

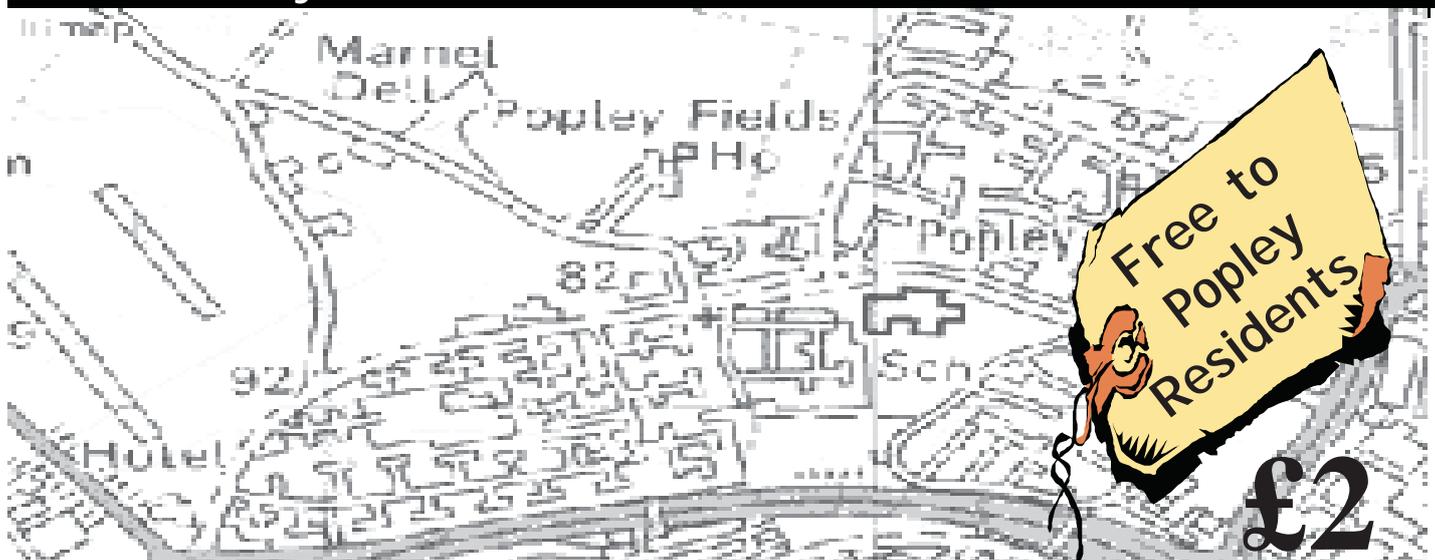
POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

January 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 119



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-01-12)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- It's the start of another year, and I wonder what surprises it will bring for all of us? Popley will see the threat of much more new development with yet more changes. I am not against new houses and indeed encouraged many of the new housing we have now. But there comes a point when it is over development and our roads, schools and other facilities cannot take more of a strain. You only have to go and stand near those beautiful fields and listen to the tranquillity and bird song, especially when the skylarks sing. It's time to find other areas to build on and let

some of the out of town areas and villages take a few more. Why do people have to settle near the town centre when many that I have spoken to say they want to stay and bring up their families in the village that many of them have lived all their lives? There are not enough starter houses and the few that become available are far too expensive for them to even contemplate buying.

In your first Popley Matters of 2012 I am having to ask for some help to deliver some of the magazines, especially in Marnel Park, Oxford Way and Merton Rise. One hour a month would be of such a great help. We also need someone to deliver to Shakespeare Road and Browning Close.

We always welcome ideas, articles, advertisements and letters as this is your community magazine and we try to keep you informed and entertained.

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.

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

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Thank you for the support

Hello...

From your Community Safety Patrol Officers

We hope you enjoyed the festive period and would like to wish you a happy new year.

As Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPO) we identify and tackle local issues, reduce crime, deter anti-social behaviour and deal with environmental crimes, to make residents feel safer and happier about their neighbourhood.

An environmental crime we frequently deal with, particularly following the Christmas break and run-up to spring is incidents of fly-tipping.

Fly-tipping is the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land or a highway that has no licence to accept it'. Illegal dumps of waste can vary in scale and the type of waste involved.

Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish in the street causes a local nuisance, and tipping household items and small-scale building or garden waste in open spaces is unsightly and costs the borough a substantial amount to clear away.

If you have bulky household items these can either be taken to the household waste recycling centre on Wade Road, or you can arrange with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to collect these items for you (an applicable fee will be charged based on your collection requirements). Basingstoke and Deane can be contacted on 01256 844 844 or via the website www.basingstoke.gov.uk

If you know someone who regularly dumps rubbish illegally, we would be pleased to hear from you so we can investigate further.

We hope to see as many of you as possible whilst on patrol around Popley. If you don't manage to see us and would like to talk to us about any issues you may have, please contact us on **01256 845 700** or by email; safetypatrolservice@basingstoke.gov.uk

Dan, Paula & Paul



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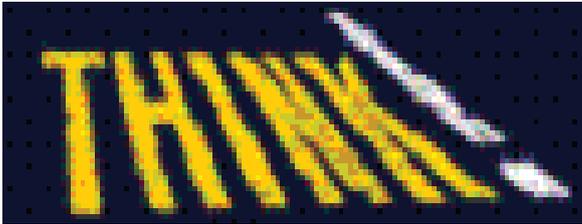
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Road Safety

- ❗ **Wet Roads & Icy Roads:** Be extra vigilant during the winter months. Beware of black ice, taking extra care in shaded areas as the sun won't have melted it. Try to use major roads rather than smaller, quieter roads which might not have been gritted. In wet and icy conditions brake gently to avoid skidding and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front - give yourself time to react. Don't forget: the braking distance is twice as far on wet roads and increases 10-fold on icy roads!
- ❗ **Low Sun & Glare:** Now the winter is approaching, the sun is lower in the sky and wet roads will reflect glare which can temporarily blind you to potential hazards.
- ❗ **Dark Mornings & Evenings:** Now the clocks have gone back, evenings and mornings are drawing in. Be extra vigilant for pedestrians. As a pedestrian always use a pedestrian crossing where possible. Help others to see you by wearing fluorescent or reflective clothing in poor light conditions.
- ❗ **Motorcyclists:** Look out for motorcyclists. They represent less than 1% of road traffic but account for 18% of deaths and serious injuries and are 40 times more likely to be killed than a car driver.

Top Tip:

Don't use water to defrost windows - warm water can crack the glass and cold water will just re-freeze. Ensure you leave plenty of time to fully defrost your car in the morning. A squirt of WD40 in the door locks will prevent them from freezing.

Useful contact points and further information:

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

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



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Thank you to everyone who came to Christmas Fayre, all raffle prizes have now been claimed.

Our first annual Community Christmas Lunch was a big success; we hope all who came enjoyed the meal and the lovely carol singing by the children of the Merton Junior School Choir. We would also like to thank Tesco Chineham for their generous donation of Christmas Crackers.

We have changed our E-mail address!!!! Our new address is:

melrosehall@btconnect.com.

FRIENDLY CAFÉ - Every Monday and Thursday we hold a café, 9.30-11.30am come for a chat and a cuppa and even a bacon sandwich! All ages welcome.

WHATS ON:

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

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, and Conferences. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@btconnect.com

Also find us on Facebook: Melrose hall.

Councillors Page: My colleague Councillors and I have had many complaints and concerns about the savage cuts that have been made to the bus service across the whole borough. Whilst acknowledging that the Government have reduced the grants for travel by 45% and this of course has meant some hard choices have had to be made, however people being able to get to work, hospital and doctors I believe is a priority. All Stagecoach bus services cease by around 9pm leaving nurses, cleaners and town centre and other staff possibly stranded. Already people are having to change their jobs. There seems to be an assumption that everyone has access to the use of a car and that is a long way away from the truth. The residents in Abbey and Magnolia Court have been cut off in affect from visits to the hospital by bus as Jazz 5 no longer goes to there and the alternative Jazz 4 (9 with its only 2 hours service in the afternoons), does not go up or down Popley Way. We have started a petition to ask that the County, Borough and Stagecoach work together to find a solution. Stagecoach made £153 million pounds profit in the UK last financial year, this is obscene when people are being left stranded. You can sign the petition in Fastfare or any of the community centres or contact me (details below). If you would like to have a petition to ask your work colleagues, neighbours or friends please contact me. At full BDBC council on 15th December I proposed a motion and it was passed to go to committee to have a full and frank look at the provision of the bus service to the whole of the area.

Popley West: While out on a ward walkabout I noticed that some of the old street lights were still shining. As these were mostly in people's gardens we wanted to be sure that the interests of the residents was being kept as a priority. We were assured that as they were in the private gardens that officers are currently working to find alternative locations where required and liaise with the residents affected to decide the best way to replace these lights.

Marnel Park and Merton Rise will no longer be in the parish of Sherborne St John. The parish council requested that they be de-parished and after public consultation 63% of residents that answered said they wanted to be de-parished. This means that after April you will not be paying the precept part to the village of Sherborne St John. The decision can be revisited in four years' time. The Village Hall mortgage is now paid up so you should not be charged the extra £1 a month you have been paying up to now. There is a notice by the disabled bays in front of the shops. To inform people that there is a traffic order and if you park there it will be illegal and you could be fined. We also notice that some large delivery vans park in these bays and even across the public path blocking the dropped kerb this makes it very hard for electric buggies and pushchairs to get past. To contact me, phone 819924, mobile 07974098131, email cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

Popley East: The big Popley Community Litter Pick took place on the 26 November. It was a great success and there was a good turnout. I want to say a big thank you to all those who gave up their Saturday afternoons to help out. We did a walk around the estate and then went over to Carpenter's Down Woods. In total we collected five big bags of rubbish. I'm now hoping to hold an annual litter pick in the area, but will be doing this in spring in the future.

Last month saw the first meeting of residents living in the Islands who are interested in forming a residents group. If you couldn't make the meeting but would be interested in joining, please contact me, details below. The next meeting will take place this month, mid January.

I went to see inside some of the new developments at Faroe and Maldiva Close last week. They were lovely and I am looking forward to seeing the area finished and welcoming new residents.

Recently I have had several complaints from residents about late buses and route changes in the area. I have arranged a meeting with the bus station manager at Stagecoach to discuss this, and will as usual report back to you. If you have been affected by these changes then please get in touch.

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year.

If you would like to contact me about an issue of concern or anything else that I might be able to help you with please call me on 07834818489 or email me at Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk.

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Youth Club for 11-17 year olds

This takes place on Monday nights from 7.00 to 9.00pm

Come along to chill and relax with your friends.

Slimming World

Slimming World is coming to Popley Fields on Wednesday mornings Starting from 4th January 2012. For more information contact Hazel on 07796158098.

Zumba

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

Silverwings Line Dancing

Wednesday evenings 7.45 to 9.45pm

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

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

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

Dynamics:

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday Evenings 5.00 to 7.00pm.

Knitability Knitting Club

Are you a machine knitter or would you like to learn? Hand knitters are also welcome. This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month 10.00am till 12.00pm For more information please contact the secretary on 01256 772083.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and under 12s children's parties all at very reasonable rates. Call now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the Centre every week.

Tel: 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com

Update on plans for Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Plans are on track to bring together Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust and Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust as Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in early January 2012.

If all goes according to plan the new organisation will manage hospital services in Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover. It will also continue to provide outpatient clinics at Alton and Bordon community hospitals and other sites.

Its larger size will allow it to maintain specialties that need to serve at least 500,000 people to be really effective (e.g. Major stroke, heart attack and trauma cases), and look at new ways to develop and deliver services as close to home as possible.

Like all NHS Foundation Trusts it will be accountable to the communities it serves through its members and governors.

More than 17,000 local people are already members and new members will be recruited so that people across Hampshire have a real say in how the organisation is run, delivers services, and develops.

You can find out more about the new organisation and how to become a member by logging onto www.northhamshire.nhs.uk. Questions about Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust can be emailed to 2trusts@bnhft.nhs.uk.

Basingstoke Model Railway

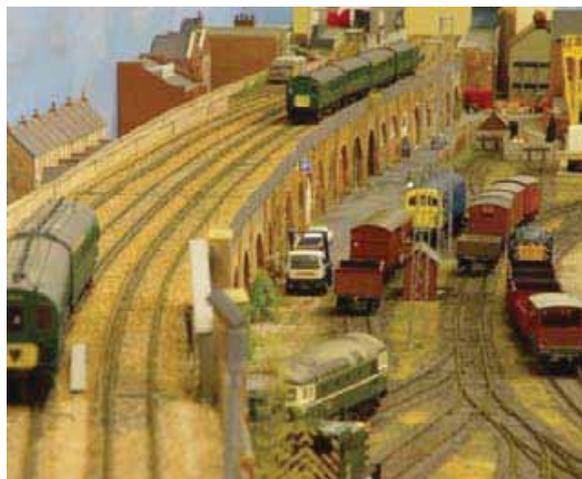
Model Railway Exhibition

10 & 11 March 2012

Aldworth Science College, Western Way

One of the largest model railway shows in southern England, celebrating its 40th year.

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

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

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

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

Contact: Ask for either Sharon or Elaine on 01256 363156

Dog Fouling

Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place. Registered blind people are not required to clean up after their guide dogs. There is also exemption for dog owners on some kinds of public land, including:

- Land used for agriculture or woodlands
- Rural common land
- Land that is predominantly marshland, moor or heath
- Highways with a speed limit of 50mph or more

Most local councils require dog owners to carry a poop scoop and disposable bag whenever they take their dogs out to a public place. Some councils offer free scoops: ask your council's Animal Warden Unit.

Look out for bins marked as dog bins to dispose of your dog bag. If you cannot find a dog bin, then double wrap the dog bag and place it in a normal litter bin.

If your street is littered with dog mess, you can ask your local council to clean it. Councils now have more power to tackle public dog mess under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Legal measures to prevent dog mess are contained in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, which repeals Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, allows local councils and communities to create byelaws relating to dog mess. Visit the Law Search page for full details.

Councils can also issue dog control orders against individual dog owners for offences including allowing a dog to foul a public space.

Councils can issue fixed penalty orders in relation to dog control orders. Where there is no local rate, the fixed penalty is £75.

In very serious cases, magistrates can issue a maximum penalty of £1,000.

PACKETS OF POO: seen in a hedgerow or on a fence near you?

One or two dog owners may be too posh to carry their doggie do-do.

Most know how to deal with poo on pathways, bagging it up to put in bins. But not all, it seems.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council advice is to bin it. Special dog bins are still placed in play parks, but ordinary bins can now be used.

Check with your vet if you want to know why contact with dog poo is not good for you.

Can we all watch out for the few who decorate the holly and the ivy with poo?

by Richenda Power

Freelance writer www.richendapower.com





Everest Health & Leisure Club

Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

Main Reception: 01256 337573

Gym Team: 01256 337576

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

Christmas will have come & gone when you read this and we hope that you all had a fantastic Yuletide Season!

The New Year sessions of courses will be starting in January 2012 and should you wish to take part in any of these, please contact us (as below).

Our recent Learning Through Play course was well attended and enjoyed by all. As it was so successful we are planning a further course in the future. This course gives you the opportunity to gain experience in the art of play with your child, and to further the learning which your child will gain through playing.

Don't forget to pop in to see us in the New Year!!

The centre is open for play every day – Monday to Friday – 8am to 6pm. And when the warm sun shines there is the garden too!

During the past month we have had some changes within the staffing at the centre. We have sadly said goodbye to Brenda Flower, who was standing in for our Administration, but we have welcomed Jackie Rendell, who will be full time, to complete the Admin Team with Hannah. We wish them both good luck in their new jobs.

Dates for your diary:

3 January – Centre re-opens

w/c 9 January – groups re-start

Tell us what you would like to do!? Are there classes you would like? Is there a special thing you would like to learn more about? **HELP US TO HELP YOU!!**

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

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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



The Beavers' Scrapbook Challenge came to an end in December with prizes handed out to the best three scrapbooks by the GSL. They also got a bit messy when making nativity models using clay, glue and crepe paper with an ice cream carton as the basis of the 'stable'. The homework was to decorate the 'stable' and bring the finished article back to see who's was the best effort. The work they put in will help them to achieve Creativity and Artist badges. Other badges achieved recently include trekking and hobbies. Five Beavers have completed the requirements for the Chief Scout's Bronze Award and two others not far from it - well done! All members work hard to achieve personal goals and it is good to see them finding time to help others to achieve theirs.

The Cub Pack enjoyed a visit to Pets at Home as part of their Animal Friends badge and a visit from our local community policeman. Arrangements have been made for members to see a performance of the Basingstoke Gang Show in February and some attended Planet Ice's Christmas Spectacular in December.

The Scout Troop was pleased to receive a letter from Afghanistan recently as part of the troop's Global Challenge link.

Meetings for all sections will recommence week beginning 9th January. New members welcome (but be prepared to wait a bit if you want to join the Beaver section as it is currently full). All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5¾-8) 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 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. The Princes' Trust return in January to run a course of personal development and challenge for 16-25 year age range.



As the New Year begins let's hope and plan for even better and greater things in 2012 - the Queen's Diamond Anniversary Year. Scouts and Guides will all wear a special badge and plan to light beacons, have grand picnics with other celebratory local, county and national celebratory events in the offing. More news in February!

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

Cornerstone Nursery News - January 2012

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way -
01256 840300



We have had a busy month in December and enjoyed taking part in some fun activities with all the children. We had our first Carol Concert for all the children and parents at the nursery, which was very successful, and all the children did a great job with the singing. All the children have been making Christmas cards and calendars to give to their loved ones. We all enjoyed a Christmas dinner at the nursery, which was very tasty. Some of our children had a visit to the Pantomime where they watched Peter Pan and had a fun time participating.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestly Road - 01256 818118

December is always an exciting time of year for Cornerstone! We held a Christmas craft afternoon and cake sale where we invited all families to come along and take part in a variety activities, including making and decorating baubles, felt gingerbread men, fluffy snowman, christingle and lots more. This year we decided to put on a carol concert, the children helped to decide which songs they wanted to sing and the costumes they wanted to wear, everyone did a fantastic job and we all thoroughly enjoyed the performances.

We would like to thank Amy and Luke our kitchen staff for the yummy Christmas dinner they made. They worked very hard ensuring we had all the trimmings for the children and staff to enjoy.

A big well done to all the staff, especially Emma Cook for the Cornerstone cakes they made and donated to Rooksdow Community Centre for their grand opening.

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

We have been making Christmas cards, and have practiced our cutting skills by cutting out toys from magazines and sticking them on stockings which we have decorated. We have sent letters to Father Christmas and some of the children have their replies already, which they thought were fabulous.

The children have been making some salt dough Christmas decorations for their trees at home.

We were also busy making a wall display, which is a giant advent calendar and the children took turns to open the boxes each morning. The children in both rooms have been learning Christmas songs and have played bells when singing. Sometimes the bells are fast and sometimes the bells had to be played slowly, the children really enjoyed this activity.

The children from all three nurseries had a fabulous time at our Christmas parties, which this year were held at Playdays Play Centre. The parties were donated by the owner of both the nurseries and Playdays as a gift for all Cornerstone families!

We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

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

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Dear Friends

A Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we're into 2012 already! I do hope that your celebrations all went well and that it brought all you had hoped for. What sort of a year might 2012 turn out to be? We have the Olympics and the European Championships to look forward to in sport. Still much turmoil and unrest in the economy which may lead to more job losses. Weddings, baptisms and funerals will come our way in the natural cycle of things. Hope is important and I wonder what your hopes for the coming year might be? It seems many people would really like to catch a glimpse of what the future holds.

Did you know that 6 out of 10 men and 7 out of 10 women read their horoscopes everyday? No popular newspaper or magazine would dare to neglect them. Combine this with the growth in clairvoyance, mediums, crystal balls, Ouija boards and tarot cards, New Age religions and cults and you see what I mean. Yet none of these channels has ever been proved right more than 5% in their predictions – or put another way they're always 95% wrong. There are two other methods I want to mention briefly:

Deduction from observation is the basic tool of scientific method. There is a technique called futurology that looks at present trends and attempts to project them into the future. Chairs have been established at many universities, especially those connected with technology and many corporate organisations and government departments have set up 'think tanks'.

Computer software programs have predicted the date for the end of the world as 2040 based on population growth, depletion of natural resources and deterioration of the climate – coincidentally it's a date which ties in with date for the extinction of Christianity in this country – so maybe there is something to it!

Nevertheless, while short-term predictions have been accurate, the long-term results are much less favourable. In fact 75% of the time they are wrong.

The third method is the Bible. Declarations about future events are a major feature of the Bible. Over a quarter of the verses in the Bible contain a prediction about the future and altogether 737 separate forecasts are made. Now I want to drop a bit of a bombshell here.

Of those 737 forecasts 594 – which represent over 80% - have already come true. Those that have not, are all concerned with the end of the world, which obviously hasn't happened yet. So the Bible has achieved what science and spiritualism cannot – that is 100% accuracy. So where should we place our trust?

Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year I'll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: "May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year's resolution to discover God's plan for your life – you won't regret it!

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing more of you.

God's blessings.
Arthur
(Vicar of St Gabriel's)



Hello,

I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope that you all had a great Christmas and enjoyed the festive time with friends and family.

2011 was a busy and challenging year for the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team. We have seen a number of the new large housing developments continue to grow across Popley and this has seen the team working hard to deal with issues which have been brought to our attention. The team has had some excellent results tackling issues including anti-social behaviour through to drug dealing.

It is all change in 2012 as sadly we have lost a valued member of the team PCSO Sarah Danks. Sarah has been part of the team for nearly 2 years but she has recently decided to leave Hampshire Constabulary, she will be missed but I am sure she will be successful with whatever the future holds for her. As a result of Sarah leaving us PCSO Phil Rapley will be covering all of Popley assisted by PCSO Richard Strauss who has been drafted over from Chineham to assist Phil until a replacement is recruited. So we will still have a strong team!

The last few months of 2011 saw a force wide operation called Operation Nemesis begin and this has been extended into 2012. The purpose of this operation has been to target offenders who commit burglaries and both myself and PC Dan Carter have been involved with patrols to catch and convict criminals across Popley and Basingstoke.

A few simple rules can be followed to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of a burglary;

Before going out:

1. Have you closed all windows?
2. Have you locked any rear and side doors?
3. Is your shed or garage secure?

Remember to lock up to keep crime down.

In other news: on the 14th of December 2011, PC Dan Carter and I, attended Marnel Infants School. We had voted on three excellent pictures from the Xmas drawing competition. We had asked the kids to design a new type of vehicle for us for the winter months.

The pictures can be viewed on the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel website <http://psnp.zapd.net/> in the Photo Gallery.

The winners received book tokens and police stickers

If you have any questions or want to get in touch please do not hesitate to call, email or tweet us @PopleySNP

Regards

The Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel

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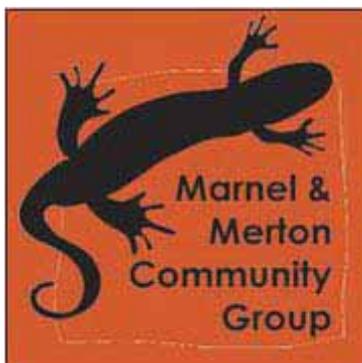
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Marnel and Merton Community Group would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone who lives on the estate a very Happy New Year, and a healthy 2012. What a year it is going to be with the Diamond Jubilee, London 2012 and more great events organised by the group for everyone on the estate!!

2012 is going to be a busy year for the group developing the Community Plan which we aim to launch in the autumn. To enable us to develop the plan we are going to carry out more detailed consultation, speaking with as many households as we can. We are developing a questionnaire which will focus in more detail on the key issues raised by the community at our Big Lunch in June. We will update you on progress in the new year.

We are also looking for more committee members to join the group - if you are interested in finding out more please email us at this address. We need people who are prepared to be involved and make a genuine commitment to participating in organising activities and events, attending meetings once a month and playing an active part in getting our community plan ready for publication. We look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Sarah

For and on behalf of Marnel and Merton Community Group

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Book early to avoid disappointment. Group discounts are available. Tickets from £15. Contact the Box Office on 01256 844244.

For more information on BAOS please visit: www.baos.org

Diaries from The Old Codger.

Firstly I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that you all stay safe and well.

Thank you for all the good wishes I had, many of you knew I was in hospital for nearly six weeks. I was told I had been very ill! Yet again with our great nursing staff, the good doctors we have and my consultant, I pulled through. Most of the time I spent unconscious, so I did not know what was going on. They all treated not only me but Her Indoors with great kindness and affection. Her Indoors went through hell and back on more than one occasion. The domestic team were very good to me as well, and worked very hard keeping the hospital neat. The nurses always had time for each person they looked after, some well above their duty to a patient. This was of great help. I could go on and on about this but I will leave it there with our gratitude to them all.

The October issue of Popley Matters I do not remember writing, so I wanted to see it. Funny what you think of, but as usual Jane and the team got me a copy and I want to thank them for that. I do know Jane was in touch with Her Indoors and gave updates to people. This must have been hard on her with what all her family has gone through in 2011. As for me I am home at the moment and I am finding it very hard but hope I can keep improving. If not it would mean Her Indoors staying at home to look after me. Boy, the thought of that would drive me up the wall! No, if the truth be known she has given up and done so much over the last six weeks, plus working as much as she could from home. It showed me how strong she is, and how good her company were to give her the support to help her so much. There are so many people to thank but I would just like to end this month with one thing, if you have a wonderful family that support each other life would be all the better for it, and this world. I have that kind of family and they gave Her Indoors so much comfort that we could never repay. I can only put this down in this way as I get so emotional when I think what they all must have been thinking at the time, so to end this month's Old Codger I send my thanks and love to you all.

The Old Codger.

I hope I can give you some better stories this year and we can have a few laughs on the way. Well *we* can, I don't know about Her Indoors.



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Phillips' Legal Corner



Christmas family hothouse?

How to part as friends if it all went wrong.

By Rob Parker, family solicitor and collaborative lawyer at Phillips Solicitors

'Holidays can take an immense toll on your family, time and emotions and sometimes the pressures on couples can be the last straw in a relationship that may already be on shaky ground' says Rob Parker, family solicitor and collaborative lawyer at Phillips. 'It's sometimes inevitable that couples must separate but there is a way of minimising the pain of family breakdown and all the hurt, bitterness and anger that goes with it. Collaborative law is one of the best ways to reach solutions together and gives you both the chance to build a brighter future, without going to court.'

The whole point about collaborative law is that it aims to keep divorce and separation cases out of court, making the route to divorce quicker, cheaper and more amicable. In the process the couple, each represented by specially trained lawyers like Rob, agree in writing to reach a settlement out of court in a series of special four-way, face-to-face meetings.

'How much more reassuring to be in control of part of the process which is, after all, going to affect the rest of your life and that of your children' says Rob Parker, 'Before thinking about fighting it out in an expensive, exhausting Court arena, talk to your solicitor about this alternative that really works. By all sitting together, we ensure that couples stay in control of their own futures, instead of leaving decisions to a judge in a courtroom. You'll be able to protect your interests, move forward and, in particular minimise the antagonism between you, for the future of yourselves and your children.' Call me to find out more on 01256 854676.

Here are the local firms who have trained collaborative lawyers to help you:

Phillips Solicitors: Rob Parker, t. 01256 854676, www.phillips-law.co.uk

Brain Chase Coles: Nick Massey-Chase, t. 01256 354481, www.brainchasecoles.co.uk

Lamb Brooks: Ann Davies, t. 01256 305507, www.lambbrooks.co.uk

Quality Solicitors Clarke & Son: Bhupendra Sankhla, t. 01256 320555, www.qualitysolicitors.com/clarkeandson

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Warm Home Discount (WHD)

You may be able to get a discount this winter on your electricity bill under The Warm Home Discount Scheme (WHD). If you qualify under the scheme, you will get an automatic £120 discount on your electricity bill for the winter of 2011/12 as well as the next three winters.

The electricity suppliers involved in this scheme are:

Atlantic, British Gas, EDF Energy, E.ON, Equipower, Equigas, Manweb, M&S Energy, npower, Sainsbury's Energy, Scottish Gas, Scottish Hydro, ScottishPower, Southern Electric, SSE, Swalec and Utility Warehouse.

If your supplier is not listed here, it's worthwhile contacting them to ask whether they will be signing up to the scheme in future, and what alternative help they can provide.

Low-income pensioners - automatically qualify

You will automatically qualify for the discount if you only get the guarantee credit of Pension Credit on the qualifying date, which is 11 September 2011.

If you automatically qualify for the discount, you will get a letter from your electricity supplier confirming this. If you're unsure whether you automatically qualify for the WHD, you can contact your supplier or get advice from an experienced Citizens Advice Bureau adviser.

Other eligible customers - need to apply

Under the WHD, electricity suppliers may also give a £120 discount to some customers who don't automatically qualify. Most suppliers have identified these customers as those who get a means tested benefit such as Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance **and** who either:

- have a child under 5 or
- get a disability benefit.

However, money for the scheme is limited and some suppliers have set a cap on the number of customers who don't automatically qualify they are prepared to offer the discount. Instead, they are offering it on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you think you may fall into the group of eligible customers who need to apply, you should contact your supplier as soon as possible. Some suppliers may have information and an application form online. Only British Gas has guaranteed that all customers who are eligible under their scheme will receive the WHD as long as they apply before the end of January 2012.

If you're unsure whether you are eligible for the WHD, you can contact your supplier or get advice from an experienced Citizens Advice Bureau adviser.

Need further information or Help?

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

The Advice Line telephone number is 0844 245 1283

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

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

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

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

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

Basingstoke Lions Variety for Charity Season 2012

For some years The Lions Club of Basingstoke has been presenting entertainment at local venues as a major fundraiser to help good causes in the immediate vicinity and beyond. A large audience has been established over time reflecting the popularity of the type of light entertainment provided and the low price charged for a good night out.

The 2012 season consists of 4 shows, 2 at Costello Technical College and 2 at Queen Mary's Hall.

- 25 February The London Philharmonic Skiffle Orchestra
A madcap evening of wacky humour and superb musical talent by four gentlemen just this side of insane
Costello Technical College. 7 for 7.30pm £10
- 26 May The Graeme Hewitt High Society Jazz Band
Recalled following the acclaimed performance last year. Trad Jazz at a premium
Costello Technical College. 7.30 For 8pm £10
- 22 Sept Abba Sensation
A return must for one of the UK's leading Abba Tribute Groups. Music and dancing at a pace. Abba Fancy Dress welcomed
Queen Mary's Hall 7.30 for 8pm £12
- 17 Nov The Band of The Hampshire Constabulary
A Concert Band with class. The 2011 concert was breathtaking in its range and quality of performance
Queen Mary's Hall 7 for 7.30pm £12

Tickets for all these shows are available from Maurice Hockley on 01256 421867
Email mauricehockley@hotmail.com or John Lincoln on 01256 325280 Email
jomolincoln@btinternet.com

Concessions will be offered to those attending 3 or more shows

NB The Variety for Charity Season is one of many ways that The Lions Club of Basingstoke raise funds for good causes. There is an annual Swimathon on 3 March, a Charity Cycle Ride in the summer and 2 Quiz Nights each year.

All these events require manpower which is in short supply. However they are fun to organise and it is a meaningful use of time. Anyone wishing to help or even better wanting to join our organisation will always be most welcome. More information about The Lions on the club website www.basingstokelions.org.uk

Maurice Hockley
(Lions PRO)
01256 421867

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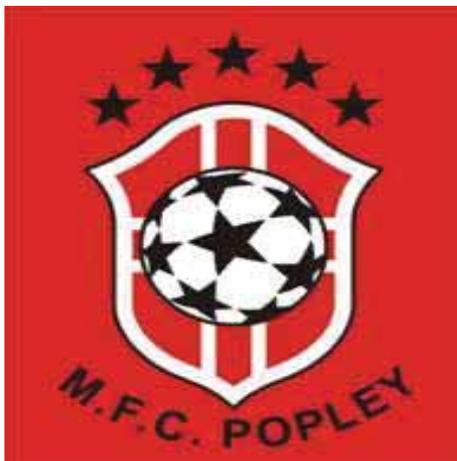
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MFC Popley Youth which, as reported in the Christmas Edition of Popley Matters, has achieved FA Charter Standard status, is to stage a major Youth Football Festival on Popley Fields on Saturday 12th May and Sunday 13th May in 2012.

Ian Davies, Chairman of the Club and also a serving member on the recently revamped Committee of Popley Fields, said: "I am delighted to announce that, following negotiations with the Committee of Popley Fields, MFC Popley Youth will hold its 2012 Tournament back, in what I see as its rightful home, here in the heart of Popley on Popley Fields. I want to thank the Committee for their support as I'm sure it will be a great event."

There will be tournaments over the two days for all age groups from U7s to U16s, a BBQ, stalls, hot and cold food, and use of the Popley Fields Community Centre. On the Saturday, a bar for live music for local bands is also planned for the evening once the football finishes.

Ian Davies added: "I want this tournament and the entertainment that accompanies it, to be for all of Popley and not just the football club. Feel free to come along, watch the football, buy some food and drink and stick around for the live music on the Saturday night. It promises to be an awesome event."

The Club is already starting to reap the benefits of FA Charter Standard status with the award of £100 worth of free Umbro sports equipment for the children, courtesy of Umbro and the FA.

Davies said: "When I joined the Club in 2010, I set myself the target of taking it to FA Charter Standard status by year end 2011. And, thanks to the hard work of all the managers, coaches and volunteers at the Club, we have hit that deadline with ease. With the support of the FA's Charter Standard infrastructure available to us, we will go from strength to strength and 2012 promises to be a great year for the Club."

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Beckie's Column

Happy New Year! (Well, it will be by the time you read this!). I hope everyone had a good Christmas!!

Before Christmas though, myself, Theara, Elli and Emma represented Everest and went to a badminton tournament against other schools in our area. We came second overall and lost by only one point! We were very nervous when we first started out as we hadn't done as well the year before, however this year we are very happy with our results! Theara was amazing; she had only played a little badminton and at the tournament was brilliant!! We are very proud of her!!

We will have done a Christmas concert with the school when you read this. It's quite nice to be a part of it this year because it is the last chance the year 11 will get to be in a school performance. We've got a rehearsal coming up; that will be chaos; we have so much to practise!!

Speaking of chaos, going into town is a nightmare; so many people rushing about buying Christmas presents. I bet it's still like this after Christmas because of the New Year sales! It's nice to have lots of Christmas spirit around.

Happy New Year!

Beckie

St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)



Charity number: 1002856

Mad Hair Day 2012!

St. Michael's Hospice is delighted to announce the return of their fun campaign Mad Hair Day which will take place on Friday 10th February to raise much needed funds for the Hospice. The local community are encouraged to wear crazy wigs and style their hair in weird and wacky ways.



Look out for the special Mad Hair Day Bus on Friday 27th January which will be touring the local area and visiting schools and companies to spread the word about the event. On board the bus, kindly donated for the day by Stagecoach, will be students from the BCOT Hairdressing Department ready to show how best to achieve the Mad Hair Day look.

For more information about supporting Mad Hair Day or holding an event, please visit our website: www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk or call Helena in the Fundraising Department on 01256 848848 email: Helena.Maskell@stmichaelsospice.org.uk for a fundraising pack.

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