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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

December 2010 Distribution of 4,500 Issue 106



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (13-12-10)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- The Popley Matters Team wish each and every one of you Seasons Greetings and a very Happy Christmas time. Lets hope the New Year will be good to you all too.

December is such an important and exciting time for so many people. I hope we all remember those who will find it hard, either because they are cold and finding finances difficult or will be lonely and missing their loved ones. Just keep an eye out for your friends and neighbours sometimes just a “Hello” and “How are you?” lights up their life.

Hopefully we won’t have such heavy snowfalls this winter. At least

I hear that new government advice means you wont get sued if you clear your paths and someone falls over. It seemed to be used by all sorts of people and organisations as an excuse to do nothing. One hint I would say is please do not use cat litter on pathways etc. It is clay based and hold’s water so when it starts to thaw it spreads like chalk and is just a slippery as ice is. It also stains your carpets and causes them to rot.

Please remember it is now 30mph along Popley Way and Carpenters Down. New signage will soon be installed as the first ones were not suitable.

Will you be making New Year resolutions? If one of them is to get fitter or go out more perhaps you would consider delivering Popley Matters? We need at least four new volunteers. We also welcome articles written by our readers and our advertising rates are among the cheapest, if you are starting up a new venture or group.

If you want to write an article, advertise or be a volunteer for Popley Matters, contact us Jane Frankum on 819924 or Iris King 411113 via email editor@popleymatters.org.uk, or write to Popley Matters Group, 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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Beckie's Column

Hello! Bit cold outside now, isn't it? I wonder if we will have snow for Christmas this year...

Have you heard of Young Enterprise? I'm part of it. It's where year 10s get a chance to see what it's like to be part of a company. We actually make and sell products. It's really good. I'm part of Everest's company: Voice.

If you are interested, we are selling Christmas candle logs and iPod/iPhone covers. We might be personalizing them as well. We would like to sell the most products so please come and buy them on 11th December in town. That's when we have our first trade fair so at the moment we are all rushing around making sure everything is ready for it!!

Everest also did a day where the younger years actually took over the school. It was quite funny watching all the new Year 7s walking around in their formal 'teacher' clothes. They took over the jobs of the teachers for the day: some even took the Headteachers job!

In the last column I mentioned about the Mary Rose Exhibition. I went to it a couple of weeks ago to see how good it was and I was a little disappointed. There wasn't actually much there really: a couple of cabinets with bits of clothes and accessories which had little bits of information next to them. I was expecting there to be a lot more. Although, the bits that were there were quite interesting to look at, it only took us a little while to see it all...

And finally – It's great that the speed limit has been reduced to 30mph along Popley Way and Carpenters Down but a lot of drivers don't seem to be taking any notice.

See ya!
Beckie.

RIP David Cockerill

There is not a lot I can say about Dad that the people of Popley don't already know.

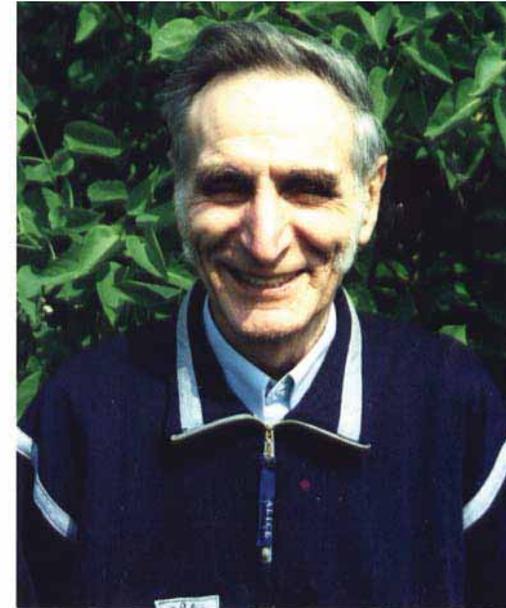
He was a helper, a listener, a joker and a Christian. Popley mattered to Dad.

Can I thank everyone for all their kind words? The good things they have said about Dad have made me feel very proud to have been his daughter. Thank you. We will all miss him.

Dad lived his life to help people - help someone every day and think of him.

From your Daughter

Anne



Popley said goodbye to David. The funeral was so beautiful, friendly and moving. David's daughter brought out a shopping trolley loaded with memories of David and his life. So many wonderful stories with each and every item. It was like peeling an onion with yet another layer to unveil the life of a great man. From his love of football QPR (oh well, no one's completely perfect) and cricket to all the things he did for other people.

David's Men's Race for Life medals were there, one for all 10 years it had been run. This year David was given the number one to wear this year in recognition of his work and involvement. Of course Popley Matters was in there with the large copy that celebrated the 100th issue. David was at the back. All you can see is a tuft of his hair and a shoulder. I know he was hiding with a big grin on his face. Such was the man, that his daughter didn't know till I pointed out that he was there on the photo, he hadn't even told her. The church was filled to capacity with people who loved and respected David so very much.

Bye David, it has been an absolute privilege to have known you Jane and Team XXX



Xmas & New Year.

Fairy Lights And Candles:

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

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

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

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

Useful contact points and further information:

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

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



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IT'S been a fantastic month for MFC Popley. Thanks to the help of Cllr Jane Frankum, who has been a staunch supporter and advocate of the Club ever since its inception in 2005, the Club has been awarded a grant of £1,315 out of the £10,000 budget so kindly put up by Hampshire County Council to support local initiatives.

The Club has already earmarked this money to send eight of its Managers and coaches on FA Level 1 Coaching Badge courses as part of its ambition to have MFC Popley reach FA Charter Standard Club status, a goal which

would enable them to provide an even better service to their players.

Right now MFC Popley has teams at U7s, U8s, U9s, U10,s U11s, U12s, U14s and U16s. However, it has plenty of scope for further growth and development. MFC Popley want to see more local youngsters coming along to train and play for them and they'd particularly like to see even more girls get involved. Girls can play Mini Soccer from U7s to U10s and there are leagues for girls at U12s and U14s too. Any player who wants to get involved should ask their parent or carer to contact Ian Davies, Club Secretary, on 07884 185 693 to train to come in for a training session with the relevant age group.

The Club currently trains and plays its home Mini Soccer games at Marnel Junior School and Chineham Park School, while the U11s and above are playing their full-size pitch matches at Everest and Sherborne Road. Long term, the Club is seeking it's own bespoke home ground with Popley Fields, land close to John Hunt, and Chineham Park among the options being discussed with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

In the meantime, the U7s and U8s, both playing noncompetitive football at those ages, continue to show promise as do the U9s. At U10s, the Dynamos continue to do the Club proud in their elite division title race with Andover New Street.

The U11s and U12s are both acquitting themselves well, while the U14s recently notched a convincing win over Kingsclere at Sherborne Road. The U16s are also making progress.

Junction Improvements

Notice to all local residents:- we will shortly be commencing the junction improvement works at the Carpenters Down and Popley Way "T" junction. These works may take up to 6 months to complete but we will endeavour to complete them as soon as possible with the least amount of inconvenience possible.

Gary Webster



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Terry's Memoirs Chapter 4

"Start of Hate"

In the RAF at Cosford Hospital I was promptly given a lumbar puncture, for no apparent reason, and then confined to bed. I was advised to stay still on one side. However, the next morning all the wounded that could walk were tipped out of bed for daily cleaning duties in the ward.

The Duty Sergeant observed me still stuck on my side

C'mon off your a.... you b....., but I stayed quite still as ordered. He grabbed hold of me and pulled me off the bed and onto the floor, banging my head and spine. The Medical Officer appeared, and there was a very bad tempered exchange between the Sergeant and the Doctor.

I was helped back to bed and had to keep completely still, and I also had to be fed like a baby. Two days later, a medical discharge form was given to me and I was thrown out of the hospital with no explanation.

This started a very deep hatred for all things, for all things military, and for the Crown.

Today, I still suffer from spinal problems that have ruined my whole life. Apparently, the Medical Officer took a substantial bribe from the Regimental EO and I was discharged home to London where I became a postman. I became more settled and happy with my lot.

My boss was one Jack Penny and even today, ranks as the very best of all managers with whom I have worked, always popular.

However trouble popped up yet again whilst delivering mail to cover a guy's sick time. No problem at all. That was until I reached the home of film star Jack Hawkins. He had an outdoor post box above the hedge by his front gate. The box was rotted and broken away so, not expecting any problems, I advanced towards the house only to be confronted by Jack himself. He really got mad with me, despite my explanation. So I went back to the box as ordered and put in the letters that promptly fell on the ground. It was snowing heavily that day so his mail got nice and sopping wet. Upon my return I was summoned to the boss's office to learn that Jack Hawkins had made a formal complaint about me. Being a fair man, the boss took me up to Jack's house, examined the broken mail box, ordered me back to the van, stepped up to the house, confronted Jack, and fought my corner like a champ. Jack was advised to repair his mail box or he would have no further deliveries at his premises. Just as that problem subsided, there was more trouble in store, but that's another story....

Basingstoke Discovery Centre



OPENING

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www.discoverycentres.co.uk/basingstoke



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RG24 9PE

TELEPHONE
OFFICE: 01256 363156
HALL: 01256 308442

We have excellent Popley Explorers Pre-school here Monday to Friday 8.30am-3.00pm Also available- Breakfast and Lunch club (for further details contact Elaine on 01256-308442)

- Monday evening- C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick boxing from 6.30-8pm
- Tuesday evening- Community Bingo, doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm. Finish around 9.45pm. (Light Refreshments available at half time)
- Wednesday evening- C.M.A Kick boxing from 7-8.30pm
- Thursday evening- Ladies keep fit from 6.30-7.30pm
- Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 5-6.15pm
- Sunday Afternoon- Christian Family Fellowship 4.00-6.30pm

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

Family Prize Bingo Evening on Friday 3rd December 2010 at the Popley Fields Community Centre Hall, Carpenters Down. Doors open 6pm, Eyes down at 7pm. Many varied prizes for all the family to enjoy. Organised by your three Community Centres. Bar, Hot snacks, and Refreshments will be available. Come along for a great evening.

TEA AND CHAT. Also every Wednesday from 1.30-3.30pm. An afternoon of tea and chat. Everyone welcome, pop in and have a cuppa and maybe a piece of cake. Don't sit at home on your own come and meet new people.

Sorry for putting wrong date in last month's Popley Matters.
Linda.

Dear Friends,

Crumbs! Has another year really passed by already? I guess by the time you're reading this I will have rummaged around in the loft, clambering over suitcases and bedsteads, worn out toys and all sort of other paraphernalia. I'll succeed in getting splinters in my hands and spider webs in my face and all to find the boxes with the Christmas decorations and lights. Having struggled out of the loft and down the stairs I will then unpack the lights and set about testing them. How is it that they work when you put them away but don't when you take them out twelve months later – that's always a mystery to me!

I love Christmas lights, and I love the way many families plaster the exterior of their homes with them – although it has to be said, some do go a tad over the top! What's also special is candlelight. Each year at St Gabriel's we hold our candlelit carol service. There is something magical about singing those traditional Christmas songs in a church lit only by candles; it really does make it feel like Christmas. We're repeating that this year on Sunday 19th Decemeber at 6.30pm so why not come and join us?

In the run up to Christmas we will be observing the season of Advent. Advent runs for the twenty eight days before Christmas and covers four Sundays so Advent Sunday will be on 28th November. On each of those Sundays we will light one of the candles in our Advent wreath to signify the growing light of Jesus Christ coming into the world. The fifth and final candle we will light on Christmas morning as we celebrate his birth.

The word Advent comes from the Latin adventur which means 'coming' but it isn't about the coming of Jesus Christ as a baby in a manger but His second coming when, as Jesus himself said "You will see God's Son coming on the clouds of heaven in all his glory and with his angels." Advent then, is a time of preparation for that event. Similar to the season of Lent, it is a time for taking a good look at ourselves and those attitudes of our hearts and minds and lives that cause hurt to those around us and to God and to repent of them. To repent means to have a change of heart and to change direction – that is to turn away from that which we know to be wrong. It can take a mighty effort to accomplish that, but, once we do we feel cleansed and renewed, refreshed and ready.

Amid all your Christmas preparations, and as you're putting up the Christmas lights, I hope that you will take time to consider the baby in a manger who came as 'the light of the world' and will one day return in majesty and power to draw us all before God. May the light and peace of Christ be with you and yours this Christmas season and in the year ahead.

With warm Christian greetings
Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's.

PS: Please do see our other page (page 12) with all the details of our Christmas services this December.

Turn your tree to compost

Stuck with what to do with your Christmas tree once the festivities are over?

Turn your tree to compost by taking it to one of the 21 allocated sites which the council has specifically set up across the borough from Monday 3 January 2009 until Sunday January 2009.

Every year, eight million real Christmas trees are thrown away in the UK, creating around 160,000 tonnes of additional waste. Last year Basingstoke and Deane residents recycled over 4,000 trees through the council's drop-off points which stopped 40 tonnes of waste being created. Instead the recycled trees were transformed into ProGrow soil conditioner and wood chippings for the borough's parks.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change Cllr Elaine Still said: "This service means residents can take their tree to a nearby drop-off point and know they are helping do their bit for the environment by reducing waste."

Christmas tree drop-off points:

From Monday 3 January to Sunday January 2009

- * Basingstoke Town Centre, Memorial Park (Crossborough Hill car park)
- * Homebase, Basingstoke, Winchester Road
- * Popley, Carpenters Down open space

These are some of the drop of points for further information please contact Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 844844 or visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/recycling

If residents miss the collections at these locations, they can take their tree to the recycling centre on Wade Road. The opening hours at Wade Road are 8am to 4pm - closed 1 Jan 2011. Open all other days.



the charity for
your community



What is a Debt Relief Order?

A debt relief order is an insolvency procedure aimed at people with low income and very few assets, who are unable to pay their debts and for whom the normal bankruptcy procedure is too expensive.

A debt relief order will only be available to someone who satisfies the following criteria:-

- s/he is unable to pay her/his debts
- s/he has debts of £15,000 or less at the date when the application is determined by the Official Receiver
- her/his available income, after paying her/his normal household expenses, is £50 a month or less
- the gross value of her/his assets is £300 or less. Vehicles worth under £1,000 are ignored when assets are valued
- s/he lives in England or Wales, or has been resident or carrying on business in England or Wales in the last three years
- s/he is not subject to any other formal insolvency procedure at the time of the application for the debt relief order
- s/he must not have had a debt relief order within the previous six years.

A debt relief order costs £90. The £90 will not be refunded if the application is rejected, for example, because the criteria for an order (above) are not met.

An application for a debt relief order has to be made through an approved intermediary. This is a specialist debt adviser who has been authorised to make applications on behalf of clients.

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 01256 322814

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

CAB Outreach Popley – Tuesday morning 10am-12.30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley.

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

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Sentinel

Last orders

When we first consulted you about the regeneration of the maisonettes in Faroe Close and Maldive Road you told us you'd like the pub to be included in the new development.

Until recently that hadn't been possible but, since the pub closed we've been negotiating with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and are pleased to say that we're working with them to get the Barbican Public House site included in the regeneration.

Our architects are working on new plans to make the best use of the new site, taking account of the feedback you gave us at the last consultation event and the plans will be ready to submit to the council later this month.

If you'd like to see a copy of the plans when they're available visit www.sentinelha.org.uk or check out the new community notice board next to the car park by Madeira Close shops.

Students Takeover College!

On Friday 12th November students from Years 7 to 9 took the places of many members of staff and ran the College for the day. Spardha Kumar and Hayden Johns, two Year 9 students, shared the position of Headteacher. This involved addressing staff at morning briefing, meeting visitors to the College, sending emails to members of staff and touring College throughout the day on learning walks, dropping into lessons unannounced, observing both students and teachers and then completing a report which was emailed to staff. Other students took the places of the Deputy Headteacher, the Business Manager and Learning Directors.



Council Launches Large Scale Consultation on Building New Homes

How many new homes should be built in your area? That's the big question that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is asking residents to help answer in a major consultation now underway.

Between now and Friday 14 January 2011, the borough council wants to hear what local people, community groups, parish and town councils and other organisations think is the right level of new housing in the area over the next 20 years. And Borough Ward Councillors are set to encourage local people to get involved in the debate, with some public meetings already planned

The move comes after the South East Plan was abolished, taking with it the requirement to build 945 homes a year. This means it is now down to the council to make these local decisions for the borough.

Over the past 10 years the borough has seen an average of 900 new homes built every year. Now regional targets have gone the council is going back to the drawing board to look again at what is the right figure for the number of new homes to be built.

The council cannot just say that it won't build any more housing, as homes may be needed for young people that have grown up here or older people that want to stay here and downsize after their families have flown the nest. The vision for the borough's future, agreed by the council and its partners, predicts that the area will be thriving and prosperous, attracting employers and supporting new businesses. That may require new homes so that people can afford to live here and not commute in and out everyday making congestion worse.

Cabinet member for Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Rob Golding said: "This is a real chance for local people to have their say about what is right for their area. We must decide what is a reasonable number of new homes and where they should go across the borough. If we don't, then we are leaving the decisions to developers through 'planning on appeal'.

"The message is don't wait until new homes are proposed and say they are in the wrong place - get involved in the debate about how many homes are needed in your area and where they should be built."

Fact packs, giving population facts and figures for different areas of the borough, can be found online at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/newhomes, together with more detailed background information and an online survey. Those needing a paper version of the survey should call 01256 844844.

The council will use the feedback from local communities and partners, together with a wealth of other evidence, to come to a conclusion on the right level of housing and will start putting together proposals for possible housing development sites in the borough. This information will be published at the end of 2011 for public consultation as part of a document called the 'core strategy' This will be the blueprint for development in the borough over the next 20 years, including where homes, employment sites, shops, leisure and community facilities are built.



*'Light Up A Life' 2010
Sunday 5th December 2010
St. Michael's Hospice at 6:00pm*

Remember a loved one

St. Michael's Hospice would like to invite you to attend our special 'Light Up A Life' service to remember loved ones and those you can't be with this Christmas-time.

This is an informal, service with readings, music, and hymns sung by the local Basingstoke Choral Society and the Basingstoke Silver Band bringing comfort and support to family and friends at this special time of year.

The service is concluded by the 'symbolic' lighting of the life candle which this year will be lit by Keith Chapman Mayor of Basingstoke and Deanne, followed by refreshments where friends, old and new, can share their thoughts and memories of loved ones that cannot be with us this Christmas.



If you would like to sponsor a Light in memory of a loved one or someone that you can't be with this Christmas then please visit the Hospice website, www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events or for further information call Fundraising on 01256 848 848

Henrietta Hogs the Limelight

HART Wildlife Rescue is overwhelmed by injured hedgehogs. Staff and volunteers at the new hospital in Medstead, near Alton are working all-hours to care for the 33 injured hedgehogs recently brought into the centre.

One of the prickly creatures has even been given a bright blue cast to help mend a broken leg. Henrietta, a one-year-old female, was hit by a car on 20 October. After a general anaesthetic she was fitted with her plaster-cast.

Caragh Hunter, 20, HART's Senior Clinical Assistant said: "Henrietta should make a full recovery – she's started moving her leg again so she must be on the mend. Her cast will come off in four weeks and then we'll look after her over the winter before releasing her back into the wild next spring.

"It's very unusual for vets to use a cast on a hedgehog, but this morning another poor little hog came in with a broken leg. He's been sent off to the vets and will probably also need a cast.

"I've never seen so many hedgehogs here. Adults will often have two or three litters per year. I think the warm summer and global warming has increased the numbers of young ones we're seeing at the moment."

As many of you already know HART is funded entirely by public donations and also runs charity shops in Alton and Andover. For more details please have a look at the new website <http://www.hartwildlife.org.uk/>



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www.base2000.co.uk

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

Group Scout Leader - Colin Karlake (01256) 410559



Some of the cub scouts spent a residential weekend at Base 2000 recently investigating the solar system to complete the Astronomy activity badge. Part of the weekend was spent making mini-imaginary moonscapes and included a visit to a planetarium. The cubs were delighted to win the District Scrapheap Challenge competition in November and the team represented the District at the County event. The pack have also made biscuits in aid of the BBC's Children in Need Appeal and will try their hand at cake-making and decorating for Christmas - what with Bonfire Night and Hallowe'en as well there hasn't been a spare minute!

The Beavers have just returned from their annual visit to see Santa. Over two thousand Beaver scouts from across Hampshire descended on Paultons Park to take part in the first of Santa's 'practice' runs before his big event in December. Each received a present as well as a having a fantastic time on the usual rides. The colony has also made birdfeeders and followed a compass trail. Now they are working on nativity boxes.

The scouts continue to work on completing the Global Challenge and some had the opportunity to take part in a photographic weekend recently.

There will be no sectional meetings from 15th December until after the New Year.

Booking enquiries for Base 2000 to bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. One-off occasions, children's parties, meetings welcome - consideration given to anyone wishing to hold a regular activity in one or other of the halls. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 per hour for large hall at weekends.



Christmas is coming!
Pebbles Children's Centre wish you all a very Happy Christmas



We have loved working with each and everyone of you in 2010 and we look forward to 2011. For all you who attend or have attended Pebbles don't



forget our Christmas Party on 13 December 11.00am-12.30pm at Popley Fields Community Centre. Cost £2 per child and this includes a present from Santa, food and plenty of activities! Raffle tickets will be on sale at the party for your chance to win many prizes! Places will be limited and must be booked and paid for in advance - so pop in to Pebbles and get your child's Christmas party ticket ☺

There are still a few Discount Panto tickets available

Fancy taking your children to see the Little Mermaid on Friday 7 January 2011 7-9pm at Oakridge Hall for All? You can purchase special discounted tickets at a price of £2 each if you register at Pebbles. Tickets must be reserved and paid for at reception by 5 December 2010.

Dads Club

Christmas Special Dads Club! Saturday 11 December 9.30-11.30am at Pebbles. We have a great group of dads coming along who would love to see some new dads attend with their under 5s - So Don't be shy, come and play!!

Facebook

You can now keep up to date with information on our Facebook page. If you log in to your own account, search for Pebbles Sure Start Children's Centre and then click the 'like' button, you will see all our latest news!

Coffee Mornings, Stay and Play, Young Parents Group, Bumps Mums and Dads, Teen Bumps, Chill and Chat



These groups and sessions are continuing to be offered by Pebbles so please pick up a timetable or call or email us to find out more! Please note the dates below for when sessions stop and commence during the festive season!

Dates for your Diaries

5 December Deadline for purchasing tickets for The Little Mermaid production.

10 December All groups and drop in sessions finish before Christmas.

13 December Christmas Party 11.00am-12.30pm at Popley Fields (places must be booked).

17 December All adult education courses finish before Christmas ie. Literacy, Numeracy, EAL.

Contact the centre for any activities between 10th Dec and 10th Jan
CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED 27TH DEC - 31ST DEC

10 January 2011 Courses and drop in activities resume.

For full details, contact **Pebbles Children's Centre** on **01256 357028** or email pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk.

Pebbles Children's Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9BP



Phillips' Legal Corner



How to survive Christmas without strangling your partner.....!

'Christmas is coming and the stakes are high for couples' says Hayley Eachus, family lawyer at Phillips Solicitors, 'the dangers are everywhere - overspending, sleepless nights, overeating and possibly binge-drinking, over excited children and family resentments which can boil over into a Greek tragedy. As a stressful time, Christmas is up there with bereavement, divorce and moving house. It's a time when families all over the country get together and remind themselves of all the reasons why they're not together for the rest of the year. So here are a few tips on how to rise above the pressures of families and survive, with your relationship intact:

1. Set expectations: sit down with your partner and talk through what you'd both like before, not after, Christmas. She may assume he'll give her lots of help, he may feel he'd like some peace and quiet and can finally put his feet up. Both of you probably come with expectations from your childhood of how Christmas should be, so you may well need to compromise, ditch unrealistic expectations and do the best with what you have. Don't expect it to be perfect but decide that being together and having fun with family and friends is more important than extravagant presents and decorations.
2. Set a budget and stick to it. Disagreements over finances are always high on the agenda of relationship breakdowns. So resist the temptation to spend, spend, spend. Do-it-yourself gifts mean more than shop bought presents or you could agree to only buy for children. It doesn't matter, so long as you both agree.
3. Manage your extended family: agree how much time to spend with them and how you'll handle any difficult members. If they come to your home, you can set the ground rules.
4. Delegate and divide up the jobs. There's no reason why everyone in the house shouldn't help out. Decide in advance who has what job and there'll be fewer arguments. If you can't face cooking Christmas dinner, ask guests to bring a course each or plan to eat out.
5. Don't forget to pamper your partner - make the most of the holidays by setting aside some romantic time for each other. Send everybody out on walks so you two can have a breather and keep your bedroom definitely 'out of bounds'.
6. Keep your sense of humour at all costs - this is the elixir that will get you through.

Finally' concludes Hayley 'whatever you do, try to be a team. Think 'we, us, together' - that's how you avoid divorce. If it all goes off well, a safely negotiated Christmas can deepen your relationship. And it's worth every bit of effort. So from the family law team at Phillips - a very happy Christmas!

You can call our family team on 01256 460830. Visit our website at www.phillips-law.co.uk

Young Linguists Busy for Christmas

Although based in Chineham, Linguatastic is attended by children from all over Basingstoke including Popley and other parts of Basingstoke. The first term of the new academic year is nearly over and the Linguatastic children have been ever so busy! In all of our groups, from the Spanish and French playgroups to the German and Italian after-school clubs, various special days from around the world have been celebrated. These include European Day of Languages, Día de los muertos and Sankt Martinstag, (to name but a few). Of course, all the children in all the groups are now preparing for the extended festive season, learning songs in the different languages and making some beautiful things. There will be lots of parties in the last week of term. One in particular is open to all pre-schoolers, namely the Little Linguists' Christmas party on Monday 13th December, 09.30-11.00am at Chineham Village Hall Community Rooms. The cost is £3.00 per child. This includes a present from Mother Christmas, face-painting, crafts, games and songs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Advanced booking is essential. For further information, please visit: www.linguatastic.com or tel: 811100.

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Over 55s Forum

The renewal of membership for the above Forum is 1st January 2011. The fee will remain at £6 for another year, which I am sure you will agree is good value for what you get and they should be sent to me at 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS.

We have planned another good selection of trips for 2011. Also our Open Forum dates (still on a Wednesday) will appear in our forthcoming newsletters.

On behalf of the Forum members, I would like to wish you all at the Popley Matters and readers a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Gerald.

Christmas at St Gabriel's

We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate the reason for the season!
St Gabriel's is in Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way.



Carol Singing in the Woods

Meet at Popley Fields Community Centre
Wednesday December 8th 6.30pm



Christingle Service for all the family

Sunday 12th Dec at 5 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight

a service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 19th December at 6.30 p.m.

Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m.

Christmas Celebrations

A short Service of celebration for all the Family
Christmas Day at 10.30 a.m.

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

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

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



Villager - December 2010

Sherborne St John Parish Council

October Meeting. Another empty Village Hall for the October Meeting – where were you? Does this mean that you are happy with the work of the Parish Council? Let us know, we are always pleased to get constructive feedback – ssjclerk@btinternet.com

Elm Bottom. Some improvements have been completed but this junction remains a concern to the Parish Council. Please let us know of any difficulties you experience.

Red Telephone Boxes. Both boxes in the Village (minus telephones) are now owned by the Parish Council, and are in the process of being re-painted and re-glazed by volunteer teams. If you would like to assist please get in touch with the Clerk.

Chute Footpath / Railing. The new railing has been installed alongside the footpath to improve safety for pedestrians using the entrance to the Chute playing fields.

Chute Teenage Ball Play Area. The order to construct this play area has been placed with EJ Services Ltd to start as soon as possible (weather permitting). The work is being carried out with financial support from the LEADER programme, Hampshire CC and Basingstoke & Deane BC for which we are very grateful.

Public Transport Services. No feedback received from you regarding bus services; the Parish Council will now be sending out a questionnaire in the New Year - which seeks to understand which local transport services work and which are lacking. Please take the time to fill this in and return it!

Scrutiny Review of the Severe Winter Weather experienced in Hampshire 2009/2010. This report has been received from Hampshire. There are no easy answers for next time but one important point is the fact that HCC will have less available funding than last year... .. another good reason for setting up local self-help groups. Would you like to take responsibility for a team in your road? Please contact the Clerk.

Springfield House is for sale. The Parish Council is interested to see whether the Allotment lands in Dark Lane could be secured for the Parish.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Make it your New Year's resolution to come to some of the Parish Council meetings!

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th December – at Sherborne St John Village Hall. You will be most welcome!

Julian Crawley
Chairman

keep people so well informed (it was the Gazette) that by a chance call from, some one, found a relative I did not know about and so it extended my family. The consultants and great nurses that have kept me going in the many times I have been in hospital with periods of very ill health. We both lived our lives in a time of free spirit back in the sixties and seventies, and I hope our children and their children will have that same free spirit as we had. This year is for us, it is our celebration it is our anniversary it is our life Are we rich? No, are we poor? No, we are together still. When I look around nowadays and see so many family break ups it saddens me. What has changed so much in this country. Yes we would have been richer if it wasn't for the kids and now the grandchildren Again, that's just me. I love them all very much and would not have it any other way. They say you need money, they say you need wealth, they say you need a fancy house. You don't. I am the most wealthiest man alive, I think, in what I have in my family, the people of Basingstoke and above all my lovely wife who without her I would be lost, and of course not forgetting her great family. It was a great day when her sister and her children also came to live in Basingstoke. Then last year my father-in-law and the Old Witch came as well. They are really two lovely people to know and it gives the family peace of mind knowing they are close to us. When the Basingstoke Gazette and the local council honoured me with the Citizen of the Year award in 2004, in A Place To Be Proud Of awards, it was not only for me but also for all the hard work my family have done over these last few years of my illness. I was just thinking I might give Her Indoors back that extra hand for our anniversary! Or I could wrap it up and give it to her for her big birthday as well, that was this year. I won't say how old she is but she may get her bus pass. It is this sort of banter I have had with her all our life. Yes we have both cried with sadness and laughter, yes the children give you nightmares over the growing up years, then they are gone? Not on your life, They then have kids and it all starts again. For us as cheap baby-sitting, more toys than you can imagine for them to play with, cartoons and Playdays on TV. Gramps on the floor as they jump on you, or you are trying to stop them touching this and that. Granny being dragged around the house (I like it) I should have done that years ago. Well I would have kept the floor polished, all great fun and they keep us young. Well to see pretty faces come through the door makes a change than looking at you know who. We have seen in these forty years so many changes to the town, some great, some not so great and some you know should have been left on the drawing board. We hope we have put just a small bit of our life back into a town that we adopted. This is near the end of this little bit of our life. The time that has flown so fast forty years and all the memories live on. I am noone just a person that loves to talk and write, not to Her Indoors as you never get that chance to talk when she gets going! It is just plain me, the Old Codger of Popley, and proud of it. A man that feels for the town and the people living in it, a wonderful place to bring up children to become integrated into the town and get involved in their communities as well. I hope I have tried my best and that is all you can do in life.

I dedicate this story to my wife, Anne.



**THE LIONS CLUB OF
BASINGSTOKE**
www.basingstokelions.org.uk
PRESENT

Lions Club Programme

During December the Club members will be out tin shaking in aid of Naomi House, (the Children's Hospice) during the first week of the month and later on to bolster our own funds which are now answering more deserving calls on them than ever in these straitened times. Please spare a little change if you possibly can.

In the New Year, on 5th March, we'll be holding our annual Swimathon at the Sports Centre in Basingstoke Town Centre. This is an exciting event which we have been running for over 20 years. It is supported by groups, families, schools and businesses.

The idea is that teams of up to 6 swim laps (2 lengths of the 25 metre pool) in relay for 30 minutes. Trophies are awarded to the teams which swim the most laps and raise the most money by sponsorship. The teams are allowed to nominate an alternative charity to the Lions Club to receive up to 50% of the money they raise.

The Lions Club provides the venue, organization, sponsorship forms, lap counters and record keeping. It is a super event conducted with great good humour and in a wonderful atmosphere. If anyone would like to join us or find out more about it, contact Barry Morgan on 01256 358008 or go online to swimathon@basingstokelions.org.uk

New Online One Stop Shop for Reporting Road Problems is Launched

A new one stop shop for online reporting of road problems is now available. The highways web self service pages (<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems>) launch this week, making it easier for people to report problems by pinpointing the fault on a map or by postcode which will then be automatically updated as work progresses. Hants Direct will also be using the system if residents prefer to ring, and will be able to check for status updates.

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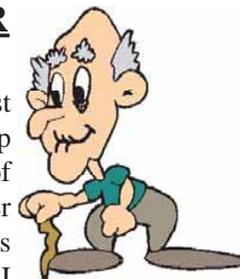
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THE DIARIES OF POPLEY'S OLD CODGER THE BEST FORTY YEARS OF MY LIFE.



Well it was over forty years ago now that my eyes fell on the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. I did say sorry as I picked them up out of her lap. I knew from that day I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. I am pleased to say she agreed to me asking her for her hand. Mind you, I forget where I have put it now, it was so long ago. We got married on a crisp sunny day in December, I can remember the lovely white dress still today. OK it was a bit tight around my back but that did not worry me! It turned out a bit of a fun day when we tied the knot; well she had to make sure the noose was nice and tight around my neck. All the family were standing outside the church waiting for the photographs when the priest popped his head out the doors to tell us all to clear off as we were in the way.

The reception went well except one crook went off with a box of presents. The food was great and the drink flowed. It flowed into my father, my uncles, my wife's grandfather and her father etc, that was even before the guests arrived. It was a good old knees up. All the trimmings, all the seafoods that could be consumed were eaten with relish. A night that others would have envied. Cost? What was that? People knew people and the food turned up. Who asks questions? Then you hit the ground with a bump. Married. Our home was going to be a town in the south away from all the family, I wondered then "Who is going to clean my shoes and iron my shirts, and do the cooking?" as my mum did all that for me. Boy I soon learnt, well you do if the other half has a rolling pin in her hand. I did feel like giving her a good slap but I still could not find that hand she gave me. It was lucky in one way as she did have three hands so did not miss it much. Our son was born, then a daughter then another son. The grey hair started after the first one, by the time the third came along she was white. I just lost all my hair in one go. Well that's how it felt. They then grow up to be that dreaded word "teenagers". Why can't kids be born after the teenager years it would be so much easier. Then the questions start. "Where are you going? Who with? Be in by. Don't drink. Don't come home dead or I will kill you myself." Then your daughter finds a boy. "WHAT! Who is he? What does he do? How much money does he get? Can he keep you? If he lays a finger on you I will kill him." The boys just do their own thing. And all through this we are together. I don't believe in any person that says they have never had an argument in their life with their partner; the main thing is when you go to bed at night it is forgotten. You nurse each other when you are ill, you comfort each other when you are sad. I have been told to say that bit (not really) and so this is our life. Forty years. I believe are the most wonderful years I could ever have with the woman I love, the children I love, the house we have lived in all our married life, many wonderful people we have met and known, people like Jane Fankum and Andrew McCormick, good old Rob Donnelly and two very dear friends Ed and Brenda, the family of the Scouting movement we enjoyed so much and the town we adopted as our own. The local newspaper and the editor that

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Friday 24th Dec 8am - 12 Noon

Saturday 25th Dec Closed

Sunday 26th Dec Closed

Monday 27th Dec Closed

Tuesday 28th Dec Closed

Wednesday 29th Dec 8am - 10pm

Thursday 30th Dec 8am - 10pm

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Clearing snow and ice yourself
New guidance published

Last winter many people helped keep pavements and public spaces around their homes clear of snow. However, many people were put off doing so because of fears of being sued. Read on for advice on your rights and responsibilities when clearing snow and ice from public areas.

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

If an accident did happen, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you

- are careful
- use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway dearly more dangerous than before

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice

- start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it

- don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury

- be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property

- if shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels

- make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on

- 'spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming'

- table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it

- pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients

- use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight

- if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives

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Letters to the Editor.



Dear Editor; I have lived in Hewitt Road for over two years and over recent weeks have become concerned about the inconsiderate parking, mainly on junctions. The development has minimal road markings (only one that I am aware of at the junction of Barrington Drive and Appleton Drive) so I think that people assume that it is OK to park wherever is most convenient to them, without any consideration of the potential hazard they are creating for other drivers and pedestrians. The route I drive to and from my home includes two particular junctions where parking, in my opinion, creates a hazard. The first is the junction from Barrington Drive into Penton Way. There is often a small red Peugeot 206 parked with the rear of the car protruding into Barrington Way, therefore leaving the site you have to move out to the other side of the road to avoid a collision. When coming out of Penton Way the car creates a barrier to vision and along with the bend in the road does make it considerably more dangerous than it would otherwise be. I do not usually drive down Penton Way because the traffic parked around the junction of Hewitt Road and Cleeve Road is a nightmare to negotiate!

The other junction is the right turn into Gardiner Road from Appleton Drive. Cars park on and very close to both sides of the junction. When turning right you often have to turn onto the wrong side of Gardiner Road to avoid vehicles. More recently a transit van has been parking diagonally across the junction so that turning right vision is completely blocked and drivers need to edge out blindly to see if there is any traffic coming – or alternatively stop a considerable distance back from the junction to see behind the vehicle. Now Appleton Drive is open through the site through to Orchard Grove there is an increasing volume of traffic and therefore, for me a perceived greater risk.

It appears to me that drivers who park like this are not aware of the Highway Code which states at point 243 that you -“Do not stop or park... opposite or within 10 meters (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space”

.The areas of concern are not authorised parking spaces!
 Unfortunately the road remains unadopted at this time and there are virtually no road markings and there is no enforcement that I have been aware of in the area. I believe people assume therefore that parking is a free for all and that the usual highway rules do not apply. However these drivers are creating a hazard and it concerns me greatly that as a driver who has to negotiate these parked vehicles to reach my home, that in the not too distant future there is going to be a serious accident and someone is going to be hurt. I would be grateful if you could raise this as a concern at the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Meeting.

Editor's reply:- *I will forward your letter to PC Dan Carter the Beat Manager for Popley. As you rightly point out the area is not yet adopted and therefore is the responsibility of the developer. You are also correct about the illegal and dangerous practice of parking on junctions. I repeatedly bring this up at the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel. I have been assured that the police will be taking action on this repeated problem. More residents are needed on the panel so the residents get a real voice on problems and concerns in our area. There is a meeting on 1st December for residents of Marnel Park and Merton Rise. Hopefully there will be a report back in the January issue.*

Editor's Note: *We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.*

Please send your letters to: The Editor, Popley Matters, PO Box 6727, Popley Basingstoke RG24 9GG or email: editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone 819924



Basingstoke and Deane

Communities are being asked to say which local services matter most to them as part of a consultation, running until Christmas Eve, to help Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council plan ahead for public spending cuts.

Despite the recently announced cuts in government grant, the savings the council has already made means it has been able to protect frontline services next year and avoid any reductions in grant funding. But in the years ahead the council will need to take difficult decisions. Draft priorities for services have been set out in the draft council plan for 2011 to 2014, entitled "Direction leading the borough to a secure and prosperous future".

The consultation on the plan asks about service priorities and where the council's grant funding makes most difference. The council also plans to work with those who help to provide services to communities to look at economies they can make to cope with reduced funding available in future years. To find out more see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/councilplan

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @twitter.com/BasingstokeGov



Boatman Cleaning Services first started back in 1994 in Reading as a joke. The owner, Lin, was working as a part-time evening

cleaner and after just three weeks she was promoted to supervisor. Lin joked that "This is so easy", she could start her own company. Her fellow workers laughed at the idea, so Lin went ahead and started it. By 1998 she had 24 full time temps on board and 7 part-time permanent workers. Unfortunately in 2000 Lin was forced to scale down and then sell the business and return to office work. For 8 years Lin worked in several finance and analyst roles until being made redundant in 2008. Lin then decided, after being unemployed for over 6 months, she would re-launch the cleaning company and now employes three other cleaners and aims to help other people to get back into work.

Boatman Cleaning Services have joined Checkatrade and aim to consistently offer value for money and high standards of cleaning, which is provided by a reliable, honest and cheerful workforce.



What a busy term in all sections! The Beavers have been having joint meetings with the Eastrop Sea Scouts and having lots of fun and making friends. Learning about soldiers during World War 2 in the lead up to remembrance Sunday. They also have been to Paultons Park to see 'Mr Beaver' and tell Santa Claus what they would like for Christmas. The Cubs have been learning about and making models of the solar system.

The scouts have been learning some fire lighting skills and have all earned their chefs badge by cooking a 3 course meal for a special dinner at the hall. The parents enjoyed lamb kebabs, ham and leek risotto and fruit salad. The Scouts put a lot of work into designing and cooking the menu so a big well done to them all.

All sections attended remembrance Sunday Service at St Gabriel's Church to remember those who gave their lives in wartime, including Scouts who played a big part in both world wars.

If you have a young person who is interested in becoming a member in any section or would like to help young people achieve their potential please contact Martin Lee (Scout Leader) on: 07854860895.

All that remains for the term is for everyone at 1st Popley Scout Group to wish everybody in Popley a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Thought for the month: 'And there won't be snow in Africa this Christmas time, The greatest gift they'll get this year is life' – Bono (U2) Band Aid, 'do they know it's Christmas?'

facebook (Search for 1st Popley Scout Group)

twitter Follow us @ 1st_popley



Boys & Girls 6-8
Tuesday 5pm-6.15pm



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½
6.30pm-8pm



Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15
6.30-9pm

(All meetings held at St Gabriel Church Hall, Tewksbury Close during term times)

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