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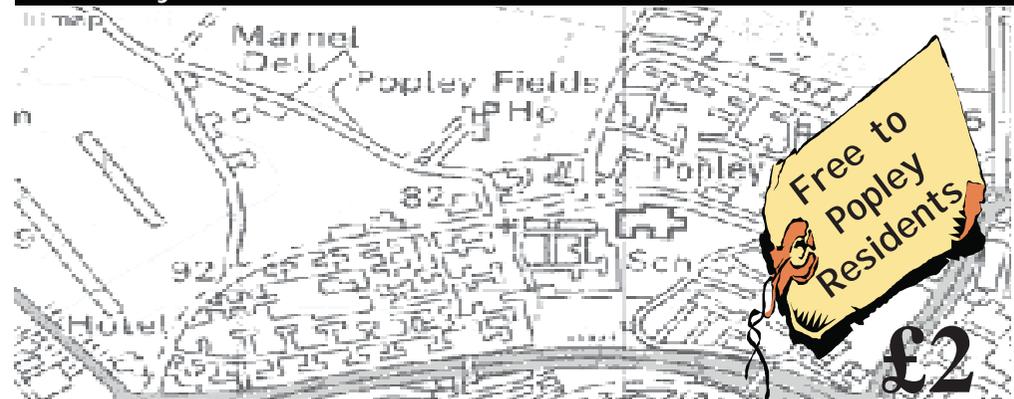
# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

July 2011

Distribution of 4,600

Issue 113



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-07-11)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** School holidays are here, and I hope everyone has a good and safe Summer break. I am always worried with the parking of cars in inappropriate places as it means that children playing can't always see clearly past parked cars. Please also think about people walking with pushchairs etc.

The centre pages are filled with the report of our police cover in Popley and contact details. The Big Lunch organised by Marnel and Merton Community Group was a tremendous success, This was their first effort and they hope to have a bigger and better event next year. Read about it on page 1 and see just some of the photos on page 2 The weather was a bit

cold and there were a few light showers but it did not dampen the fun. We met so many people who said how much they liked living in Popley and reading Popley Matters.

Sentinel are advertising the Get With programme with Everest Community College to run over the school holidays on page 25 and Streetz on page 26. I know hundreds of youngsters have loads of fun doing lots of different and exciting activities.

I have heard of many scams and the Trading Standards are putting out press releases and warnings. Please be careful, especially on the phone if you are offered a deal that seems to be too good to be true then that's exactly what it is. If you are left a messages, delete! One scam says press number 9 if you are not interested DON'T as it then locks you in at £10 per minute for an unspecified time. This happened to a resident and Trading Standards were informed.

If your group or club are holding an event in August please let us know and we will advertise and in September report on it.

**Once again have a great summer and stay safe.**

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



Sub Editor  
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

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## Beckie's Column

Hello! How are you? I've just finished my work experience. For 2 weeks I got to work in a school instead of learning in mine. You can learn a lot from it, like if you want to work there in the future, or if it's something you really don't want to do. I really enjoyed mine. It was tiring, but it was brilliant. The kids were great and the teacher I worked with was really kind. I'm going to miss them all!! From everyone I've talked to, it sounds like they had loads of fun too. But we didn't manage to talk much, we were all so busy and we weren't able to talk to each other at school either because we haven't been there!

I haven't heard anything about Maths and Computing Week. I wonder how it went? For the group that went to France, did they enjoy it? I heard that there was a broadcast from Everest Radio as well but I missed it.

Is anyone going to watch the new films that are coming out at the cinema? There's the new Twilight one and second part to Harry Potter 7. There are loads of other ones that look good too. The only problem with the cinema is that you don't have enough time to go and see all the good ones and it can work out a bit expensive too!

I'm writing this after coming home from Evie's birthday party, so happy birthday Evie, even if by the time you read this it's a bit late!

Well, that's enough from me! See you soon,  
Beckie

---

## Popley Conservation Talk

The Marnel Park and Merton Rise Community Group and the Popley Conservation Volunteers are together hosting a talk with Matthew Smith, Consultant Ecologist on August 20th. The venue and time are yet to be confirmed.

Email the [P0pley\\_C0nservat10n\\_v0lunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:P0pley_C0nservat10n_v0lunteers@yahoo.com) for more details, or see the postings around the neighbourhood.

You can learn about the diversity of wildlife found in Basingstoke, and especially the amphibians and reptiles species. Matthew Smith will also discuss the Great Crested Newts and their protected status. Hear about the mitigation areas of the estate, how these conform to the original plans and the survey results will be included in the talk.

Meet and talk to other volunteers and see if you would like to join with these enthusiastic and committed volunteers.



## THE BIG LUNCH PROVES A HIT FOR MARNEL & MERTON COMMUNITY GROUP

Hello everyone! It's been a busy month for the members of the Marnel and Merton Community Group. On Sunday 5th June we held our first event for local residents in honour of The Big Lunch. We are delighted to say the event was a huge success!!

The day started off rather chilly as group members congregated on the communal space behind the allotments. We started to wonder whether the suddenly cold weather (Saturday was hot and sunny) would deter people from showing up. But our concerns were soon turned to enthusiasm while brandishing our neon orange T-shirts as we set about preparing for the day ahead.

In true British style, not even the weather could discourage residents from arriving armed with their picnics ready for a good day out. Blankets at the ready, people gathered together sharing their lunch with family and friends in a real show of community spirit.

For the kids there was face painting (thanks Victoria) and a bouncy castle courtesy of Bounce Around. For the artistic amongst us, the Creation Station was on hand to satisfy those that love colouring, gluing, cutting and all things glittery. The lure of delicious free ice-creams was a hit with both adults and children alike.

For the sporty ones there was the chance to try their hand at some archery. One of the highlights of the day (and hugely popular!) was the Tug 'O War. Winners were presented with rosettes and medals. The biggest laughs came during the Zumba demo, where the highly energetic instructor (Jaco Heigers) had residents reduced to hysterics as they tried to keep up with his Latin inspired dance moves.

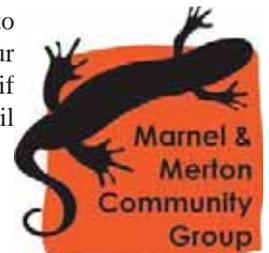
To see all the photos from The Big Lunch, please visit our Facebook page.

As well as being an ideal opportunity to celebrate our local community, we wanted to use the event as an opportunity to gather opinion from residents on the area. Members were on hand to answer any specific questions relating to the group and its aims.

It was encouraging to see that everyone who attended was more than happy to offer their opinion. The key concerns were issues regarding parking, the speed of traffic through the development and dog fouling. A close fourth was the proposed development of new houses in the adjacent fields.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved who helped to make the day such a success, these include: The Creation Station; Bounce Around; 1st Popley Scout Group; Jaco Heigers; the Police; Victoria French; Trish Rajo Brea (our photographer); Basingstoke Gazette for covering the event; and last but not least Basingstoke & Deane Council for their continuing support.

Lastly, thank you to all the local residents who came along to find out more about the Marnel and Merton Community Group. Your input and views will help to shape our community plan so PLEASE if you did not attend but still want your voice to be heard - send an email to [marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk) or find us on Facebook.





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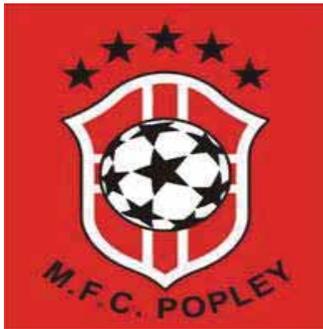
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DESPITE the shocking weather of late, the Tournament season has progressed and MFC Popley Youth have continued to do well. Since the last edition, the U10s, so unlucky to lose 1-0 to the useful Reeve Rangers from Wokingham at the Thatcham Tornadoes Tournament, have played in three further Tournaments, and done well in them all.

They lost 1-0 to Winklebury Wizards in the final of the Oakley Tournament, went out on penalties to Thatcham Tornadoes in the semi finals at Tadley and lost 2-1 in extra time to Kennet Valley in the semi finals of the Colts Tournaments at Water End.

The Club is proud to announce that D'Andre Brown has been scouted to join Reading FC. While we'll obviously be sad to see the popular and talented D'Andre depart, the Club is delighted that an MFC Popley Youth player has been developed over the years by the Club's coaches into one who can go on to perform at a higher level and we wish him all the best when the time comes for him to join the Academy Club.

Off the pitch, preparations are well underway for the Club's own Tournament, at Powerleague on Saturday 23rd July.

Clr Jane Frankum and the Committee of Popley Fields Community Centre have all been invited as Guests of Honour and it promises to be a great event, with an anticipated 1,500 youth players and families present, BBQ, various stalls and other attractions.

Other off-the-field developments include the founding of "MFC Popley Junior," a Club which will initially play in the Second Division of the Basingstoke & Deane District League on Saturdays and is a Club MFC Popley Youth players can, if they wish, move onto when they finish their youth football careers.

And, following the AGM of the Peter Houseman Youth league, Club Secretary Ian Davies now holds the registration forms for next season and all players are invited to approach their managers with a view to signing up for next season.

Finally, eight of the Club's coaches are currently working hard towards FA coaching badges on a course at QMC.

The Club is extremely proud of the many hours all eight of them are giving up to better themselves as youth football coaches and this all helps the Club as it moves closer to its key immediate ambition to become an FA Charter Standard Club.

At the same time, Club Child Welfare Officer Clare Davies has also been on two courses in her own time and is working closely with the Committee to, inline with FA guidelines, provide an updated sporting Code of Conduct which all (Coaches, players and parents/relatives) at the Club will abide by.



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•Awareness campaigns through press, talks, articles in newsletters, getting out information for instance through your Popley Matters.,  
•Raising awareness through Adult Services and care agencies when their staff go to a home and see a lot of mail, they may suspect that the person may be a scam victim. Recent close working with Adult Services has enabled us to identify victims.

•We are aware that postmen and women may know likely scam victims from the amount of mail they deliver. Trading Standards have done a pilot in two areas in Hampshire where the postman delivered a card with the scam mail saying that they are worried that they may be a scam victim and to call Trading Standards.

Although 44 cards were delivered only 5 calls were received, indicating that there were many people we did not reach.

### Why we need a change in the law.

Police are aware of where scam mail is coming into the country, but are not able to stop it. Also postal workers know who are the likely victims but are not able to pass on this information. Consequently we are asking for measures to be introduced to -

- Enable Police or other enforcement officers to intercept mail when it enters the country if they have reason to believe it is scam mail
- Allow Royal Mail to disclose the details of potential scam victims to us.

### What Trading Standards have asked we can all do?

We can be the key 'eyes and ears' in your estates and roads. They ask you to encourage anyone who knows of possible chronic scam victims to get in touch with Trading Standards so that we can offer assistance. You can do this by email:- [rsadvice@hants.gov.uk](mailto:rsadvice@hants.gov.uk) by telephone to: 01962 833650 or by letter to: Hampshire Trading Standards, Montgomery House, Monarch Way, Winchester. SO23 5PW



# Hampshire County Council

# Trading Standards are warning about scams

## Some common scams include

- Fake lotteries – “You’ve won £1 million but have to pay £50 to release the money”. It may sound a reasonable risk to take (relatively little to get so much) but if this money is paid, the demands continue and increase and local residents have lost many £1,000s

- Psychic scams – “We will put a curse on you unless you send us £50”. This can be immensely stressful for vulnerable residents.

- “An unknown relative in Nigeria has left you a fortune and you have to pay £250 to release it”.

There are many types of scams and most of us throw them away (postal), put the phone down (telephone) or delete (e-mail). However a growing number of residents do fall for them, and will then be targeted again and again – by the same scammer and by others. They are put on a so-called “suckers list”

A Chronic Scam Victim is someone who falls for many scams and believes they are genuine. The scammers are skilled in grooming people to make them believe this, and that relatives are out to stop them getting the money. It can become an addiction and it is extremely difficult for relatives to stop their loved ones replying to scams. As well as the financial consequences (we have cases where residents have lost over £200,000) it also causes loss of confidence, loss of independent living, tension, frustration and conflict for families

## Who is likely to become a chronic scam victim?

While all types of people fall for scams, chronic scam victims tend to be older people who live alone. Older, and trusting as they come from an age when they had belief in what people said “if it’s in writing it must be true”, and they may have no-one to discuss it with.

## Why can’t scams be stopped?

Most of the scams come from abroad and therefore there is no one based in the UK that trading standards can prosecute or stop from sending out scams. What Trading Standards are doing

Dear Friends,

I was sitting in the pub with a mate of mine having a pint and our conversation went something like this:

“So when are you coming to church then?”

“Well” he says, “I believe in God an’ all that - but church? Nah, it’s not for me. Besides, you don’t have to go to church to be a Christian do you!”

“Fair comment” I say, “except ... have you ever seen a brick lying by the side of the road?”

He looked at me with a puzzled expression on his face, so I continued.

“We’ve all seen the odd stray brick lying around and a brick on its own is just a brick. It will never be anything else except a brick! But a brick that’s part of a wall can rise up to become a home, or a cathedral, a palace or a kingdom. A brick left lying by the road usually ends up getting crushed to dust!”

“Hmm.” He said, thoughtfully, sipping at his pint. “I get your point - but church? Well, it’s all a bit naff innit? I mean, singing all those boring hymns an’ stuff”

I laughed and said “So when was the last time you went to church then?”

“God!” he says “I haven’t been since I was a nipper. Mind you it was a bit different then. We used to do loads of good stuff – and it was fun!”

“So what’s changed?” I asked him.

“Dunno!” he says looking down into his pint.

So I said: “Did you know that in the Bible Peter describes us as ‘living stones being built into a spiritual house?’ Church is where you find family and friends; someone to share the good stuff with and find support when the going’s tough. A bit like all your family going round to your Dad’s place on a Saturday afternoon for tea.”

“Yeah!” he said “we still do that, and I wouldn’t miss it. It’s always cool to meet up with the family and catch up!”

“And that’s what church’s like” I said

“Hmm” he said again “okay, I might give it a go. But what if I don’t know anyone?”

“You know me” I said “and you know God, so that’s a good start and you might just be surprised who else is there. Don’t come to church expecting everyone to be perfect! We’re just ordinary people. You know what families can be like.”

“Tell me about it” he says! “Alright then, I’ll give it a go, can’t do any harm can it? Who knows, I might even like it! So then – your round is it?”

Sound familiar? You know, I have this conversation so often and yet I still come across so many stray ‘spiritual’ bricks lying by the side of life’s road just wanting and waiting to be part of something bigger than themselves. God is really into long term relationships, but that relationship will struggle to blossom unless it’s within His family.

So if you think you might be something of a brick (I mean that in the nicest possible way) why not come along to St Gabriel’s on a Sunday morning at 10.30 and see what it’s like to be part of God’s family – who knows, you may become part of a great building! Go on, give it a go! You know you want to!

God’s Blessing for a warm and peaceful summer break.

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Arthur.

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## Payment Protection Insurance

There has been an important new High Court ruling about Payment Protection Insurance, or PPI.

PPI is insurance you can take out at the same time as you take out a loan or a mortgage, to cover your repayments if you get ill or lose your job. Some people have been sold these policies without being told that it is something separate to the loan they are taking out. This is called mis-selling. Other people have been mis-sold PPI because the policy doesn't cover their circumstances and they would never be able to make a claim on it. For example, they might be self-employed and have been sold a policy which doesn't cover self-employed people.

The High Court ruling means that firms selling PPI will have to review past sales of their policies, even where customers have so far not complained. Firms may need to contact all past and present customers to find out if they want to complain. If you think you were mis-sold PPI, you can complain to the firm which sold you the policy. If the firm refuses to deal with your complaint or to give you a refund for the policy, you can make a further complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Banks who have sold PPI are working towards contacting customers who may be affected. They advise that if you have already made a complaint, you do not need to do anything. Your bank will be in touch with you as soon as they have processed your complaint. In the meantime, if you want to make a complaint you can contact the following banks directly either through the website or by telephone: Lloyds TSB at [www.lloydstsb.com](http://www.lloydstsb.com) or by telephone on 08453 005599. Halifax at [www.halifax.co.uk](http://www.halifax.co.uk) or by telephone on 08457 253519. Bank of Scotland at [www.bankofscotlandhalifax.co.uk](http://www.bankofscotlandhalifax.co.uk) or by telephone on 08457253519. NatWest at [www.natwest.com](http://www.natwest.com) or by telephone on 0800 0150 319 or 0161 7556890. HSBC at [www.hsbc.co.uk](http://www.hsbc.co.uk) or by telephone on 08457 404 404. Barclays at [www.barclays.co.uk](http://www.barclays.co.uk) or by telephone on 0845 755 5555. RBS at [www.rbs.co.uk](http://www.rbs.co.uk) or by telephone on 0800 0150 319 or 0161 7556890. If you are unhappy with the outcome of the complaint you can complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service. For more information, go to their website at: [www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk), or phone them on: 08000 234 567 (free for people phoning from a fixed landline) or 0300 123 9 123 (free for mobile-phone users who pay a monthly charge for calls to numbers starting 01 or 02).

## 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 12 July 10am-1pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley

CAB Outreach Buckskin –Monday 4 July 10am-1pm at The Ridgeway Centre, off Buckskin Lane

CAB Outreach South Ham –Wednesday 20 July 10am-1pm at Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road.

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

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## What's on

*We have a huge programme of activities at Everest Community College, Popley.*

*Two sessions a day, 10am – 12 and 1pm – 3pm.*

*Each session is only 50p and to keep it affordable, we've got special deals for Sentinel customers.*

*As well as old favourites like, football, cookery and street dance, we've got more taster sessions for older teens, with, first aid, babysitting and film making.*

*And Pebbles Childrens Centre will also be running family sessions for ages 0 – 7 year olds.*

*Booking opens on Monday 4 July. Visit Everest Community College, Oxford Way, Popley. Find out more at [www.getwith.co.uk](http://www.getwith.co.uk)*

**Places are limited, so don't miss out.**

Everest Community College   
[www.everest.hants.sch.uk](http://www.everest.hants.sch.uk)

Sentinel   
[www.sentinelha.co.uk](http://www.sentinelha.co.uk)

**Councillors Page:** The petition to take out the proposal to build 450 new houses and flats is still available to sign you can sign it in the Fastfare shop or Pharmacy, Popley Fields, Melrose Hall or contact me on 819924.

The infrastructure including the roads would not cope, nor the schools and medical facilities, There would be a great loss to the leisure facility that many people use if we lost those fields. They are the main reasons I hear mostly from residents all over Popley.

There will be yet more disruption as the long awaited resurfacing of roads and paths are done. Please remember also that it is now 30mph down Popley Way. I have asked for more prominent marking as people enter Popley. I am hoping it will be a small wall with wording to remind people that they are entering a residential area. We have had reports of dog owners taking their dogs into the play areas. The reason for having them fenced is to keep the children safe. It is especially offensive when they do not poop-a-scoop the mess. The most angry people are the many dog owners who act in a responsible way.

To contact me, phone 819924, mobile 07974098131, email [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk) or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

**Popley West:** At the meeting with developers, representatives of Marnel/ Merton Community Group, St Gabriel's, Sherborne St John Parish Council and myself and Popley East Councillor Shelly Phelps, we heard what the developers are proposing. 450 more dwellings in the fields next to Jersey and Guernsey behind Hewitt and Carter Drive. Shelly and I feel that the developers should finish what they started before even thinking of any plans. We don't think it is the right time or place to build even more houses. There is plenty of land in other parts of the borough and in rural areas to build. Our roads and other facilities would not take another possible thousand residents. They still have not finished in the old John Hunt site or the 748 in Merton Rise then there's the regeneration to finish in Popley Poets and Popley Islands. Although technically Kiln Farm is just inside the ward and parish of Sherborne St John it is Popley old and new that will take the impact of all these extra dwellings. There are petitions in Fastfare Pharmacy, Shop, Melrose Hall, Popley Fields and on line on Facebook. You can also contact any of your Labour Councillors via 819924, email [cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk) or 07834818489 or [Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk)

**Popley East:** This month I have been busy meeting local residents, charities and community groups in Popley. I spent an afternoon at the Spotlight Centre off Shakespeare Road for their open day fete. It was a lovely, well attended event and I collected 70 signatures for the No to Development at Kiln Farm petition. I also met the team who run the Mencap youth club at the centre every fortnight. They run specific classes for those with special needs but the club aims to be as inclusive as possible and welcomes anyone. Unfortunately the club has recently suffered a loss of funding so I am looking into the ways in which I may be able to help them with this and keep this fantastic local project going.

Recently Councillor Andy McCormick and I held our first street surgery in Tasmania Close. The main issues we picked up were the potential development at Kiln Farm, traffic along Carpenter's Down and a fir tree that has been causing a nuisance to the foundations of some residents' homes. We will be doing street surgeries once a month and getting around the ward as quickly as possible. In the meantime if you have an issue or a problem that I may be able to help you with then please do not hesitate to contact me on 07834818489 or [Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk)

# The Golden Club



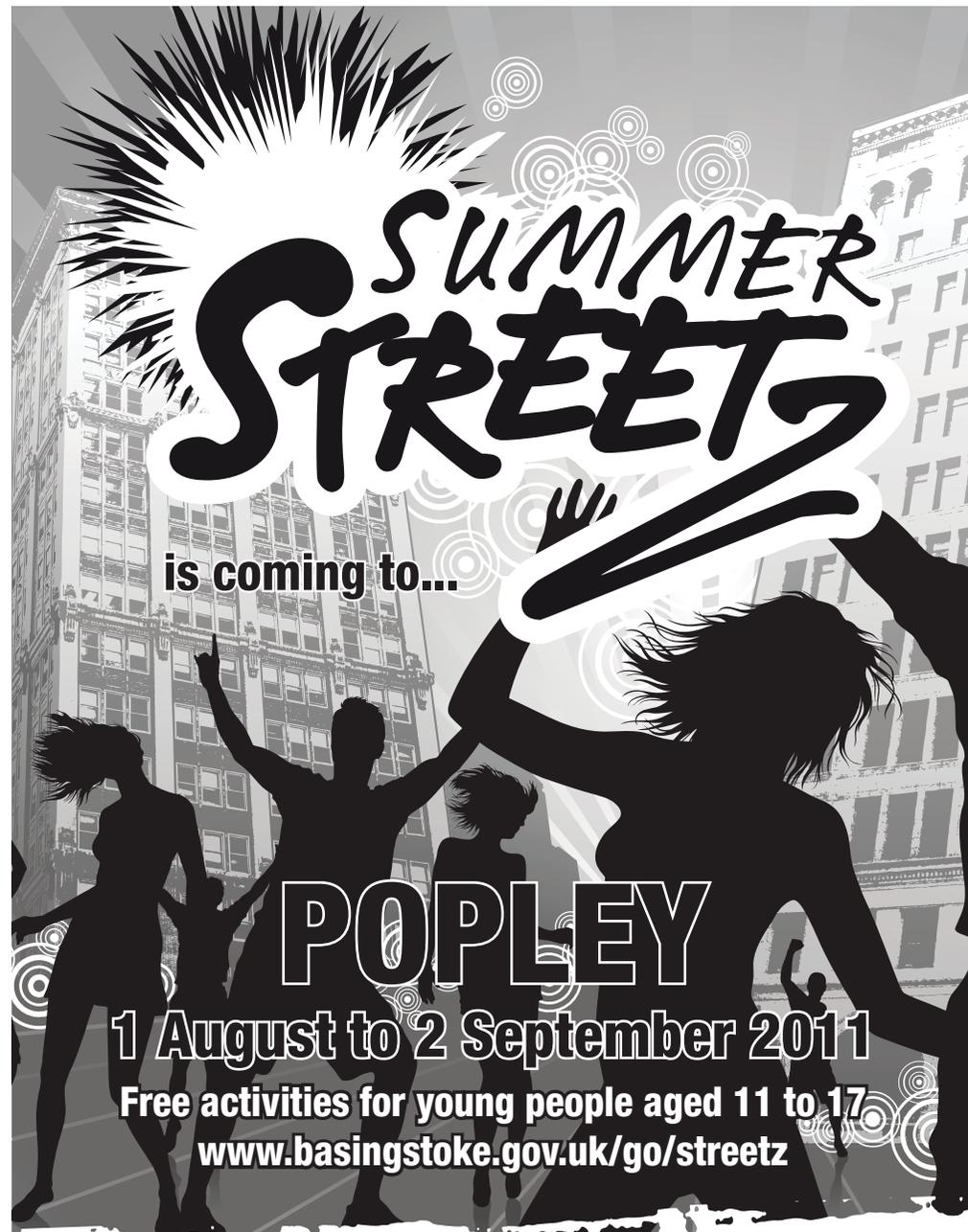
for those of a 'Golden Age'

Every Thursday at  
St Gabriel's Church

The 'Golden Club' meets weekly on Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm in St Gabriel's Church Hall on Tewkesbury Close (off Popley Way). Everyone who is of that 'golden age' is welcome to come along.

A very sociable club, offering a cup of tea, good company and a game of bingo. For more details please contact Doris Saitch 462818.

JUST COME IN



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Hello, firstly we would like to apologise for submitting a historic article last month, that's what comes from doing things in a hurry!

Secondly we would like to congratulate District Commissioner Andy Cullen for winning the Place to Be Proud of Awards – Unsung Hero category for 2011, awarded at an awards dinner in Festival Place! It was a brilliant event, and we would also like to so congratulate all the finalists including Rachel Markes of Anna's Challenges and Roy Sands from the Basingstoke Rotary Club who were in the same category as Andy. Thank you to everyone who voted!

Beavers this month enjoyed a Sleepover with the rest of the district at JJs Funhouse. It was a brilliant event and was an excellent way to celebrate 25 years of Beaver Scouting. A big thank you to JJs for their hospitality.



A few of the Cubs and Beavers joined the Marnel and Merton Community Group at their Big Lunch and helped clear away afterwards. Again this was a brilliant event and a big thank you to the organizers!

The Scouts have had a Master Chef style competition that was judged by two independent judges who both said the food was edible! And surprisingly nice! They have also been learning about grid references by playing battle ships!

That's it for this month but If you are interested in joining in with us, whether you be a young person or an adult wishing to help deliver the program please phone Martin (Scout Leader) on 07854860895



Boys & Girls 6-8

Tuesday 5pm-6.00pm

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



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½

6.00pm-7.30pm

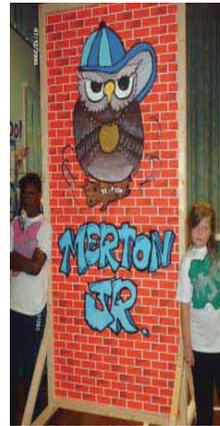


Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15

7.30pm-9.00pm

Facebook: [facebook.com/1stpopley](https://www.facebook.com/1stpopley) [www.1stpopley.freeorg.com](http://www.1stpopley.freeorg.com)

# Merton Junior School Rocks!



The preparations for Merton Junior School's Rock Challenge began back in February. An assembly was held to introduce the idea to the children. Little did we know what a response we would get for the auditions. Seventy five children auditioned by dancing and taking part in drama workshops. Thirty five lucky children were selected to represent our school and community.

Rehearsals began. The children had to learn three different genre of dance; Ballroom, Latin and Street Dance. Most of them had no dance background but what they lacked in technique they made up for in enthusiasm, commitment and energy! The routines quickly began to take shape as the

children worked well as a team to master new skills.

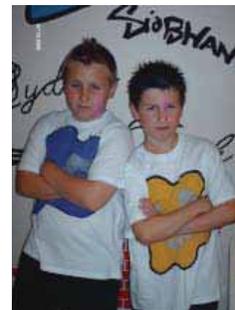
The day of our trip arrived. We set off from school at 7.30 am for the journey to the Guildhall, Portsmouth. The coach was full of excited children and staff. On arrival at the Guildhall the children had their first experience of the size of the venue. It was terrifying! We were encouraged to watch the other schools rehearse while we waited for our dance and drama workshops. Many comments were made about how well our children behaved and worked with children from other schools. There were ten other schools competing in Portsmouth, all with different routines and productions.

Our production was inspired by Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story and our school motto. It was a tale of 2 dancers from opposite dance gangs, falling in love and overcoming prejudice to be together. In doing so they also bring their gangs to work together to succeed in a final huge dance. Our technical rehearsal went really well. Our routine looked so different on the stage with the set and lighting. Nerves were kicking in as the children got into costume and had their hair and make-up done. A big thank you to the parent and pupil helpers who helped get the children ready, they looked amazing. We performed 5th and our children performed their routine brilliantly. Never had it looked so good! They performed and behaved like true professionals. The children made everyone so proud, leaving many crying in the audience!

To be awarded with three awards for our performance was the icing on our cake. We won Press Coverage, School Community Award and the Concept Originality Award. Congratulations to you all and a HUGE thank you to everyone who made the day possible. Roll on next year!

More information and photographs can be seen on our website [www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk)

We now have a Merton Junior School Facebook group. Log on and join in all the fun. Find us at 'Merton Junior School'. (over 13s only).



## Legal Corner with Phillips Solicitors

**Phillips**  
Solicitors

### Question

Mrs B. asks: I fancy a new build house but my husband wants an old one, so what's best?

### Answer:

Zoë Baxter, solicitor at Phillips, answers:

It sounds like you need to do some more talking with your husband before you decide on one or the other! But here are some essentials that you should talk over before going any further. Old properties may have history, charm and character, possibly more space and they may be easier to sell in the future than a new home. But unless your husband is a practical person, you may find you'll have to spend a lot of money on paying people to update your plumbing, wiring, heating and decorations. There can sometimes be restrictive covenants or difficulties with rights of way as well.

For you I suspect the dream is to move into a home that doesn't need any money spent on renovation and that you can move into straightaway. One advantage is that new-build homes do have to be built in accordance with current building regulations, so they will be more energy-efficient and have fewer carbon emissions. If you both decide to go down this route, check the house has a warranty, run by the NHBC, which will protect your money if the builder goes bankrupt after exchange of contract.

Whichever you choose, you'll have to find a deposit and mortgage so get that sorted first. Some developers are offering help with mortgages and deposits, so shop around. Other options include 'shared ownership' where instead of raising a full mortgage on your new home, you can buy part of it and pay a subsidised rent on the other half.

The disadvantages of buying an older property can usually be overcome with time, effort and money but the transaction does usually involve a chain, which a new-build does not, unless you have something to sell as well; so if you need to swing the argument in your favour then the prospect of losing a huge chunk of stress may just help!

You can call Zoë on 01256 854623 or email your questions to [zbaxter@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:zbaxter@phillips-law.co.uk) and visit our website at [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)



## Parish Council Meeting Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> May

### Road Safety on the A340

The PC are actively pushing HCC to investigate methods of improving safety on the A340 at both Elm Bottom and outside 2 West End and have already had an albeit unsatisfactory site meeting at 2 West End.

### Cranesfield

On a similar note the better weather is allowing more children to play outside and ride their bikes etc, particularly in Cranesfield. However there has been one or two incidents of drivers travelling a little faster than might be needed in Cranesfield. The PC would like to remind all residents and drivers to take extra care and be aware of children playing.

### Post Boxes for Marnel Park/ Merton Rise.

The Parish Clerk has lodged a complaint with the Collections Manager based in Reading re the lack of post boxes in the above area. We hope there will be a positive development soon.

### Energy Supplies in Rural Communities.

A scheme has been initiated to encourage group oil purchasing, particularly in rural areas. Chris Stanley from the Greening Campaign is endeavouring to get information from the co-ordinator in the Oxfordshire village concerned.

Please see the Greening Campaign article for more information.

### Transport

The PC would like to thank those villagers who responded to the recent public transport survey.

From those that did reply it was apparent that the major problem was the frequency of buses and a timetable which did not meet the needs of the villagers.

A problem with the lack or narrowness of pavements in West End making it difficult to walk to and from the bus stop, especially with pushchairs was also highlighted.

Basingstoke Community Transport are now running a weekly bus service, on Mondays, taking residents to Morrisons supermarket, the hospital, rail station and Festival Place.

At the moment this is only weekly and there is a small charge, £3 return with a bus pass, £6 return without. However if this is well used, it will become free of charge and it is hoped to run a service more than once a week.

Please see the timetable.

### Paul Ashley

Finally we have to report the resignation of Paul Ashley from the PC due to work commitments.

Paul has provide invaluable service to the PC in both the running of the allotments and particularly in the purchase and setting up of the SID's in the village which are a great asset to road safety.

We wish Paul well in the future and thank him for all his contributions and hard work.

The next PC meetings will be

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm

Planning

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm

All meetings in the Village Hall  
Carole Stanley Parish Councillor



### Summer Fun!

Once again Pebbles Children's Centre is offering a fun and exciting programme for families with children under 5 (siblings 8yrs and under can also attend) throughout the summer holidays.

Joining forces once again with  we are able to offer activities such as Water Play, Camps and Dens, sessions at Playdays, Crafty Rhyme Time, Parachute Fun, a coach trip to Bournemouth and fun and games at a local park.

Look out for the timetable which will be on our website soon at [www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc)

### Get your Healthy Start Vitamins at Pebbles

Healthy Start is a statutory government scheme to improve the health of pregnant women and families on benefits or low income. It entitles those qualified to fresh milk, vegetables and infant formula as well as vitamins for women and children.

If you already receive the voucher for milk etc you will see a tear off slip at the bottom which you can bring to Pebbles in exchange for these vitamins. Or speak to your health visitor to see if you qualify.

### PEEP Runners

This group now takes place at Melrose Hall for 1.5 - 3 year olds Fridays (during term time only) 10-11.30am. Meet other parents with the same age children and find out how to make the most of learning through everyday life with your toddler.

### Jobcentre Plus

Will be at Pebbles every Thursday 12.30-3pm for you to drop in if you would like to discuss looking for work, finding training or for general benefit advice.

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

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

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# DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER



Virgin. Well Her Indoors decided it was time we had faster broadband. Ha ha ha. Hampshire didn't get the government funding it was hoping for, so after an offer that was too good to refuse we swapped all our services to Virgin. It has taken over two weeks of many, many calls to get connected. We could not fault the workmen that installed it. TV fine, phone okay but it took eleven long days to get our caller id sorted. It also took that long to get our "free" 2nd box activated after they tried to charge for it. THE AFTER CARE WAS A TOTAL LOAD OF RUBBISH. In the end, out of frustration we contacted our son who lives in Australia and he did it all from his end, by telling Her Indoors what settings our computer needed to be set at. So at last we are now up and running. Would I recommend Virgin to any of the readers? NO is the short answer after what we had to go through. Everyone was very pleasant and lots of promises to "sort this out today". but, no callbacks, after so many empty promises. Her Indoors is a Customer Service Manager, she wiped the floor with them. Hopefully it is all okay now and no more problems.

I wanted to get to the Popley Festival this year and was looking forward to it, but yet again fate strikes when you do not expect it, I have had a few weeks of illness then another TIA. It gets harder to bounce back each time. One problem I have is swallowing. Not food just salvia in my mouth I can no longer suck on a boiled sweet as I choke. Just another hurdle to get over and God willing I will. When I was young and fit I would see people like myself and think "How do they go on living like this? As I grew up I became more aware of life's road and the problems you come up against. My mum would say "Live your life in a good way, be truthful, be strong, be caring and it will hold you in good stead throughout your life", I do live my life this way and hope some of it rubs off on others. On saying that I won't comment on Her Indoors. You never know what she will do.

Well I want to be able to do August Popley Matters so that's why my lips are buttoned. In truth if it were not for her and my great family I would be lost. But shush don't tell her that or she will play on it.

To all you kids that have left school this summer, remember to think of the person that is next to you and try and follow what my mother said to me. To the rest of you I hope you all stay safe over the summer holidays, and if you can help as many of our unfortunate people in the town you are just giving a bit back. There are many good causes, you can volunteer a bit of your time to in the summer holidays and will get great satisfaction out of it

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 07790 018 171

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 07971 491 145



were handed out at the end of the sleepover.

The Beaver colony held their first Colony 'sleepover' in May. The theme was fun and games, board games no computers or hand helds and the Beavers had a great time, junior scrabble was a great hit as well as battleships. We went on an adventure in the woods following the map that Amiee had made to find the animals, volcanoes and mountains. Badges for Explore and Healthy eating



Most of the Pack are ready and eager to be off to District Cub Camp at Chalfont Heights Scout Activity Centre as I write. The weather forecast for the weekend is not too favourable but I am sure they will have a great time nevertheless. The activity programme is full of challenge and adventure.

Both the Beavers and the cubs are looking forward to 4-D Activity Day in July when I am sure everyone will have great fun and get to know other 'chums' from across the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane and Andover.



The scout section held a 'sleepover' in Base 2000 at the end of June following a 7-mile evening hike in the north eastern area of Basingstoke. Tired feet but much enjoyed by all (not much sleep though!).

New members welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5½- 8) and Cubs (aged 8-10½) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10½-14) 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.

... and the adventure goes on - come and join us!



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

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Many different sorts of projects could be eligible, including farm diversification projects for holiday lets/offices/camping etc, making ice-cream, cheese, catering vans that use local produce, play equipment, forestry machinery, restoration of historic features, local village shops, village halls, farm shops, trim trails, tourist ventures, internet café's in local village shops, woodland management, rural food businesses, interpretation projects, village improvements, setting up/expanding a rural business, marketing, training opportunities etc. These are just a few examples, the possibilities are endless and we would suggest looking at our website [www.ruralfunding.co.uk](http://www.ruralfunding.co.uk) or contacting us for further information or a chat about your project idea. You could also look at this website [www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/projects](http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/projects) which shows projects that have successfully been funded across the UK, it may give you ideas for your own projects!

Our grants are available to those that are either living or working in the rural areas surrounding the Hart, Rushmoor, Basingstoke and Dean areas, for a map please see our website.

For more information or an informal chat about project ideas, contact the Loddon and Eversley LEADER Programme Manager, Emily Preston from Hampshire County Council on 07545 355449 or email [emily.preston@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emily.preston@hants.gov.uk)



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## Review of the Future of Sherborne St John Parish Council

Residents in the rapidly growing parish of Sherborne St John are being asked how they want to be represented at the most local level in future.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is asking all of the people living in the area whether they want to stay with the existing parish council, whether they want it to split in two, or to grow and be renamed. These are some of the options under the process known as a Community Governance Review, which is starting off this month with the council writing to electors.

The move has been prompted by the development of Marnel Park and Merton Rise, both of which are covered at the moment by the parish of Sherborne St John in the Popley Fields parish ward. This has led to parish councillors representing an uneven number of electors - with 1166 in the Popley Fields ward and 993 the Sherborne St John ward of the parish council.

In the first stage of the Sherborne St John parish review, electors are being asked to give their comments on the current situation and the timetable and process for making decisions on whether any changes are needed. Following this consultation, draft proposals are due to be published later in the year for a more formal consultation period. Only if there is a significant desire for change would a ballot of all residents be carried out to give them the option to support or reject any recommendations made. Any changes would come into effect at the scheduled elections for Sherborne St John Parish Council in May 2012.

The borough council's Corporate Director Dorcas Bunton said: "Parish councils play an important role in acting for communities at the local level. Reviews like this give us the chance to make sure that these councils are representative and meet the local community's needs. The first stage of this review is to ask electors whether they think changes are needed."

Carried out under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, a review looks at:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- the naming of the parishes or other types of council, such as community or neighbourhood, if they are created
- the number of councillors, wards and other electoral arrangements for any new councils
- any knock-on effects on borough council wards
- when any first elections would be held.

Residents can read more about the details of the review at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/sherbornereview](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/sherbornereview)

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# GUIDE TO THE POPLEY SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM

13th June 2011

## The Team

*The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team or Popley SNT consists of two Beat Managers and two Police Community Support officers or PCSO's. Popley East is covered by PC Chris Brindley and PCSO Phil Rapley. Popley West is covered by PC Dan Carter and PCSO Sarah Danks.*



Popley West



Popley East

## Our Role In The Community

The Popley SNT primarily patrol Popley and neighbouring beats on Mountain Bikes. We work towards long term community issues and aim to make Popley a safer place to live and work. We target known problem areas and along with other agencies we

implement plans to tackle the problems. As well as Crime and Anti Social Behaviour work, we are available for community work, including school talks, fair's/fete's and the Popley Festival etc.



## Partner Agencies

some of the Partner Agencies we work with include housing associations, the Community Safety Patrolling Officers, the council, street care team, and many others.

## The Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel

The PSNP is made up of the multi agencies and community members. We meet every three months to vote on three community priorities. The patrolling agencies will then work towards these community chosen issues. The results of the work are published on the Hampshire Police Website. Basically we are policing by consent..we are asking the community of Popley what they would like us to work on and then we work on it! Every month we run a beat surgery to discover the current issues. We are also contactable via phone, email, twitter and of course whilst patrolling on the beat.

## How To Contact The Popley SNT

**By phone:** 0845 045 45 45

**By email:** [basinstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:basinstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

**Join us on twitter:** twitter:@PopleySNP

You can also follow our work on the following websites:

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

**The Popley Matters:** <http://www.popleymatters.org.uk/>