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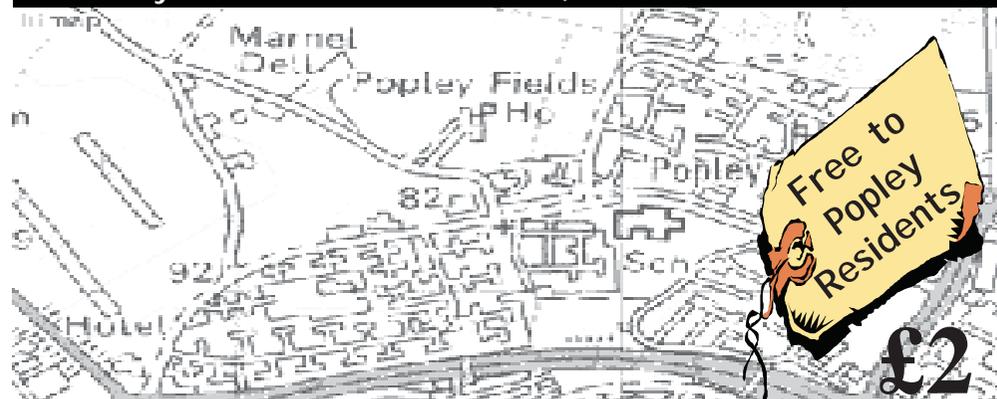
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

May 2011 Distribution of 4,600

Issue 111



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-05-11)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** Popley Matters is now nineteen years old. I wonder how many other community magazines can say that? I know Parish magazines have been around much longer but they have the advantage of financial help from the extra precept council tax they pay. Iris King is the sole surviving person and is still very involved and up till the last issue was the Distributing Manager and she was acting Treasurer for quite a while too. We are grateful to Paul Illsley who has taken on the task of delivering Popley Matters to our fantastic volunteers who then deliver them through your doors. The magazine is paid for by the advertising and is non-profit.

I had my forty fifth wedding anniversary last month and we celebrated with a meal at The Swan in Sherborne St John. We were made very welcome and I must say the food was really delicious. It made me think that maybe we could do reviews of places to go or to eat? If you have had a good time or service, or if it was awful you could share it with the readers. Equally if you use any of the services advertised please report back any good or poor services. I am afraid to say I had what I consider to be an unsatisfactory service from one of our advertisers and it is now in the hands of Trading Standards, so I can't reveal who it was. However they no longer advertise with us. I have had some excellent services too.

We would like to include more local articles, anything from reports of groups or activities you are involved in to stories of your past, or people you have met. You could also write a letter in the magazine.

On page 2 there is information if you have ever wanted to play a musical instrument. There is also a free Tea Dance invitation on page 2. Adult Learners Week is on page 8 and it's the twentieth year anniversary.

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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk). The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

**Editorial Team:-** Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Distribution Paul Illsley; Treasurer Patricia Gentry; Committee Members Kate Lomas; and Proof Reader Lorraine Beany

**Distribution Team:-** Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Colin Karlake; Simon Leadbetter; Cathy Smith; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell; Sheila Brandes; Elaine Dennis; Carole Whetton; Maud Prowting; Anne Marks; Wendy Taylor; Jo Micallef; Linda Austen; Gloria and Trevor Atkins; Doreen Phillips; Tessa Hollingshead; Christine Taylor and Shelly Phelps.

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## **Beckie's Column**

Hello again. Did you enjoy the Easter holidays? The weather was great. It's a shame they're over now. Back to school, and lots of GCSE revision to do! Good luck to the Year 11s who will be taking their final exams soon.

By the time I write this the Royal Wedding would have happened, another day off school, which is great. I wonder how many people celebrated it with parties? Talking about celebrating, did anyone do anything for Red Nose Day? We had a great time at school raising money. My year (Year 10s) had a fashion show, with the boys dressed as girls, which was funny. And we also had a chance to throw sponges at the teachers, even Ms Rose! Although, somehow, they ended up with the whole buckets of water chucked over them by the end! Bet they were cold!

The weather has really warmed up which is really nice. Lots of people seem to be having barbecues and it's only rained a little bit. I hope summer this year will be hot, do you?

Till next time.

Beckie

---

### **Over £300 Raised at 25th Celebrations!**

At the end of March, 90 local children from across Basingstoke, including Popley came together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of "L'école Maternelle", Basingstoke's first independent French playgroup. Current pupils of Linguatastic, the foreign language school which has grown from the original playgroup, performed in French, German, Spanish and Italian for an audience of around 200 people, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke and Deane. Just over £300 was raised at the event which has been donated to "Save the Children". Linguatastic should like to congratulate the children who entertained so wonderfully and to thank the parents and other volunteers who helped make the event possible. For further information on (and photos of) this or other Linguatastic activities, please visit: [www.linguatastic.com](http://www.linguatastic.com).

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01256 414494

# Free Tea Dance

South East Water, supported by Hampshire Police, are holding a free tea dance on 19th May from 4 to 6pm at Carnival Hall, Basingstoke.

The tea dance is being held to raise awareness of bogus callers, who can often target the elderly community posing as "the Water Board"; there will be afternoon tea and dancing with lots of advice and tips from South East Water and the local police on how to keep bogus callers away.

All senior residents from Popley and the wider Basingstoke area are welcome to attend. Entrance is totally free but strictly by RSVP only please due to restricted numbers. Please RSVP to Rachel Lawson at South East Water on 01634 276393 or email [rachel.lawson@southeastwater.co.uk](mailto:rachel.lawson@southeastwater.co.uk).

## Basingstoke Silver Band

Basingstoke Silver Band has been performing throughout Hampshire and Berkshire for well over a hundred years. In 1898 it started out as the Primitive Methodist Circuit Brass Band who used to march and accompany the Basingstoke Primitive Methodist Church group. Between 1912/14 the band took on more events, all still linked with the Methodist Church, such as processions and outdoor meetings. These were sometimes linked with charitable causes such as putting on a concert to raise money for the Titanic sinking. In 1937, newspaper records show that the band had become The Sarum Hill Methodist Silver Band and was becoming more and more recognized as the town band and playing for processions such as the celebrations for the coronations of George VI and Queen Elizabeth. In 1941 when the Church and the band officially split, the band were taking in non-Methodist players and took on the name of the Basingstoke Silver Band. The band currently play at bandstands throughout the summer, perform concerts yearly in Hook, play for the departing cruise ships in Southampton and play carol concerts in the lead up to Christmas. The band play a wide variety of music from marches, show tunes, classical, hymns and pop music. Why not come along to a park event this summer and support your local brass band? Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 7:00pm Spring Concert at **Elizabeth Hall, Hook**; Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2:00–4:00pm at **Guildford Castle, Guildford**; Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 3:00 – 5:00pm at **Eastrop Park, Basingstoke**; Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2:00–4:00pm at **ASDA Superstore, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke**; Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 3:00–5:00pm? at **Victoria Park, Newbury**; Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2:00–4:00pm **Forbury Gardens, Reading**; Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July 3:00–5:00pm **Alton Bandstand, Alton**.

Basingstoke Silver Band also has a Training Band for beginners of any age. If you have always wanted to learn how to read and play music, why not give us a try? We can teach absolute beginners basic skills in reading music and playing a brass instrument. Once at a competent level you can join the Training Band to play simple music to get experience and enjoy playing together.

Do you already know how to play a brass instrument? If you are interested in joining a friendly, non-competing band get in touch, we'd love to hear from you. We are looking for all players but have specific vacancies in the Main Band for Front Row (Tutti) Cornet, Soprano Cornet, Percussion and BBb Bass. Contact the band at [bsbsec@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bsbsec@hotmail.co.uk) or visit our website <http://www.basingstokesilverband.co.uk/> for more information.



Picture the halcyon days of summer - a time to sit in the park listening to the sounds of a brass band as you enjoy your afternoon.

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THE Peter Houseman Youth League season is drawing to a close, but there is still plenty of action going on at MFC Popley Youth.

The Tournament season is about to get underway and the Club is to host its own Tournament, which is to take place at Powerleague, Brighton Hill, on Saturday, 23rd July.

It promises to be a great event, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Sentinel Housing. The event will be a charity one, with all proceeds going to The Samantha Dixon Trust.

There will be Tournaments at Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, Under 11s, Under 12s, and Under 14s, a BBQ,

various stalls from local businesses who will support the event and, of course, all day long use of Powerleague's excellent facilities.

The Club is proud to invite the Committee of Popley Fields Community Centre and Councillor Jane Frankum along as our guests for the day and we are sure the event will be a great success.

Meanwhile, with the Tournaments just around the corner, training is continuing and, until the end of the month, will still be at Everest.

The Under 10s recently benefitted from a guest coaching session from former Northern Ireland International player Kevin Braybrook, who holds the FA Level 4 Uefa A Coaching Licence.

This was arranged by Club Secretary Ian Davies, himself an FA Level 2 Uefa B Part One Coaching Licence holder, as part of the drive to give the players at MFC Popley ever increasingly high standards in coaching.

And, as part of this drive, no fewer than 8 of the Club's coaching will be embarking on FA coaching badge courses at Queen Mary's College starting in June.

On the pitch, the teams have been ending the PHYL season well.

The Under 7s and Under 8s, who both play non-competitive football, have acquitted themselves well.

And at Under 9s, Russell Graves's MFC Popley Imps has notched up a creditable five wins with two games to go.

At Under 10s, the Dynamos have finished a creditable second to Andover New Street in the Elite Division and the Raiders have finished a plucky fifth in their first and only season together a division lower.

The two teams have now merged ready for the Tournaments and next season's campaign at Under 11s.

Meanwhile, this season's Under 11s, expertly managed by Paul O'Shea, have done well and were unlucky to lose 5-4 to the useful Winklebury Wizards in a nine-goal thriller recently.

At Under 12s, after a thumping 7-1 win at Berg, Manager Dave Wright's squad look set to finish third.

And, at Under 14s, Danny Oates's boys look set for a creditable mid table finish. Special mention here to left back David Stemol, who has been fantastic all season long. And goalkeeper Connor Oates, who has done a great job between the sticks this term, especially as his natural position is as a striker.



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-  Only use barbecues in suitable and safe areas.
-  Set up your barbecue on level ground away from bushes, tents or other buildings and do not put it where you have to squeeze past it.
-  Wear suitable clothing and use appropriate long handled tools.
-  Make sure the coals are cool before you move the barbecue. Once cool, dispose of the ashes safely - never place them in dustbins.
-  Keep young children, animals and ball games away from the cooking area.
-  Be careful when cooking fatty foods, the dripping fat can cause the barbecue to flare up.
-  Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue. Use only recognised lighters or starter fuel, on cold coals and follow the instructions on the container/packet.
-  Never leave barbecues unattended.

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*Useful contact points and further information:*

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)



 St Gabriel's Church 

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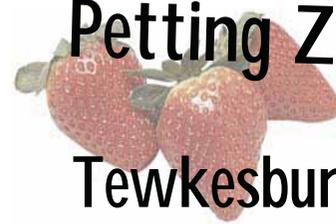
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Wednesday evening-	C.M.A Kick Boxing from 7.00 - 8.30pm
Thursday evening-	Mens Bick Boxing from 7 - 8pm.
Friday evening-	Friday Club (children) 5 - 6.15pm
Sunday Afternoon-	Christian Family Fellowship 4.00 - 6.30pm

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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US AT THE PRIZE BINGO.ONCE AGAIN A GREAT NIGHT.

### **Marnel and Merton Community Group**

Marnel and Merton Community Group are pleased to announce we have been awarded a start up grant from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The money will be used to host consultation and community events for people living in Marnel Park and Merton Rise to find out what the local issues are.

The first of those events will be 'The Big Lunch' on Sunday, 5 June. Plans for the fun-filled family event are now underway and will include a range of activities.

To have your say on changes in the area and meet others, come and join in The Big Lunch next month.

For more information or to get involved find us on Facebook or email [marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk)

Dear Friends

One of the very great privileges of my ministry as vicar at St Gabriel's is to be invited into the most cherished and sometimes the most difficult of times for families. March and April proved to be no exception.

In March I was invited to officiate at the funeral of Louise Eames. Louise, as I am sure many of you will know, was the 14-year-old student who tragically lost her life in a road traffic accident outside Costello College. In the ensuing days and weeks following the accident Louise's family conducted themselves with such quiet courage and dignity and in spite of their loss were able to transform the lives of several other people who received Louise's donated organs. Her funeral and the following Memorial Service at St Gabriel's were both wonderful tributes to her short life and the many folk she touched in such a deep and lasting way. This tragic event brought together people of all different ages and backgrounds and throughout there was a very real sense of togetherness of shared grieving with the family.

In April I was invited to officiate at a magnificent wedding for one of our young couples, Jonathan and Rebecca! Folk had travelled far and wide to share their joy and celebrate their love. After the service what a feast we enjoyed. It wasn't just the food though. It was also the sense of family, friendship and fun that pervaded the whole occasion.

Life and death in all its colours of joy and thanksgiving and sadness! For me it was a reminder of what my Christian faith is all about. For we are Easter people! The great sadness of the suffering and death of Jesus is replaced three days on by the joy and celebration of the Resurrection and our hope can rest secure in the knowledge that those sad partings are only temporary and that a greater joy awaits us in heaven.

Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life and life in all its abundance!' And he knew what he was talking about! He too experienced all that it is to be human; he celebrated at a wedding at Cana in Galilee and wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus and in between shared in all our joys and sorrows. Wherever you have been, wherever you are, Jesus knows and has been, and is, there! May you catch a glimpse of the resurrection hope of Easter and may it transform your life.

With every blessing

Arthur

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Where the vouchers or payment qualifies for a partial exemption from tax, the employee will be taxed on the value of the voucher or the fees paid above a set exempt amount. This exempt amount used to be £55 a week for all employees. However, from 6 April, it will be:

- £55 a week for employees who are basic rate taxpayers, and for employees who are higher or additional rate taxpayers who were already receiving the vouchers or the benefit of the payment before 6 April
- £28 per week if the employee is a higher rate taxpayer and started receiving the vouchers or the benefit of the payment on or after 6 April
- £22 per week if the employee is an additional rate taxpayer and started receiving vouchers or the benefit of the payment on or after 6 April.

### 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 10-3.30 Monday to Friday (except Thursday) and Saturday mornings 10-12.

The Advice Line telephone number is 01256 322814

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

CAB Outreach Popley – Tuesday 17 May 10-1 at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley

CAB Outreach Buckskin – Monday 9 May 10-1 at The Ridgeway Centre, off Buckskin Lane

CAB Outreach South Ham – Wednesday 25 May 10-1 at Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road.

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

Sentinel Housing Association owns and manages 1,127 homes in Popley. These are just some of the ways we are working with you to help keep your neighbourhood clean, safe and looking good:

- Carry out regular inspections of the areas that we own and manage so it is well maintained, safe and clean.
- Remove offensive graffiti on our property within 48 hours.
- Cut grass and maintain hedging on Sentinel's communal land every three weeks in the summer.
- Deal with reports of anti-social behaviour promptly and in line with targets set out in our Customer Deal.
- Provide our tenants with a named Neighbourhood Coordinator (NCO) to manage your estate and tenancy. Dawn Stanley – The Islands, Sarah Palmer – The Poets, Pete Trafford – The Abbeys and Marnel Park.
- Work in partnership with other agencies like the Police and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to address any concerns or issues you may have.
- Provide a fund for residents to make applications to for community improvement projects.
- Support you to set up a Residents' Association.
- We have garages to rent across Popley from just £7.78 per week if you rent your home from us and £9.33 per week if you don't or if you rent a second garage.
- Invite you to join us for Pride in Your Place Walkabouts, so you can point out anything about your neighbourhood that bothers you. We'll be inspecting these areas over the coming months if you'd like more information give us a call on 0800 195 5515 (landline) 0300 666 5515 (mobile):  
 Glastonbury Close, Thursday 26 May 10-12pm  
 Marnel Park, Tuesday 13 September 10-12pm  
 Maldive Road an Faroe Close, Monday 3 October 1.30-4pm  
 Chineham Park Court & Shelley Close, Thursday 13 October 2-4pm

**Councillors Page:** There will be further significant improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in the Popley area. This second phase of the North Popley Accessibility Improvements is planned to commence in the second or third week in June. This is part of the 1.4 million pounds of improvements for road safety. The scheme is focussed on making it easier to travel along Popley Way and Carpenter's Down, as well as to cross the two roads at key locations and the junctions with the side roads.

There has been an emergency extraordinary meeting called in Winchester about the consultation and six million pound cut to the much used and needed SureStart Childrens Centres. I will report back to you in the next Popley Matters. There have been 22,000 collected and presented to the cabinet member in charge of childrens services. I cant remember a bigger petition and it shows the strength of feeling by the residents of Hampshire.

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:** Firstly may I wish Popley Festival a great success? The work to arrange this popular event goes on all year. I hope the weather is warm and sunny this year.

Work to repair and resurface Tintern Close, Buckfast Close Romsey Close and Fountains Close will start soon and will lead to part closures while the much needed work is done.

Most people are keeping to the 30mph along Popley Way and Carpenters Down but for those impatient ones that are tailgating and tooting their horns, please remember it is illegal and that there is a sound reason why it was needed to reduce the speed.

On my regular walkabouts I have noticed quite a few walls have been damaged and there has been some fly tipping, all have been reported. If you notice any damage etc you can always contact me.

If you have any problems/concerns I can help with, I can be contacted by email at cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or phone 819924

**Popley East:** This is a quiet time of the year for council business as all meetings are suspended in the weeks preceding the local elections on 5th May.

Work is progressing on a new combined contract for waste collection with Hart District Council. We have concerns about this as it is a very long contract and does not offer very good value for money. Also there is no substantial commitment to raising recycling rates - Basingstoke's recycling rate of 22% is the worst in the South East and is actually falling, when we should be looking to raise it towards 50%.

The first houses at the Faroe and Maldive regeneration are now occupied and it is only a matter of a few weeks before more houses become available for occupation. The revised shops application is still open to consultation.

We're still unsure about the Forestry Commission sell-off of Basing Wood. The government consultation was aborted but we don't yet know if Basing Wood was in those schemes earmarked for sell-off this year, and if this year's sell-off will go ahead. Andy McCormick Popley East

## Time to Learn During Adult Learners' Week

Basingstoke and District Learning Partnership is encouraging adults in the borough to get involved in Adult Learners' Week by taking part in one of the free taster sessions on offer at The Discovery Centre on Saturday 14 May 2011.

The sessions, organised by the partnership and supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire Learning, will run from 10am until 12 midday. They aim to give residents the chance to try something new such as arts and crafts, flower arranging and pottery or even brush up on skills such as maths. There will also be the opportunity for residents to view the Hampshire Learning web based course finder to assist them in finding relevant courses in their area.

This year marks the 20th year of Adult Learners' Week and the initiative, funded and co-ordinated by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), continues to be the largest drive for learning of its kind nationally.

The council's Head of Neighbourhood Development Tim Boschi said: Adult Learners' Week promotes the benefits of all kinds of learning, whether it is for fun or leading to a qualification. We hope the free taster sessions on offer will give people the opportunity to try something new in May and develop either a new skill, hobby or interest.

For more information on the event contact Mark Thorpe on 01256 845624 or email mark.thorpe@basingstoke.gov.uk. To find out more about Adult Learners' Week nationally see [www.alw.org.uk](http://www.alw.org.uk).



The International Association of Lions Clubs

**THE LIONS CLUB OF BASINGSTOKE**

"We Serve"

Philip Wilson, 8 Poynings Crescent, Basingstoke, HANTS RG21 3AY  
Tel. 01256 352393

If you read this article I hope you will consider becoming a Lion. Lions International is an enormous organisation, the biggest in the world. The main reason for the success of Lions Clubs is that they exist primarily to serve their local communities. When our Club was formed back in 1967, Basingstoke was still a relatively small town and as such people could relate to it as a community. Basingstoke is now a much larger place. But it has within it many recognisable communities which would benefit from having a Lions Club as a focus point. Is yours such a community?

Lions believe that anyone, regardless of age, sex, race, religion or politics who wishes to contribute to the well-being of their community should have the opportunity to do so to the extent that they are able. Lions Clubs provide that opportunity.

Lions are doers. We raise funds for all sorts of different causes by running events. Do we do it because we are a bunch of dogooders? No we don't! We do it because we enjoy working together to run enjoyable good "value for money" events and passing on all the proceeds to deserving causes. We also meet for dinners and occasional visits to the theatre or places of interest. As a member what you do is entirely up to you.

If you are interested in joining us or even starting your own Club, call me, David Side on 01256 323133 or contact us through our website:- [basingstokelions.org.uk](http://basingstokelions.org.uk).

## The Popley Spotlight Centre

Spring is in full swing and we have now been running, since September, for eight-months! We are constantly overwhelmed by the support of the local people and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with each and every one of you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

In April we celebrated the second-birthday of Peace of Mind Care, which is the registered charity that runs The Popley Spotlight Centre. The charity was set up by Michaela Riley with the aim of increasing self-esteem and self-confidence and to reduce social isolation. The charity is achieving this through the centre by providing affordable activities for all!

WHAT'S NEXT?

If you haven't already got a copy then please pop into the centre to get a copy of our Spring/Summer 2011 programme with loads of new classes and groups! We are starting football and multi-sports groups, fun sessions for young carers, family street dance, backstage production group, green fingers gardening club and much more!

DON'T FORGET

We have a snack bar (hot drinks, snacks and refreshments) and charity shop which is open daily from 10am. If you would like to volunteer with us please get in contact.

[www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk](http://www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk)

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The Cubs have been planting up a flower bed at the church for the enjoyment of everyone who uses it.

The Scouts have been taking part in various activities including an Introduction to Air Rifle Shooting session at runways end in Aldershot and have taken part in a joint camp with other groups on the district where they started to work on some of their activity badges. A great time was had by all!

We also took part in the Annual District St George's Day Parade which saw us marching from Fairfield's School to Queen Mary's College where we saw performances from different sections across the district including a brilliant performance from our own Scouts, Sean and Blake, who sung professionally on stage! Well done!

A Place to be Proud of Awards: I would also like to encourage you to vote for our District Commissioner, Andy Cullen, who has been nominated for the Place to be Proud of Awards 2011 in the category of unsung hero. Please head to [www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk](http://www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk) and vote for him. Andy has given 21 years to the Scout movement in Basingstoke and has been District Commissioner for Basingstoke East since 2006. Under his leadership youth membership has more than doubled, and he was instrumental in establishing the Scouting Tri-District Events Team providing activities and development opportunities for young people across three scout districts. Thank you!

If you are an adult who would like to help implement our exciting adventurous programme for young people, or you are a young person wishing to join that programme, please contact Martin Lee (Scout Leader) on 07854860895 to discuss.

**facebook** ([facebook.com/1stpopley](http://facebook.com/1stpopley))

Website: [www.1stpopley.orgfree.com](http://www.1stpopley.orgfree.com)



Boys & Girls 6-8

Tuesday 5pm-6.00pm

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



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½

6.00pm-7.30pm

times)



Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15

7.30pm-9.00pm



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Question: What rights do grandparents have to see their grandchildren?

Ann Corrigan, family lawyer, replies:

‘Grandparents can play a vital role in a child’s life, especially for those children who are torn between two

parents’, says Ann Corrigan, family lawyer at Phillips Solicitors. ‘The sad fact emerging from research suggests that, after a break-up, almost half of grandparents never see their grandchildren again. If you are one of the 14 million grandparents in Britain and you fear losing direct contact with your grandchildren after the children’s parents separate or divorce, read on.

At the moment grandparents have no rights of contact with grandchildren when their own children separate, despite the fact that they are increasingly relied upon for help with child care and family finances. There are options ranging from mediation to taking legal action but there’s no guarantee of success. It’s heartbreaking, not just for the you, the grandparents, but also for the children who may well have depended on you before the parental break up. But don’t lose hope.

‘Now’, says Ann, ‘for the first time, separating parents will be expected to ensure grandparents continue to have a role in the lives of their children after they split up. A recent review of the family justice system, commissioned by the government, is recommending that ‘Parenting Agreements’ should be drawn up that explicitly set out contact arrangements for grandparents which could then be used as evidence in court if a mother or father goes back on the deal. The proposals will now go out for consultation but they are certainly a step in the right direction.’

If you would like to talk to someone about these issues, you can call me, Ann Corrigan, on 01256 854630 or email [acorrigan@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:acorrigan@phillips-law.co.uk). Our family law team at Phillips Solicitors’ always put the interests of the child first. We believe that in the majority of cases, these interests are met by ongoing support for children at all levels including the all important input of their grandparents.

[www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

## Sherborne St John Parish Council

Good news this month for glass bottle recycling With the renegotiation of B&DBC’s joint waste collection contract with Hart DC, it is expected to include kerb side glass bottle recycling. We expect SSJ village to be in the trial area later this year.

Teenager’s recreation area The final touches are being done to the new teenage ball play area near the Chute Pavilion. Following official inspection we expect it to be open for business by the time you read this. Note, this facility was partly financed with a European Union grant.

Merton Rise and Marnel Park The Marnel Care home has opened and looks very nice. A number of allotments are being prepared for residents of the area.

Group buying of heating oil Information was received about a community group buying project aiming to get the best possible price for heating oil via bulk purchase. If you are interested in this contact Clover Morgan, the parish clerk.

New Homes in Basingstoke results From the 28 responses in our area to the New Homes in Basingstoke survey that was recently held, there were few surprises. There is a demand only for affordable family houses and bungalows for the elderly to be built as small developments. Road improvements, better walking, cycling and high speed broadband came out top of the services and facilities question. Protection of the surrounding countryside was considered the most important aspect of any new housing developments.

Public Transport Survey There is to be a SSJ parish Transport Survey to determine the needs and requirements of residents. We encourage people to complete this survey so that both the village and new estates are covered and we can put pressure on Hampshire County Council for future transport demands.

Red Telephone Boxes Both red telephone boxes in the village are in the process of regeneration by the supporting volunteers.

Jonathan Eales, Councillor, SSJ Parish Council



## Pebble's Garden projects nearing completion

Work began on the sensory garden at Pebbles Children's Centre at the beginning of March and we are delighted to say the work is complete and the garden is looking lovely. There are raised flower beds, wind-chimes, mirrors and chalkboards on the fence with brightly coloured mobiles hanging all around. The garden is accessible to wheelchair users and the funding came from the Aiming High Project. So if you have a disabled child come and book some time in there

The garden at the back of the centre now has it's own storytelling chair with little stools for the children to sit on. There's a wooden frame that can be made into a den and we have some Barclays Bank volunteers coming in to mark out a roundabout and some road markings so the children can drive the cars around it as well as add some more finishing touches.

### Summer Term Timetable now available

Song and Sign (using Makaton Signs and Symbols) is back due to popular demand! This will be on a Thursday morning 10-10.45 am. Call the centre if you haven't been on it and would like to attend this 5 week course.

Healthy Living – this is a new 5 week course for parents and their under 5s who possibly have challenging weight / health issues and would benefit from learning about food labels, cooking healthily on a budget, meal planning, portion sizes and dangers of the kitchen! Each week you will cook with your child and enjoy eating together. Call the centre to register your name for interest.

### Dates for your Diaries

**30 May – centre closed for bank holiday**

**31 May–3 June (half term) National Family Week – look out for fun activities happening at Pebbles**

**25-28 July- centre closed for cleaning**

**29 July- Family Fun Day 11am-3pm. A FREE event for children with families aged 8 and under. Come and join us with a picnic and have some fun.**

If you are interested in what comes next regarding the consultation of Children's Centres in Hampshire, watch our website and facebook, we will inform you of any developments as soon as possible.

For full details, contact **Pebbles Children's Centre** on **01256 357028** email [pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk) or visit [www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc)  
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## Diaries from the Old Codger.

When I was a young schoolboy, as with all kids then, we would be out in the fresh air and playing as much as we could. We never had a TV, only a radio and we would sit around it on Sundays listening to the Clithero Kid or the Forces Music. Mum and Dad had The Archers and all the evening plays to listen to. As for us it was a world of fun when we were out.

We were no angels but we did respect our elders and our community. If our local beat officer saw us doing what he felt we should not, boy our ear would hurt! Then we knew that within the next few hours he would be telling our dads so the other ear would be bright red. Was this wrong? Should we have been treated this way? Well it never did us any harm and we respected them for it. Alas those days have passed. Why do people no longer look after the community they live in by reporting any disturbances that are going on. It is not just a town and estate problem but also many villages right across the country. This is your town, your street, your house, it is up to every resident to look after this. Report problems to the council or the police this is what we pay tax for. We do not want to see young children's play areas vandalized or groups of youths going around frightening the living daylights out of the good we have in this town, or our wonderful villages we have around our town. People live near play areas, people live near shops but why do they close the door and say it is not my problem, because it is! We live in a different world from when I was a young man but I instilled what my father taught me into my children

Now I have not been saying a lot about Her Indoors of late. The reason for it is she has been too busy at work so has not had time to dig at me. I expect that will change as she can not go too long without having a go. Mind you I have been saving things up ready for the day she starts again.

At this point in time Her Indoors and I send our thoughts out to Jane the editor and her family and to Mary our other council member and her husband. Both families are going through a bad time at the moment and we want to let them know we are there for them.

The Council Members, the Housing Association, myself and the artist that worked so hard to get the benches on the Poets saw that vandals had pulled out some of the block work around the benches. I wonder what satisfaction whoever it was gained out of this wanton damage. They are there for all the residents to use. This has taken me back to the start of this Old Codger. Kids can have fun and enjoy playing outside. Remember you may have children one day and what is destroyed today may never be replaced. It is your future and your children's. A future we are trying to give you a chance, do not throw that away. Try to build on what we have tried to do, don't sit back and let others do it all. There is plenty you can do to improve the area you live in, it just takes imagination and a lot of hard work. George delivered last month's Popley Matters to cover for the usual deliverer. It was the first time we met. He was born in Upton Park, but as we got talking he said his mother was born in Fords Market. Fords Market had a few houses opposite St Luke's Church. What a very small world this is. I told him my mother was born at number 4 Fords Market and went to the school just at the back of the church. Well this will be another story to tell you when we meet up and talk more about the area we came from. I will have to wait till Her Indoors is out of the way or George 1 & 2 will just sit and listen to her rabbit on. Well she has got to get those 15,000 words out a day all at once and what better way to do it. The thing is I may never see George again. He will say to himself 'Boy can that woman talk....' I also had a lovely email from Alan Ayckbourn this month. I don't know how many of you know that he has had a stroke but is well on the mend. He has written two more plays for the West End. He complimented me on my inspiration after my stroke and this is why I tell people life is never over if you have a stroke. You can over come okay, Perhaps not everything you did before but as long as you try you can say I had a go. You can't win them all but you can achieve you are willing and fight for it.

Till next month take care, The Old Codger



## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

[www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk)

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

Group Scout Leader - Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 01256 410629



All sections attended the Basingstoke East District St. George's Day Celebrations in Queen Mary's College and enjoyed an afternoon of action songs and a rededication of the Scout Promise. There was a short parade headed by the District Commissioner accompanied by the British Legion Band. Next year it is the Air Scout Group's turn to organise the event so there are exciting times ahead!

The Beaver colony is to hold a 'sleepover' for the entire colony in May - not much sleeping goes on there is so much to do!

The cubs attended District Badge Day in April and gained more badges such as Orienteering and had great fun with experiments with magnets and crystals to gain the Scientist badge. Several cubs have completed the Global Challenge Badge and have reached the final stages of gaining a Chief scout's Silver Award O the highest award for the section. Well done! Cub summer camp this year is at Chalfont Heights.



 The scout section has been brushing up their aviation skills in recent weeks as well as practising cooking using portable Trangia stoves (which is quite an art!) as they are very small and compact. Members have become Young Leaders in recent week and are busy developing their leadership skills and helping to plan activities for the younger sections.

The Group's Annual Meeting for Parents will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June in Base 2000.

New members welcome. 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](mailto: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.

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**30**

### 30mph Speed Limit on Popley Way/Carpenters Down

There have been some emails, phone calls and a letter to Popley Matters commenting about the 30mph restriction on Popley Way and Carpenters Down and the new slip road. I have done some further research and contacted the relevant council officers. The reply I received was “Concerning the speed limit repeater signs, the Traffic Signs Manual from the Department for Transport clearly states you shouldn’t use speed limit reminder signs in a 30mph zone with street lights (for example the whole Popley area) as it would be impracticable to place 30mph repeater signs on every road. To do so in some cases, but not others, would result in inconsistency and driver uncertainty. This is therefore prohibited”.

“So, we cannot put speed limit reminders in a 30mph zone with street lights, as doing so would invalidate that speed limit and make it unenforceable by the police. It would also create uncertainty for drivers, as on some roads they were being reminded, but on others there was nothing. The street lights themselves are the effective 30mph signs, unless there is another sign telling people otherwise.”

He continued “Having spoken with my colleagues in Development Control, I am informed that the filter lane from Popley Way into Carpenter’s Down is there to ensure there is sufficient capacity at this junction following the increased demand from Marnel Park, the former John Hunt of Everest site and the future planned developments identified through the LDF process. If there was only a single lane for traffic, both continuing along Popley Way and also serving vehicles turning into Carpenter’s Down, the risk is that there would be significant congestion on this important distributor road.”

This 30mph is enforceable by the police and if drivers speed down these residential roads they may well find that they could be stopped by the police.

I know that some drivers are impatient and are tailgating and overtaking on the inside as well as the outside, this is annoying, potentially dangerous, and illegal.



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## Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team Update.

### Current Police priorities in Popley

#### (1) Drug Dealing - drug related activity Abbey Road:

The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel has voted drug dealing and drug related activity in and around Abbey Road as a current core priority due to the effect this behaviour has on our community and our Residents. Recently both PC Carter (Popley West SNT manager) and PC Brindley (Popley East SNT manager) have made high profile arrests relating to drug activity in this area. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team has also assisted other Hampshire Constabulary Officers with issuing and executing «Crack House Closures» throughout Popley where evidence has been obtained highlighting drug related activity in these addresses.

The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team will continue to conduct high visibility patrols in the area of Abbey Road and continue to deal robustly with those found participating in this activity.

If you have any information that could assist the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team with regards to Drug dealers or drug related activity please contact a member of our team on the details below. All information received will be dealt with in the strictest confidence by our team.

#### (2) Nuisance Motorcycles:

The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods team has received an increase in reports of nuisance motorcycles around the Popley area. The issue of nuisance motorcycles is not exclusive to Popley as other areas of Basingstoke are also suffering from this activity.

I would like to take this opportunity to educate the parents of any youths operating these vehicles or the occupiers themselves of the dangers and consequences that will occur if this behaviour continues.

Riding a motorcycle can be dangerous and those riding them must pass both a practical and theory test in order to safely operate these vehicles. Motorcycles regardless of shape, size and style, can be dangerous if used without proper training and education. Motorcycles are not toys and should only be used by those who have the correct licences to do so. This includes Mini-Motos which we are aware many residents possess. Again these motorcycles are not toys and are not designed for children to play on. Serious damage and injury can occur to both the rider and any other pedestrians in the area if these Mini-Motos are used.

Please remember that a motorcycle can not be used unless the rider and motorcycle are TIMID: **T**ax, **I**nsurance, **M**ot, **I**ndex plate (registration number), **D**riving licence.

To clarify, Mini-Motos are not road legal vehicles and should not be used on roads at all under any circumstances. Proper motorcycles can not be used unless they follow TIMID above. If you are found to ride a motorcycle or Mini-Moto around Popley without TIMID the motorcycle regardless of size, style and legality the following could occur. The motorcycle will be seized and crushed, The rider will be issued with a Section 59 which means if they are caught acting anti-socially in any vehicle including a £200K Ferrari, that vehicle will be seized and crushed regardless of who the owner is. The rider will be summonsed to attend court where they could face charges of no insurance, dangerous driving and improper use of a motor vehicle. The rider could also face a fine, custodial sentence or removal of a driving/provisional licence.

If you would like to know more about the legality of motorcycle riding please contact a member of our team.

#### (3) Anti-Social Behaviour in Specklewood Road:

At the moment there appears to be an increase in reported anti-social behaviour in and around Specklewood Road. The anti-social behaviour caused ranges of complaints from noise, parking and nuisance youths from youths. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team and our partner agencies will continue to deal with the ASB caused in this area.

#### Beat Surgery Dates:

If you would like to speak with a member of the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team in order to;

- \* Report an incident;
- \* Pass information confidentially which you feel may help the SNT to investigate a crime
- \* Receive professional home security advice;
- \* Obtain an update to a recently reported occurrence; or
- \* Or to simply meet the team.

We will be at Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down on the following dates.

13th May 2011 7-8pm

17th June 7-8pm

**PC 20596 Chris BRINDLEY - PCSO 13284 Phil Rapley Popley East**  
**PC 20686 Dan CARTER - PCSO Sarah DANKS Popley West**

Popley East Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Old Basing Police Station

Belle Vue road

Old Basing,

RG24 7LG

☎(DDI) 0845 0454545

☎(internal) 626125

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