact me.

In other news, I was pleased to see that the council have begun building 23 new car parking spaces in Falkland Road. Although getting these new spaces is only a drop in the ocean in terms of how many new car parking spaces are needed across the ward, it is a positive step in the right direction and something I have been campaigning on since I was elected.

At the end of last month I met with council officers regarding the future of Chineham House. The building has been out of use for some time now and the council are considering the options for what to do with it in the future. Chineham House is a beautiful and valued landmark in the area and I certainly do not want to see it sold off. I have informed the council that the community must be consulted about possible future uses and that I want it used for the good of the local community. I will keep you informed of developments on this matter.

If you would like to contact me then please do not hesitate to do so, by phone on 07834818489 or by email cllr.Shelley.phelps@Basingstoke.gov.uk

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Valentine's Family Night:

We are holding a Valentines Night on Saturday 11th February 2012.

7.00-11.00pm with a licensed bar, food and music. Tickets cost £4.00 an adult and £2.00 a child. under 3s free.

60's-70's Family Night:

A date for you to put in your diary is Saturday 24th March 7.00-11.30pm.

Dress to impress and dance the night away to your favourite tunes.

Licensed bar and food. Tickets: £4.00 adult and £2.00 child.

Youth Club for 11-17 year olds:

This takes place on Monday nights from 7.00 - 9.00pm

Come along to chill and relax with your friends.

Slimming World:

Slimming world is at Popley Fields every Wednesday morning at 9.30am

For more information contact Hazel on 07796158098.

Zumba

This takes place on Thursday 7.30 - 8.30pm in the Large Hall

Silverwings Line Dancing:

Wednesday evenings 7.45 - 9.45pm

This class is for all those people that can line dance. Come along and give it a try.

New Testament Church of God – Coffee Morning for over 50's:

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

Dynamics:

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday evenings 5.00 - 7.00pm.

Knitability Knitting Club:

Are you a machine Knitter or would you like to learn (hand knitters also welcome)?

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month 10.00am -12.00pm.

For more information please contact the secretary on 01256 772083.

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



Hello Folks,

I hope you are all prepared for the cold weather to come. I note many shops are now selling rock salt and snow shovels. Last year the shops ran out in town!

On 12th January, the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel met to vote on the three new core priorities. They are:- 1) Arson in Popley 2) ASB in Sark Way and Tortuga Walk 3) Drug misuse in Pitcairn Close.

There have been a number of arsons in Popley in recent months and the team have been working with various agencies to end this. PC

Chris Brindley has arrested a suspect, and the suspect has been bailed for further enquiries. The second priority is in Sark Way and Tortuga Walk. Residents had reported ASB and criminal damage in this area. Sentinel Housing also raised the area for more patrols. The drugs misuse issues in Pitcairn Close have continued. The local team know who is involved, it is just a case of catching the people in the act and working with the partner agencies to keep everyone in the loop.

If you live in Marnel Park you may be aware of the new community group: The "Marnel & Merton Community Group". The PSNP have now formed a good bond with the group, and are exchanging information on a regular basis.

On the 11th of January, I attended a meeting with the group behind the Popley Fields Community Centre. It is evident that there are some great residents in the group, passionate about keeping people safe, and improving the community. On 16th January I was invited to another more informal meeting with cakes! You can now find the group on twitter and Facebook. There is also a website being updated with relevant content.

If you follow the PSNP on twitter, or read my regular blogs, you may be aware of several issues in Marnel Park in relation to ASB. On-going work is being conducted to resolve the issues including issuing one youth with an ABC (Acceptable Behaviour Contract) and robust intervention work for others.

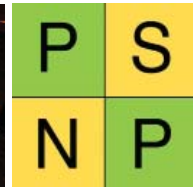
Last year was probably my busiest, and the best year I can remember. I made over 60 arrests, mostly drug related. I also attended many community events and have engaged with hundreds of residents. We are really trying hard to find ways to communicate with the whole community. We regularly contribute to the Popley Matters, update twitter, complete a daily blog, attend community events/coffee mornings, liaise with the schools and get involved in community projects. If you would like your local team to attend an event or community based project then get in touch. I for one love community work, and cake!

To find out more about the PSNP and our team use your smart phone to scan the QR code below. You can also access our website by typing the following into a web browser: <http://psnp.zapd.net/>

Stay safe

Regards

PC Dan Carter and the PSNP



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We work within the EYFS guidelines to make your children's time with us as beneficial to them as possible.

We believe in child-lead learning where the children decide what activities they do including messy play, outdoor play, singing, dancing, story time, walks (weather permitting) and lots more.

We have a summer trip each year and several celebration parties.

Popley Explorers is run by an excellent group of staff with years of experience between them lead by our Group Manager, Sharon Burton, and our Group Deputy Manager Elaine Gibbons and Lorraine Perry. The staff team are supported by a strong parent committee who are dedicated to helping with the smooth running of the group and fundraising.

You are very welcome to arrange a visit to come and see our facilities and meet the staff, everyone is welcome.

Contact: Ask for either Sharon or Elaine on 01256 363156

ARE YOU CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH DIVORCE OR SEPARATED?

DIVORCE RECOVERY WORKSHOP can help DRW is a six session course which helps divorced or separated people to come to terms with a relationship that has irretrievably broken down.

It is run and facilitated, not by professionals but by those of us who have experienced the breakdown of a marriage or relationship and who have benefited from the support both during and following the workshop.

The workshop can enable people to have a better understanding of what they are going through, provide them with support from others in the same situation and assist in the process of adjustment in their lives. We offer a secure environment for discussion and understanding of feelings. A new circle of friends is often made during the workshop and afterwards in the social events.

The DRW is a registered non profit making organization, registration number **1041178**

The Workshops run twice a year, generally April & October. We run in various locations in the south.

Our next Workshop will start on 20th March 2012 in Basingstoke.

For further information telephone: - MARY 01256 334022

Or visit our website www.drw.org.uk



Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Day

Happy New Year and thank you very much for your generosity last year! Despite the difficult economic climate we raised £1,000.29 at Chineham Shopping Centre.

Marie Curie Cancer Care provide nursing for seriously ill people with cancer in the comfort of their own homes. The major fundraising event of the year is the Daffodil Day which is the 3 March this year. If you can spare an hour or more to help please call 023 8026 3123.

Thank you.

www.mariecurie.org.uk



Pancreatic Cancer UK

I was given a diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer in June 2009, and was told then that I had 3 months or up to a year to live. This prognosis is common on diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer, and many of you will know of folk who have had this diagnosis and who did not live very long afterwards. The five-year survival rate is about 3%. As you may know I am one of the lucky ones with a less severe form of cancer and with an operation and state of the art treatment I have now a much better prognosis and indeed after 2 years I am still here and putting on weight.

However I am well aware that for most of those who are diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer the outlook is bleak and the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK is working hard to improve their situation, and we are planning a walk around Old Basing to raise funds for them.

We would like to invite you to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK in a sponsored walk around Old Basing. We propose to hold a sponsored walk around the village, based on the Basing Trail, on Sunday March 4th 2012, starting at about 12pm from the Millstone Pub. The walk is about 2 miles (1½ km). It could be muddy; dogs on leads are welcome.

Please let me know if you would like to join in this walk. I have a supply of sponsor forms available and can email them out if you would like one. My email address is tgray91278@aol.com . You can also call me on 465821 and I will get one to you.

A diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer is cruel and usually life limiting. Pancreatic Cancer UK will put any money we can raise to good use. Information about them will be found on their website www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk

Have a look at our exciting new programmes for 2012!

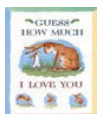


First Monday of the month 10-10:45am
From walking age – 5 years

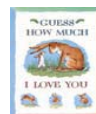


Remaining Mondays of the month 10-11am
From 6months – 5 years

Exercise and dance classes that are aimed at parents/carers and their children. Both programmes are run at Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, RG24 9AE and are £1.50 per family. Drop in and join in the fun!



February Half Term at Pebbles
Monday 13th – Friday 17th



Hop along to Pebbles this half term and join us doing fun activities themed around the book **Guess How Much I Love You?**

Monday: Story & Craft 10-11:30am at Pebbles

Tuesday: Stretch N Grow 1:30-2:30pm at Melrose Hall, Abbey Road, RG24 9ES

Wednesday: **Family Learning Day** at Octopus Children's Centre

Thursday: Meet the animals & get messy 1:30-3pm at Pebbles

Friday: Drop in at Pebbles for coffee, play and fun



Numbers are limited so please **book** your space through Pebbles as soon as possible!

Family Learning Day

Octopus and Pebbles will be holding a Family Learning Day on Wednesday 15th February. It will take place at Octopus Children's Centre in Oakridge Hall for All, Forsythia Walk, RG21 5RG.



There will be LOTS of fun family activities taking place and we would love to see you there with your children. Numbers are limited so please **book** your space through Octopus on **01256 818 514**.

If you haven't registered with Pebbles Children's Centre yet – come along and get to know us. I am sure you and your under five year old children will have a great time. If you don't know where we are or what's on just ring **01256 357028** or e-mail pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk or visit our website at www.3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc

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Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake 01256 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510 07790 018 171

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 07971 491 145



Sectional programmes are beginning to pick up steam after the break with Beavers are looking forward to the annual District Beaver Scout New Year Party as I write. I hope they have a wonderful time. Several new Beaver recruits joined the Colony in January. A team of Cubs hope to take part in the District Mastermind competition at the end of January and the Six-a-side Football early in March. We wish them well in both events.



Douglas Gowan, ('Baloo') Assistant Cub Scout Leader with the Cub Section has been awarded a Medal of Merit by the Scout Association. The award is given in recognition of outstanding service to the movement over a number of years and will be presented in the Mayors' Parlour later this month. Douglas has been with the pack for over 12 years and prior to that gave 9 years of service to

Scouting in New Zealand.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee badges have been presented to all members and can be worn on uniform until the end of 2012. Special events are at the planning stage and will include a joint Guide and Scout Celebration and hopefully a 'beacon lighting' during the Diamond Jubilee bank holiday weekend.



The Group is always happy to welcome new members. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -8) and Cubs (aged 8-10 $\frac{1}{2}$) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14) on Friday. Contact section leaders as above for times. Explorer section for those aged 14-18 - contact Group Scout Leader.

Enquiries for bookings at Base 2000 can be made to bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends.

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

Cornerstone Nursery News



Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way – 01256 840300

The children in our pre school room have enjoyed drawing pictures of their favourite present from Santa, which are now displayed in their room. They have also enjoyed playing in their free flow area with the water trays with a range of items added, the children have extended their learning in the communication language and literacy area by building with Mobilo and discussing what they were doing. We took photos of these to add in to the children's learning journeys.

In our 2-3 room the children have enjoyed getting very messy and getting the adults messy too with cornflour in their tactile tray with lots of different things added. They have also been concentrating on counting using dominos. With lots of the children showing a keen interest in books their planning has also involved their favourite stories and songs. The children have also been doing lots of role play and carrying out scenes from their favourite stories.

In our 0-2 unit the children have enjoyed a wide range of sensory activities involving lots of water and bubbles, and in our 1-2 room the staff have changed a corner of the room into a beautiful sensory area with fairy lights and lots of different pouches containing items that sound/smell/feel different to enhance the senses.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road – 01256 818118

January was quite a busy month for us with lots of new families joining the Nursery. We would like to welcome you all!

On 9th January we opened Crickets for the 3rd year running as the other 2 pre-school rooms were getting very full, all the older children of the nursery have moved over to this room and are having a great time exploring their new environment and getting to know each other.

We also took part in a charity event for Momentums Brain Injury where we all came to nursery in our pyjamas for the day and raised a good sum of money.

We now have a fantastic library system. Staff, children and parents can borrow books and follow on from their interests by taking these home with them at the weekend. We also have home learning bags allowing children and parents to take part in similar nursery activities at home if they wish to.

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College – 01256 356166

In our main room we have been looking at winter and we have made some winter displays including a pink snowman!! The children decided he should be pink as he drank strawberry milkshake! The children also made some lovely white pictures with toothpaste and black paper. The children have been singing "Here we go round the Mulberry Bush", getting dressed in hats, scarves and gloves and learning the words to the song.

The babies have been filling and emptying containers and practicing their balancing skills in the garden and indoors. The children have been singing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and have really done well getting the hang of the actions. They have enjoyed reading Peek a Boo Baby which makes them laugh. They love the mirror at the end where they can see their own face.

All 3 nurseries have celebrated Chinese New Year, tasting Chinese food, having Chinese meals and making Chinese Dragons out of recyclable materials.

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

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Dear Friends

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
(WH Davies – Leisure)

I've been pretty poorly for the past six weeks having contracted adult chicken pox (apparently I didn't have them as a child!). As the illness forced me to rest up from all the busyness of my ministry, one of the positive things was having the time to reflect on the above words from WH Davies poem 'Leisure'!

I am, I believe, a busy person, rushing here and there from one meeting to the next, meeting with people and dealing with situations in so many and varied guises. But do I really need to be? As I reflected on my own life I began also to look at the lives of those around me – in my family, my church, my community. What I found is that by and large we are all very busy people. Is this true for you? If it is, let me invite you to pause for five minutes because it seems as though so few of us have so little quality time just 'to stand and stare'.

What is that compels us to spend so much of our time in a rush? Even the retired people I know seem very busy – some busier than when they were in full time employment! Have you ever been on a train and tried to enjoy the scenery as it flashed by? Have you ever wanted to get off the train and go back to look at something?

“Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.”
Robert Louis Stevenson.

We cannot stop our lives, get off and go back to look at something we missed – that whistled by in the wink of an eye. That time will never come again and we may miss something that touches deep within our hearts. So we need to make time to stand and stare, to appreciate all that is around us, all that God has gifted to us. This was the conclusion of my reflections and, I hope, the determination to effect some change in my life pattern that will allow me the space to do that.

Jesus said “I have come that they may have life, and life in all its abundance” (John 10 verse 10). I pray that 2012 will bring times when you too can just “stand and stare”

With every blessing
Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's.



BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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- Monday evening - C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick Boxing from 6:30- 8.00pm
- Tuesday evening - Community Bingo doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm.
Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available halftime)
- Wednesday evening - C.M.A Kick Boxing from 7.00-8.30pm
- Thursday evening- Street Dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult.
4.30-6.30pm Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484
School term time.
- Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 5.00-6.30pm

The hall is also available to hire for parties etc. at very reasonable rates.

For details ring 01256-363156.

We are having a table top sale on the 10th March 12-3pm.

Bric-a-brac, tombola, book stall, hire a table for £5.

Refreshments available. Ring 01256 363156 to book a table.

Our next prize bingo is on the 30th March, details in the next issue of Popley Matters.



Hello everyone

I hope you have all recovered from the excesses of Christmas and are starting the new year with a spring in your step! We have had our first committee meeting in January and agreed the date for our first Annual General Meeting. This will be held at Base 2000 (Air Scouts building) behind Popley Fields Community Centre on Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm. Anyone who lives in Marnel Park, Orchard Grove and Merton Rise is very welcome to come along and join us and find out more about our plans for the year.

We were fortunate to have PC Dan Carter attend our January meeting. He gave us some really useful information about reporting incidence of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and reinforced that we must all report any incidence of ASB via the 101 (non emergency) police number. It is only through reporting of incidence via 101 that an incident is officially recorded and as the reported incidents grow in number Police will then be able to use this as evidence to bid for additional resources. This will in turn enable them to provide a higher level of service around the hot spots in the area which will lead to a reduction in ASB. However it is our responsibility as residents to report any incident witnessed through the 101 number.

There have also been a number of burglaries and recent incidence of arson in the area. People are being advised to keep their wheelie bins in a secure area (i.e. locked back garden or secure bin store. There is currently a spate of "vamoose" crimes in Basingstoke - this is where thieves steal car keys and then your car. Do not leave your car or front door keys in view of people outside your home or in your door locks - thieves can easily put wires through letter boxes and hook keys out! The basic message is that everyone needs to be vigilant around the security of their homes.

See you at the Annual General Meeting on 15th February!

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We are a vibrant and friendly shop that aims to bring our customers tempting interior accessories, gifts and local crafts, all at sensible prices. We pride ourselves on offering a fantastic and unusual array of products for the home and gifts for all (including yourself...). You will find a wide range of products that regularly changes throughout the year to reflect the seasons, and trends as well as some amazing new finds that we couldn't resist. Have a look at what's new.

Our gift shop stocks a combination of locally designed and crafted items alongside those from further afield. We are proud to seek out the best products from the lovely creative people of Basingstoke and North Hampshire, ensuring that you can find the ideal contemporary, charming or classic item in store.

Alongside the delightful things and locally crafted products, a variety of kits are available - you can try new crafty activities or rediscover long forgotten talents. We will be running craft workshops from the shop, so you can learn a new skill and perhaps even unleash your inner creative genius.

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<http://makemeitsaid.co.uk/>



DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER.

Well as we get stuck into the New Year, I feel our world is not going to get better as people have to pull in their belts. Many years ago I can remember my grandfather saying just that. He was a great forager and grew practically all his veg in his garden. We had an old air raid shelter. He covered the top of it with cabbages, leaks, parsnips and all down one side of the garden veg sprang up each year. Many people nowadays want nice lawns and have no interest in growing their own veg. They could save so much money even old buckets can be used to grow spuds, strawberries and raspberries as they do not take up much room. But it is so much easier to go to the supermarkets to buy your veg, no messing around. Do you know what veg grew in or where it came from I wonder? Not a lot of families have the time to tend their veg patches if they want to try and grow things. My grandchildren love to have their own little patch in the garden at home and tend their patch with pride, telling me all the things they are growing, A flower bed can also be used and still have your flowers growing alongside the vegetables.



As you know I was in hospital last year, but what I have not said is “Can I cope at home?” The answer is it is very hard, not only to me but Her Indoors. Yes, you get offered help but it comes at a cost. I am waiting, I hope, to get a special wheelchair so I can go out with the family. They are coming today as I sit and write this. However I expect as usual it will end up us having to buy one. If you go via means testing it is a mine field. I need my bathroom re-done so we can have a wet room. We went via the testing only to be told we can pay for it ourself. What a waste of time! They want people to be looked after in the community rather than a burden on our over stretched hospitals. Yet at the same time to get this kind of help seems to me we are not wanted in society. Means testing I agree with to an extent but there should be a line drawn. Disabled and senior citizens should get the help they need without the worry of finding money to do this.

Well, the wheelchair people have come to see me and I am to get a chair so I can get out of the house. Great news but I may need to use taxis. It depends on what they can find. Most of the tilt in space or reclining chairs are difficult to fold, but they are going to try and find one that is suitable for me and also suitable for Her Indoors to get into a car.

I have a chauffeur in Her Indoors. That’s fine as long as I keep my eyes closed! As usual I will still keep putting up a fight. I will not give in to this affliction that I and many others have. This is what a stroke can do and the limitations of what lays ahead of you in life. Still, I always say some poor person can be a lot worse off than me and some may never get out and about, but I am determined not to give up. I hope any person in the same boat remembers that we come up to obstacles in life like this and they should not stand in your way.

Till next month
The Old Codger



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Phillips Legal Corner Why should you make a Will?



'Making a Will is something many people put off doing, yet we spend our lives building up our wealth – buying properties, investing in

shares, working hard, saving for the future. Why don't we make provision for when we die?' asks Sheila Glyn-Owen, solicitor specialising in Wills and Probate. 'Well, no-one likes thinking about dying but making a Will certainly does not hasten death and the very best reason for making one is that it will leave no doubt as to your wishes. But if you die without making a Will, the Government decides who inherits your estate – not you!'

Should **YOU** make a Will? Yes, of course, it's the only way to make sure that your wishes are carried out, so do make a Will if you've experienced any life-changes such as getting married, owning a property, moving in with a partner, having a baby, separating, divorcing or marrying again. Don't assume, if you are in a marriage or civil partnership, that your money and assets will automatically pass to your surviving partner when you die – it's much more complicated than that and couples living together have no automatic rights at all.

So how do you go about writing your Will? You can prepare a 'do-it-yourself' Will but if you get it wrong, your beneficiaries could be in for a lot of delays and difficulties, not to mention potentially costly legal battles. If your affairs are at all complicated it's better to use a solicitor who can guide you through the process and raise matters you might not have even thought - if you have children there will be issues of guardianship and trustees to sort out and you need your instructions to be clear. There are other things to consider too, like your choice of executors, who should benefit under your Will, any preferences for your funeral and of course the best ways to mitigate inheritance tax liability and protect your assets.

'If you want your wishes interpreted correctly,' says Sheila 'call me and I'll help you draft the very best Will for your circumstances. If you already have a Will and your circumstances change, make sure you update it. We see lots of unhappy relatives of people who prepared a DIY Will but whose instructions are unworkable, resulting in further distress. Make a resolution now to make a Will and put your affairs in order.'

Call Sheila Glyn-Owen or Ben Holden on 01256 460830, we'll be pleased to help.
www.phillips-law.co.uk

Sherborne St John Parish Council

Merton Rise and Marnel Park. The Parish Council has been advised that the meeting of full BDBC Council on 15th December resolved that the Popley Fields ward including Merton Rise and Marnel Park areas of the Parish will split from Sherborne St John on the 1st April 2012. BDBC legal section is in the process of completing the official order; when this is signed we will receive formal notification. This will reduce the number of dwellings in the Parish from 1,371 to 541.

Elm Road verge repairs. Due to increased volume of traffic along Elm Road from the Village to Elm Bottom the verges have disintegrated and potholes are beginning to appear. Hampshire Highways will make temporary repairs shortly and include this stretch of road in their Resilience Program for re-surfacing later this year. Any potential winter road problems should be reported to Hampshire Highways.

Marnel Park. Construction on the existing site is now complete. David Wilson Homes is pursuing planning permission for further housing as an extension to Marnel Park, although no formal application has yet been made. We are endeavouring to safeguard the rural nature of the remaining open land between the Village and Marnel Park.

Lych Gate to the Cemetery. The project to construct the new Lych Gate to the New Cemetery has been almost completed. I'm sure that you will all agree this is an improvement to the New Cemetery and surroundings.

Neighbourhood Watch. The local neighbourhood watch committee is always on the look-out for new volunteers to fill in the gaps in our 'crime awareness' coverage of the village. Please contact the Clerk who will pass this to the local co-ordinator Ted Wilkinson.

New Parish Clerk. We are delighted to announce that Mandy Haworth has accepted the position of Parish Clerk. Mandy and Clover will work together during the hand-over period up to late March. We thank Clover Morgan for her fantastic efforts over the last seven years and for her success in keeping all the Councillors in order. We wish her all success in her future endeavours.

Website. Please remember www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk

Jonathan Eales, Councillor, SSJ Parish Council

AGENCY WORKERS NEW RIGHTS

Currently, all agency workers have certain rights including the right

- to be paid the minimum wage
- not to have unlawful deductions made from their wages
- to be paid equal pay for equal work
- not to be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation
- to work in a workplace which meets health and safety requirements
- to have a limit on the hours of their working week (with some exceptions), right to rest breaks and limit on night working hours.

In addition to the rights in the list above, under the Agency Workers Regulations which came into force on 1 October 2011 in England certain agency workers have the following rights:-

- from the first day of an assignment an agency worker has the right of access to facilities such as a canteen and childcare facilities. They also have the right to information about job vacancies
- after working 12 weeks in the same job for the same end user, they have the right to equal treatment in relation to certain pay and other basic working conditions
- after working 12 weeks in the same job for the same end user, pregnant agency workers have additional rights.

These rights are not retrospective and for agency workers who started an assignment before 1 October 2011, the 12- week qualifying period will not start to run until 1 October 2011. This means that the earliest an agency worker will be entitled to equal treatment is 24 December 2011 in England.

Need further information or Help?

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

The Advice Line telephone number is 0844 245 1283.

Or you can drop in to our outreach services at these times:

CAB Outreach Popley – one Tuesday morning per month 10am-1pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley

CAB Outreach Buckskin – one Monday morning per month 10am-1pm at The Ridgeway Centre, off Buckskin Lane

CAB Outreach South Ham – one Thursday afternoon per month 10am-1pm at Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road.

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at www.adviceguide.org.uk

Your Wedding Wishes Granted by Festival Place...

It's the day a girl dreams of her whole life; better than chocolate, better than handbags, better—even—than George Clooney. Her wedding day is the most important dream of all. However, it can also be the most expensive too.

There's good news for brides-to-be this Spring. Festival Place is coming to the rescue. Hampshire's leading shopping destination is offering local brides-to-be the chance to win their dream wedding worth £15,000.

Stars of The Only Way is Essex, Arg and Lydia, launch the campaign on Saturday 11 February in the heart of Festival Place. Stylist Ellie will host the TOWIE favourites and popular musician, Fil Straughan will be there to get the crowds excited and let the competition begin!

If you're dying to get married but haven't booked it yet, you're in luck. Festival Place retailers and The Hampshire Court Hotel are teaming up to give one lucky winner all the wedding essentials including a ceremony, a reception for 50 guests a fantastic destination honeymoon, bridal hair and makeup, suits, rings, dresses, cake and lots more .

Theresa Chapman, Events Manager at Festival Place, told us more about the competition. "Planning a wedding can be overwhelming even at the best of times. We've been there for hundreds of brides over the years, as the shopping destination where they can tick all off their to-do list.

"2012 is going to be a big year, and we're so happy to make it the best year for one lucky couple. Of course, it's also a Leap Year, so if you're not a bride-to-be yet, why not make the first move?"

50 finalists will be chosen from all entrants to join us at a champagne reception in Festival Place on 29 April where the winner will be picked at random and announced. Budding brides can swap wedding stories and enjoy live entertainment. As part of the campaign, Festival Place and The Hampshire Court Hotel will hold a Wedding Fair. More details will be released in coming weeks so keep an eye on the Festival Place website www.festivalplace.co.uk, on twitter and facebook.

Businesses confirmed to date are Martins Renault, Shear Beauty, Pandora, Slaters Menswear, Coal Grill & Bar, Bhs, Phase Eight, Debenhams, Paperchase, Virgin Holidays, Lush, Wickham Vineyard. The ceremony and reception will take place at The Hampshire Court Hotel, Basingstoke.

Details may be subject to change.



Taking pride in your neighbourhood.

Sentinel Housing Association owns and manages 1,199 homes in Popley. We're committed to working with you to help keep your neighbourhood clean, safe and looking good.

We've trained an army of resident inspectors who are hitting the streets in a bid to keep our neighbourhoods up to scratch. This gives residents the power to help set the standard for their neighbourhood and make sure it's kept up. The volunteer inspectors will rank the standard of grounds maintenance, the cleanliness of communal areas and note anything that needs repairing or upgrading.

Once the inspectors report back to us, our team of caretakers will blitz any areas that don't measure up. They'll remove dumped rubbish, sweep stairwells, clear away cobwebs, check the communal lighting and make sure all signs are in place and undamaged. Any small repairs such as fixing the odd fence panel or securing a hand rail will be done there and then, while bigger repairs will be scheduled for Sentinel's repairs contractor.

This fresh approach sets out our commitment to your area so you can see what standard of service to expect from us. We take pride in the neighbourhoods we manage and want you to feel you can do the same, who better to point out what needs improving than the people who live there.

If you're a Sentinel customer and interested in training as a resident inspector call our Customer Service Centre on 0800 195 5515 and ask for Richard Pilbeam or email richard.pilbeam@sentinelha.org.uk



MFC Popley Youth, the area's local football club, continues to thrive both on and off the pitch.

At Under 7s, Manager Andy Williams has assembled an impressive squad which is proving a force to be reckoned with whoever they meet. And at Under 8s, Manager Alec Matthews' boys are also doing well, though they are always on the look out for more players.

At Under 9s, Lee Austen's boys are fourth of nine in the Peter Houseman Youth League Elite Green Division and in their most recent match beat arch rivals Winklebury Wizards 1-0 in a PHYL League Cup tie. And Tom Bartlett's lads are also doing well but having no luck. Their 1-0 defeat at Oakley (who they beat 2-1 at home despite being a player short) being typical of their season.

At Under 10s (where new players are also sought) Russell Graves's and Glenn Taylor's lads are having a good season, winning four league games, the latest a 3-2 win at home to Wherwell.

At Under 11s, Manager Danny Oates has worked miracles in adversity, despite losing no fewer than six (including two academy standard players) of the squad which won and finished runner up in the Elite Divisions the last seasons, Danny has managed to get three wins of the team and they look like avoiding relegation and staying in that top division next season. Quite an achievement. In their latest game, with defensive midfielder Felix Davies bravely standing in goal at the last minute in horribly cold and muddy conditions, they won 7-5 at Woolton Hill Argyle to all but guarantee themselves a place in the top flight again next term. Goals win games and, up the other end, Manager's son Cole Oates was again in form, notching four goals.

At Under 12s, Manager Paul O'Shea's squad are having a fab season, having won six league games to put them fourth in the table, their latest win being a 4-2 home win over Andover Youth.

At Under 13s Dave Wright's boys are also in awesome form, lying second of 11 in the table after a 3-1 home victory over Loddon Sports.

At at Under 15s, Danny Oates's and Chris Gordon's lads have won six games, and though eighth of 11 have games in hand.

Off the pitch, preparations are well under way for the May weekend football tournament up on Popley Fields. Anyone who wants to lend a hand or get involved should contact Club Chairman Ian Davies on 07885 185 693.



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Making home ownership a reality

* Figure shown is the average deposit requirement of a mortgage lender based on purchasing a 40% share in a one bedroom apartment valued at £44,000 and paying a subsidised rent on the remaining 60% share. **Based on a one bedroom apartment. Eligibility conditions apply. Applicants will be means tested to determine affordability and share to purchase. Prices shown are correct at time of print but subject to change, please call the Sentinel Homescope team for further information.

Valentine's Day

When we think about Valentine's Day, most of us think of red roses, boxes of chocolates, and Valentine's cards. But its origins over time have been lost to many of us.

Valentine was imprisoned under Claudius II for his Christian beliefs, and while in jail, he restored the sight of his jailers' blind daughter through his faith and love for her. Before his execution, on 14th February AD 269, Valentine sent her a note signed "From your Valentine." This phrase became the everlasting symbol of friendship, affection and sharing with others.

In Italy, with its romantic and religious roots, St Valentine's Day became the traditional day to be engaged. Young Romans would spend this day gathered together in gardens to listen to romantic poetry and music.

In 1537, Henry VIII, who may have had more cause than most for sending a Valentines note, established 14th February as St Valentine's Day by Royal Charter.

Valentine's Day means different things to different people. For children, Valentine's Day is about friendship. For teenagers, Valentine's Day is about the hope of love. Teens offer giggles and blushes to their crushes. With their offerings of cards, and chocolates, they anticipate that someone special will like them back. For singles, Valentine's Day means commitment. Valentine's Day is after all about the search for lasting love. Between special dates and special dinners, the day is full of sharing and reflecting. For some, Valentine's becomes the ultimate day of love and is set as a wedding day. For couples, Valentine's Day is a reminder of love. After commitment and sharing, Valentine's Day just like special time to set aside to remember courtship, share special feelings, and recommit for the years to come.

Happy Valentine's Day.....
Viv Washbourne

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