

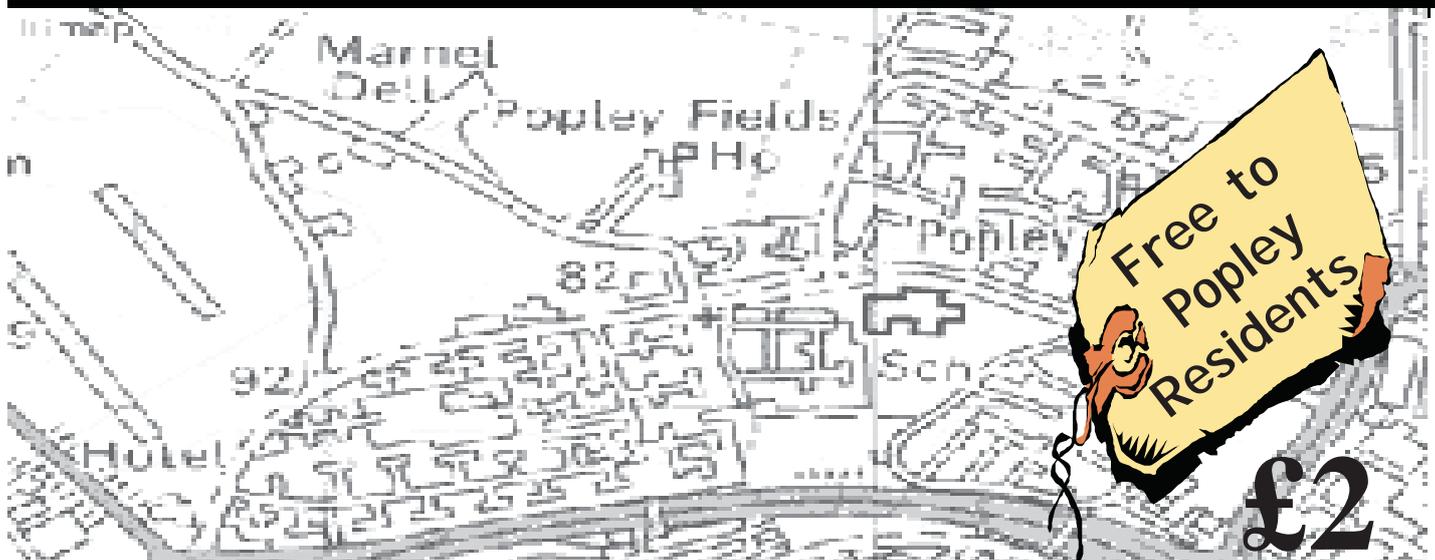
# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

March 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 121



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-03-12)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-**Spring seems so early this year and nature is showing all its beautiful colours. It is so sad when you think of how much of our countryside and fields we have lost to housing. Don't get me wrong, people need houses and I live in a house that was built on fields forty two years ago. I was thrilled to get my house, as long term readers of this magazine will know. I look out onto fields that I will lose and we have accepted that. But there is only so much a community can take. Read more on page 1. There are 242 more about to begin on the old John Hunt site, read about it on page 29. Perhaps they want to make us Popleystoke?

We were burgled, a horrible experience that made me very nervous as we were in bed asleep at the time. What did we learn from this? Lock your doors, keep your windows closed and call the police. Don't walk or try to clean up as you can be destroying the scene of the crime. There are some tips on how to protect your home and property on page 10. Lots to read about this month from the Broadband Campaign Group who are doing a fantastic job of getting much needed improvements to get a faster and better service for all in the new development, page 16-17; Disability Forum, page 12; try out Karate, page 3; Sherborne St John parish say goodbye to Marnel, page 26 and Merton and Oxford Way and so much more! Not forgetting the article with advice on telephone scamming.

Thank you so much for the two people that volunteered to deliver Popley Matters but we do need more. Amanda is delivering nearly 500 and she really could do with some help. It would take about one hour out of your month and you get to meet people while you are helping to let your neighbours know what's happening in your area.

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



Sub Editor  
Paul Frankum

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

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Thank you for the support

# **Kiln Farm Field BDB/75761 and BDB/75762**

The planning applications have been registered and can be seen on the Basingstoke and Deane web site planning application numbers BDB/75761 and BDB/75762

The overwhelming majority of residents in Popley, Sherborne St John and some residents in Chineham said NO to 450 units 70 of them flats in the fields at the back of Hewitt Road and to the side of Jersey Close.

They have applied despite knowing this and objection letters (over 125 so far) and residents overwhelmingly saying NO for many reason I have listed some below:-

- (1) Next to a SINC site and the impact on it
- (2) Agricultural fields
- (3) Wild life
- (4) Rare species i.e. slow worms, sky larks
- (5) Outside settlement boundary
- (6) Already got more than 5 years sites (why now)
- (7) Roads (already busy)
- (8) Parking
- (9) Lack of provision for social rented housing
- (10) Strategic gap
- (11) Loss of facilities enjoyed by residents
- (12) Loss of leisure facilities to groups i.e. Boys Brigade and Scouts
- (13) Jersey Guernsey road not suitable for main access
- (14) As above but unsuitable for buses
- (15) Chineham Park School returning, lose this and would suspect a further development on that site
- (16) Outside settlement boundary
- (17) Access road in Jersey Guernsey would mean the loss of trees and hedges
- (18) In 1995 the Planning Inspector established concept of non-inter-visibility between Basingstoke and SSJ

and again in 2005

- (19) LDF premature application
- (20) All about construction equipment on site save DWH money, not about community
- (21) Mess noise and disruption for years and would continue for more years
- (22) Size of a town biggest settlement already in the borough?
- (23) Massive increase in number of housing in last 15 years
- (24) Infrastructure inadequate
- (25) Promised "structure planting" failed to deliver
- (26) DWH promised buyers of properties that there would be no building on the fields thereby they had good

views

(27) Transport studies done for LDF highlighted that northern ring road will surpass its capacity without adding anymore development like BAS 104

(28) Pre determination implied by officers quote "Given the status of the site outlined above, its general planning merits, the current land supply position and the lead in times associated with the site it is considered on balance, it would be appropriate to support the principal of permitting development on this site in advance of the site being formally allocated through the core strategy process".

(29) Merton Rise not completed, should do that first

(30) Did not get back or share in writing any of the comments or figures after the public consultations despite them being requested.

(31) Not taking any heed or account of community as promised in Localism Act

Popley has taken a vast amount of regeneration and new builds we are already the size of some towns but with the approximate 800 still to be built we will be bigger than most. All this without the facilities and recognition that a town should have.

The planning application will probably go before the Development Control Committee on 5th April and there will be many people that want to speak or show their opposition. We will try to get out the information to you. You can register your objections or agreement by writing to or emailing Katherine Miles, Senior Planner, Planning Development, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 4AH Tel: 01256 845249 Email: katherine.miles@basingstoke.gov.uk

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Email: [liz@boatmancleaning.co.uk](mailto:liz@boatmancleaning.co.uk)

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# INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday 21st March



10.30am - 1.00pm

St Michael's Church Cottage

Church Square, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW

Information & advice from a variety of organisations. Find out about .....

local services, benefits, equipment, sources of support, leisure activities, insurance, legal advice, funeral plans, pendant alarms, volunteering & more.

Everyone welcome! Especially useful for local older people, their relatives & carers. Pop in for a cuppa. Browse the information stands for useful leaflets.

Ask your questions in person.

Tel: 01256 423874

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## St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire) Woofs & Wellies, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2012



**St. Michael's Hospice is delighted to announce the return of Woofs and Wellies for 2012, giving you the exclusive chance to walk around the private grounds of the Earl of Portsmouth's Estate!**

2011 saw nearly 300 walkers and 90 dogs take part in Woofs and Wellies walking through the stunning scenery of North Hampshire. Starting from Home Farm, Farleigh Wallop you have a choice of three beautiful routes comprising of a 5 mile, 8 mile or a challenging 12 miles! Whichever you decide we promise you a mixture of fantastic trails, attractive scenery and enthusiastic support from St. Michael's staff and dedicated volunteers. It is hoped that the event will raise around £8,000 towards the running costs for the Hospice.

Remember you do not have to have a dog to take part, so sign up now and spend a wonderful day in the Hampshire countryside!

For more information on how to take part in this exclusive event please visit the Hospice website [www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events](http://www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events) or call fundraising on 01256 848848.





The Prostate Cancer Users Group

# Music & Dance Concert

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012

2pm – 5pm

Queen Mary's College

5 or more local acts appearing

Tickets £6.50 in advance or £7.50 on the door

Available from Gerald Merritt 01256 412119 or 07792 535116

Alternatively from BNHFT 01256 313515

Cheques payable to Urology Nurses Fund 4293

or G.L.Merritt.

All proceeds to the Prostate Cancer Equipment Fund

At Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

# News Release

It is with deep regret that I will be standing down after ten years as your Councillor for Popley East in the May Elections.

In May 2011, I was made redundant from my job in London, and in July accepted a better position but with one slight snag: it was in Bradford. It has been challenging keeping things going in Basingstoke, with four hundred mile round trips to council and school governor meetings! I decided to see how the first six months went, and now things are moving to a more permanent basis, it is time for me to resign from the Council in Basingstoke.

In the past 10 years there have been many changes in Basingstoke, especially in Popley. Festival Place has opened, and we've seen over £100m spent in Popley, including a new secondary school, extended primary schools, over 1,000 new homes, with 1,000 more on the way, and the regeneration of Faroe/Maldive closes and Longfellow Parade.

Not all these changes have been good: we lost Chineham Park school and two pubs have closed (though most people won't miss them). We had Community Wardens which did tremendous good in Popley, only to be sacked or reassigned by the Tories. And we've had over £20m spent on upgrades to road junctions in and around Popley: but the roads are still congested and people still queue to get out of Popley in the mornings.

One thing that has changed massively for the better is that crime is much lower and the estate is much improved since 10 years ago. We have our Beat Officers and PCSOs to thank for that.

I'm glad I'm leaving Popley in a better state than when I arrived, but I do have concerns with the Government and Council cuts, cuts to tax credits and benefits, rising costs of living including fuel and food. All of this, with low or non-existent pay rises, and people losing their jobs, means that standards of living are dropping fast.

I leave Popley in the capable hands of a team of hard-working dedicated councillors and a hard-working local candidate. They'll need to make sure that we do not allow Popley suffer in the current hard times and slip back to what it was when I first joined the council, when over 30 years of neglect had taken their toll.

It remains for me to sign off for the last time. I'll still be back in Basingstoke from time to time as I still have family here, and a lot of friends.

**Andy McCormick**

**Councillor, Popley East, 2002 – 2012.**

P.S. I'll be kept busy in Bradford, having been selected as a council candidate up there.

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popleyfields@hotmail.com

# Popley Fields Community Centre Presents

## 60s and 70s Night

Saturday 24th March 2012

7.00 – 11.00pm

Come and dance the night away to your favourite tunes

Dress to impress

There will also be a raffle and tombola

As well as a licensed bar and food

Tickets cost £4 adult and £2 child

They are available in advance or on the door

For more information please contact Wendy or Janine on 01256 414494

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## Basingstoke Model Railway Annual Show

### 10 & 11 March (Sat & Sun)

held by the Basingstoke & N Hants Model Railway Society

Aldworth Science College, Western Way (off Brighton Hill roundabout), Basingstoke, RG22 6HA

Times: 10:00am–5:00pm Sat, 10:00am–4:00pm Sun

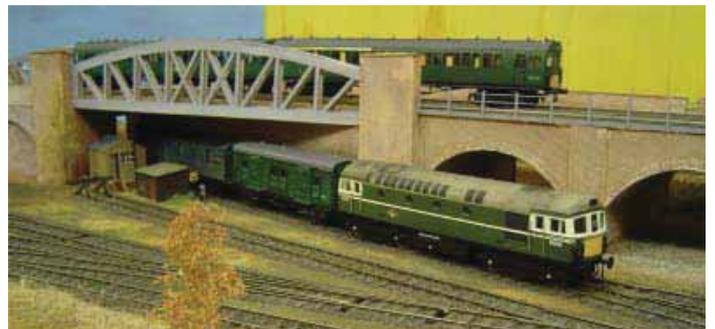
Prices: Adult £5 Concessions £4,

Family (2+3) £14

Website: [bnhmrs.hampshire.org.uk](http://bnhmrs.hampshire.org.uk)

Free car parking.

See website for bus from Basingstoke  
railway station





The winter months can provide the ideal cover for an opportunist burglar as they look for evidence of vacant and insecure properties. The lack of lights on in a house can indicate that no one is home attracting an opportunist burglar to look further for insecurities to enter the property. So ensure your home and valuables are safe and secure by following these simple steps. Shut all windows and lock them when you are not using the room, at night and when you leave your property.

Lock all front and rear doors at night and when you are out. If you have a UPVC door with a multi-point lock ensure you lift the handle and lock it with the key.

Ensure all car keys and other keys are out of sight and not in reach of windows and letter boxes. It doesn't take much for the keys to be hooked through the letter box.

If you are going out for the evening leave a light on so your home looks occupied. If you go out whilst it is daylight and won't be getting home till dark then timer switches are available to set the time for when you want lights to come on.

When you are out shopping don't leave the bought items and other valuables such as phones, sat navs and bags visible in your vehicle.

After Christmas break all wrapping and boxes down and place in your bin ensuring it is not visible and take large boxes to the refuse - don't give criminals the heads up on what nice new valuables you have in your home.

If you are going away, try to make your home look occupied by using timer switches. Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries. Get a friend or neighbour to collect your post and draw your curtains to make your home look lived in while you are away.

Register your new valuables in case of loss or theft on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

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## **News from Merton Schools**

In the last few months Merton Poppits Playgroup has had a complete revamp. The children are now enjoying their brightly decorated room. There is new flooring and new equipment and toys. Bright blue fencing will soon replace the old wooden fence

At Merton Infant School the children received awards and certificates at the end-of half-term assembly. The headteacher and staff are delighted at the much improved attendance and hope to be giving out lots of good attendance certificates at the end of term.

Last year Merton Junior School took part in the Rock Challenge. Despite it being their first attempt they came away with a couple of awards. They are already practising hard for this year's challenge with the aim of improving on last year's results.

## Help Required

I am a blind dad in Basingstoke, and I am looking for a person that can act as my guide and Personal assistant for a few hours per week.

I would prefer a male PA, and the right person must be able to drive and be willing to drive me to places and community meetings.

I would be happy to pay for the person and also per mile when using their car

Duties could include:

- \* Guiding me to community meetings in and around Basingstoke,
- \* Guiding me shopping,
- \* Guiding me at bowling.

If you can help me out and want to know more then please email me: [davechsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:davechsmith@hotmail.com).

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Opening times 8.30am – 3.00pm Monday – Friday, Government funded grants for 3 years and over for 15 hours a week.

£4.00 per hour, £2.00 per half hour for under 3s (min 2 hours per week).

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

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

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

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

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

**Contact: Ask for either Sharon or Elaine on 01256 363156**

# DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT

FREE information and advice  
available to you from many local charities  
working with people with disabilities

**disability forum**  
basingstoke and district



**Wednesday 18th April 2012**

**10am-4pm**

**Castle Square, The Malls,  
(outside Primark)**



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# Merton Infant and Junior School

Infant Headteacher: Mrs L James BA (QTS) NPQH  
Junior Headteacher: Miss H. Palmer B.Ed (Hons) NPQH



*Aiming High, Achieving Together*



*Be wise, together we succeed*

## Friends of Merton Exciting News

Back in 2008 Merton Infant School formed a PTA (Parent Teacher Association). Parents and Staff worked closely together to raise vital funds to buy much needed equipment that the school budget would not allow for. It was a very successful PTA raising thousands of pounds over the 3 years. Most recently Merton Infants PTA has been working with Merton Juniors School and we have held a joint summer fun day and a Christmas Bazaar, which also turned out to be very successful. In November 2011 Merton infants and juniors held a discussion forming one community group and working together more often.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 Merton Infants School PTA was disbanded and we formed a Friends of Merton Infants group which will enable not just parents, but grandparents and people from the community to get involved and help out with fundraising and events. Merton Junior School had already formed a Friends of Merton Junior group and all that was left for us to do was form a main board which would run over the top of both the committees. This would be called Friends of Merton. On the 9th November 2011 both Committees (Friends of Merton Infants & Friends of Merton Junior) got together and voted in our constitution and formed Friends of Merton. It was decided at this meeting that it might be a good idea if we had a chairperson that was part of the community rather than a parent or staff member. This role would mean the person would have to attend 3 meetings a year and have the final say over situation that might arise.

The way Friends of Merton will operate will be through the two committees (Friends of Merton Infants & Friends of Merton Juniors) running separately, doing their own fundraising projects internally, e.g. discos, sponsored events, Easter raffle, etc... However twice a year they will come together to run a joint summer fun day and Christmas Bazaar, making these much bigger events.

We also have a Bag2school collection twice a year which both schools do together, in which parents and the community collect up unwanted clothes, shoes, sheets, curtains, bags etc... in good and clean condition and a company comes in to collect them on a certain day. The bags are weighed and for every kilo that they weigh, in the schools get 50p. Our first one was on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 and we managed to raise £200. Our next collection is on **18<sup>th</sup> April 2012**. So if you are thinking about having a clear out we would like to ask you to donate it to the school as we would be more than happy to receive your donations. Please just bag it up and drop it off at one of the schools' reception areas. Due to lack of storage space, please could we ask that you drop them off on the collection day – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs Lee-ann Dirienzo  
Friends of Merton Secretary  
Email: [friendsofmerton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:friendsofmerton@hotmail.co.uk)

# Basingstoke Air Scout Group

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

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake 01256 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510 07790 018 171

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 07971 491 145



Several new friends joined the Colony in January and have settled in well and found new friends. They particularly enjoyed finding out about the various bones and organs in their bodies and how it all works together leading to a healthy, happy life. They finished off their work by singing the 'bone song' - great fun - even the Group Scout Leader joined in. Everyone enjoyed the District Beaver Scouts' New Year Party and had a lovely time. For those who could not make it the Colony played the dragon game one evening just so they could see what they had missed - more fun and merriment!

The Cub Pack was delighted to win the District Mastermind competition early in February and will now go on to represent the District in the County Competition later in the year. The Pack also spent a very interesting evening celebrating Chinese New Year - the Year of the Dragon. Another interesting evening was finding out about the Sistine Chapel as part of the Global Challenge badge. They are now intent on honing their skills for the Annual District 6-a-side football competition.

The Group has been excited to hear that it is to receive a grant from Cllr Jane Frankum's devolved community budget scheme in order to buy a flight simulator. It is good to know that even in these days of extreme economies the Council is still willing to help young people extend personal development and interests. Thank you.

The Group is pleased to welcome new members and all sections are 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](mailto:bookings@base2000.co.uk) or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends.

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# Popley Residents – Are you fed up with the speed of your internet connection? We are!



We (a group of local residents) are campaigning to get fibre optic broadband installed in Popley, including newly built estates such as Orchard Grove/Marnel Park.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!**

## **WHY DO I NEED FIBRE OPTIC?**

The year is 2012 and the Digital Age is upon us. We live in a world that revolves around the internet. Websites such as Google, YouTube, Wikipedia and Facebook all play a role in our day to day lives. Catch-up TV like BBC i-Player, Movie streaming, online gaming and voice/video calling on Skype, are becoming more and more popular; the list goes on... Households will become more reliant upon the internet in years to come. In fact it's so important that the Government want 90% of homes across the UK to have access to Fibre Optic Broadband by 2015.

Even if you don't use the internet often or at all and find the speed to be acceptable, an important consideration to highlight would be to think to the future. This might just have a direct impact on things such as house prices and area desirability. Do you really want to be that small minority (10%) of people living in the UK without Fibre Optic Broadband and not future proof your home?

**WHAT IS FIBRE OPTIC?** Fibre Optic cabling is made from thin strands of glass and transmits data at much higher speeds than conventional telephone cabling. This means everything works and responds faster.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**

- 1. Faster speed, even when the whole house is online** - Fibre optic broadband is up-to 10x times faster than our existing connections. This means the whole house can go online at the same time, with no drop in speed.
- 2. Competitive pricing** - Pricing for Fibre Optic Broadband is very reasonable and won't cost you the earth. Various packages are available meaning wider choice and value for money.
- 3. No interruptions when streaming films and TV shows** - Say goodbye to buffering. With fibre optic broadband you can stream films, videos and TV shows from the internet with fewer interruptions.
- 4. Play your favourite games online without lag and download music in a flash** - No more slowdown during online play. Music tracks will download in seconds.

Hampshire County Council have just secured £5m worth of funding from the government and will only take notice if we come together as a community and register our interest. Popley only has a small amount of interested households so far, so we need to bring this number up to raise awareness and have a stronger business case.

### **TAKE ACTION NOW - 2 QUICK STEPS!**

1. Please sign an online petition created by myself here:

**[www.ipetitions.com/petition/popleybroadband](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/popleybroadband)**

2. Please take 2 minutes to register your interest at the Hampshire County Council website by completing their simple online form:

**[www.hants.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.hants.gov.uk/broadband)**

**Or call: 01329 225398**

There is also a Facebook group, search for:

**Basingstoke Broadband Campaign** - become a member of this group for updates and discussion on broadband in Basingstoke.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and let's hope we can all benefit from faster broadband in the near future.

Stephen Buckley @ Appleton Drive, Popley (e-mail: [buckers81@gmail.com](mailto:buckers81@gmail.com))

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Dear Friends

It's coming to the end of February already and in church this morning we heard once again the fantastic story of something the Church calls 'The Transfiguration'. It's the amazing story of Jesus going up a mountainside with his three closest friends. Whilst there his appearance becomes transformed as God's holiness shines in him and through him. His companions are absolutely stunned and then to cap it all he is seen to be in conversation with Moses and Elijah, two of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament who had appeared alongside him. As this incredible event draws to its close God's voice is heard to say, "This is my son whom I love, listen to him." One of the points we can take from this story is God's power to transform any and everyone of us.

In the few short weeks of Lent, marked by Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) and Ash Wednesday we have time to prepare for another great event, Palm Sunday. This is the day that marks the beginning of the holiest of weeks in the calendar of the Christian church. Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the last week of his earthly life. As Jesus and his followers approach Jerusalem crowds rush out to lay down a carpet of palm fronds (hence Palm Sunday) and cloaks as they welcome him with cries of "hosanna to the Son of David" Sadly those cries all too quickly turn to shouts of "Crucify Him".

Lent is the time of preparation for these events. It is a time, not to give up chocolate, alcohol or cigarettes, but rather to deeply examine our hearts and lives and surrender to God those attitudes – things we think, say or do – that cause hurt to others. It is a difficult but worthwhile journey to make and has the power to change the direction of our lives. It is not one we make alone! Jesus promised his followers that he would be with them wherever they go and there is nowhere that Jesus has not been. So no matter what situation you may think you are in, Jesus promises that it can be changed and that he will be with you on that journey. I hope that this Lent, rather than giving up smoking or chocolate or alcohol, perhaps you might take some time out to think about your life; your past, present and future and invite Jesus to shine his light into those places in your heart where you would rather not go and that you would allow him to forgive, to heal and to restore you.

St Gabriel's is now running something called 'Christianity Explored' a series of short DVD presentations that take us through the whole of St Mark's Gospel over seven weeks and includes some exploration and opportunity to ask any and all of those questions you've always wanted, but never dared, ask about being a Christian. It's free and we provide coffee and cake so please feel free to join in on a Thursday evening.

I pray that Lent and Easter will be a time of real blessing for you and your families. Please do come along to any (or all) of our Easter Services, you'll be most warmly welcomed.

**Your friend and vicar**  
**Revd. Arthur**  
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# **BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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

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

For details ring 01256-363156.

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

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

Refreshments available. Ring 01256 363156 to book a table.

Prize bingo is on the 30th March, Doors open 6pm eyes down 7pm

At Popley Fields Community Hall on Carpenters Down. Everyone welcome, great prizes for bingo and raffle. Refreshments available. We look forward to a great evening once again. The bingo is run by the 3 community halls in Popley

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## **Beckies Column**

Heyya! How's the New Year going so far? The snow we had in February was a bit of a letdown wasn't it? I had hoped that it was at least a couple of inches deep! Although, the first lot was forgotten quite quickly, we woke up to find our road full up with emergency vehicles and an ambulance parked on our drive! The gas explosion had happened only a couple of rows behind us. We're just relieved that only one person was hurt and we wish them well.

Have you heard about the new houses David Wilson Homes want to put up the other side of Everest Academy? I think we've had enough new houses for now. We have lost a lot of the nice fields and it's added a lot more traffic to the area, which has made it a lot more dangerous when we're walking to school. We've already had a couple of car incidents where children have been hit and there are still hundreds of houses left to be built in front of the school. We don't need any more; we've already had our fair share. More houses, means more schools, shops, businesses, even more pollution. What happened to the small town Basingstoke used to be?

If you're against it too you can write to the planning department in Basingstoke and Dean Borough council.

Well, that's enough for now. See ya later!

**Beckie**

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# 'Meet the Newts' at Popley Pond.

Popley ponds, near Basingstoke is a popular breeding ground for the protected Great Crested Newts. Owned by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, and managed by Popley Conservation Volunteers, the ponds form a valuable network for the newts.

Great Crested Newts are our largest and most protected newt in the UK. They can grow up to 15cm, and are quite dark in colour, with a bright orange belly with black spots. In the spring, the males develop a jagged crest along their back, with another crest and white flash on their tail. Great Crested Newts spend much of their lives on land, but come into ponds to breed in the spring. They have favourite breeding ponds that they enter from February to April, where they will spend anything from a few days to several months. Come July, most newts will have started to move out of the ponds, and make their way to favoured overwintering sites in the form of crevices under log piles, old bricks, rocks, natural debris etc. They can be quite active at night in warmer temperatures, as they come out to forage in rough grassland, and scrubland. It is while they are making their journey to and from the pond, that they are often seen in people's gardens.

Great Crested Newts, although widely distributed throughout Britain, are suffering from large declines. These declines are mainly due to habitat loss, fragmentation of existing ponds, and disturbance. They are protected by both British and European Law, making it an offence to intentionally or deliberately disturb, destroy, capture, or damage Great Crested Newts, or their habitat. It is therefore really important that we know how to help these creatures, and protect the ponds and surrounding area that they live in.

Have you seen a newt in your neighbourhood?

Come along to Popley Ponds and find out more about the newts in the area. See some up close, and find out why you might find them in your garden, and what to do to help them. Suitable for all the family.

Friday 30th March, 6.30- 8.30pm

Discover the world of newts. An opportunity to use torches to see the newts swimming in the pond. Learn about their life cycles, and what to do if you find one. We will be setting bottle traps to see what we catch over night. Bat detectors will also be available so we can listen out for the different bats flying around the pond.



Saturday 31st March, 8-10am.  
Come and meet these amazing creatures up close as we see what we caught over night in the pond. Local experts on hand to answer your questions.

For both days, find us at the main pond, north of Tobago Close, Popley.

For more information about the event, please contact Sarah Lynes on 01256 381103 or [sarahl@hwt.org.uk](mailto:sarahl@hwt.org.uk)

## DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

The sad news that we may get even more homes built on and around our estates in Popley gets me mad,

Yes, I agree we need homes for our youngsters that are without a house, but why do we have such a concentration in one area. I could probably say why as many others do I could but it would be too political. We all know why and it is not in our backyard.

Lets get away from this now. I watch a TV program that has been running on Sundays called Call the Midwife. On the first show they showed a jet passing over. One of them said what it was, but back in the 50s these jets were not flying so are they in the 50s or 60s? As for the streets of London in the East End if this is set in the early 50s where are the trolley buses that ran all around there place in the 50s? You could say it is a TV program that is just fiction and that may be so but then they should try to make the program more realistic. Having said all that Her Indoors and I are hooked!

I was out the other week going to my grandson's birthday. It is only one road up from us so I ventured out for the first time in over five months on my scooter. The pathways are so bad because of the tree roots that I hit a bump in the path. That jolted me across the path onto another bump that sent me spreadeagled in the grass. It is a lovely tree so should not be cut down but why not over fill the path and create a new one? It is only a few yards long and would help not only people like me but mums with small children going to play. Luckily I had a thick coat, gloves and hat on so I wasn't hurt, just shaken. I was sent some photos of my uncle the other day. He was in Singapore and Malaysia and after that a troop ship going to Japan when they heard the war had ended. How they suffered in the jungles of these countries during the war years. One photo showed him with his friends sitting down with two Japanese prisoners of the war having a smoke together. It shows to me no matter what went on, after the fighting they could sit down and talk to each other about family life at home. So much destruction and death caused by people that did not know why they were at war with each other. Yet lessons still have not been learnt. My uncle never talked about the time he was in the RAF but I always admired him as with many men that came home they lived the war for the rest of their lives in their minds and bodies.

Her Indoors has now taken a part time job near home so she can help me more but at great cost to our budget. We will come to terms with this as many others have done and I know we will fight on in our own way. We should all help each other but do take care, some only offer "help" for their own ends. Over the years I have often put my trust in people only to be let down when I needed them, but its my own fault for being too gullible. It doesn't stop me from caring and wanting the best for all and me being me will continue to do so. *Take care the Old Codger*



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## Phillips Legal Corner



### What help is there for first time buyers in 2012?

'Buying your first home is a very exciting step to take but it has become much more difficult to scrape together the deposit' says Alex Preshaw, director at Phillips Solicitors 'Many young buyers get help from the 'bank of Mum and Dad' to raise the hefty deposit required to buy their first house. If this is not possible then you could consider one of the new schemes, such as FirstBuy. Under this new scheme, you will need only 5% deposit, the government and selected house builders will offer you a 20% equity loan which will then enable you to take out a 75% mortgage on the rest of the property. You repay the loans when you sell the property, with the government's share available for reinvestment in more affordable housing. You can find more information about what's available locally by going to [www.homesinhants.co.uk](http://www.homesinhants.co.uk).

Here's my advice to you:

- Be clear about how much you can afford and just borrow a manageable amount and get a mortgage offer in principle before you start hunting, it'll give you an advantage over other buyers.
- Government schemes can be complex transactions, so choose a solicitor early then we can act for you immediately you find somewhere – we offer fixed fees so there won't be any nasty surprises.
- Look round some of the local new build developments, you'll find there are some attractive deals and innovative ways of financing the purchase.
- View your house/flat more than once – in daylight and dark, at busy and quiet times.
- Tell us about any problems you may foresee and don't be afraid to contact us - we're on your side and we'll handle the conveyancing process, right up to completion when you can move in!

'Finally', says Alex, 'if you intend to buy with a friend or partner you will need to consider how you can protect your share. Two or more people can own a property in a number of ways: 'joint tenants' and 'tenants in common' are two of them but by far the best safeguard for taking into account any inequality of contributions (from the bank of Mum and Dad perhaps) is to enter into a Declaration of Trust. This shows evidence of the shares that each have each contributed towards the purchase. This is a legal document which may be relied upon should a friendship/relationship unfortunately break down.'

Call Alex Preshaw on 01256 854635 and visit our website at [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

# Sherborne St John Parish Council

1. SS2.2 North of Popley - also known as Land North of Marnel Park, Basingstoke, as well as BAS104, Marnel Park Phase II and Kiln Farm Fields, is now a formal planning application under no.s BDB/75761 and BDB/75762.

The Parish Council is deeply concerned about this proposed development - which is yet one more threat to SSJ as a thriving independent community:

• Firstly the Inspector at the 1995 Public Enquiry into the (then proposed) BDBC Local Plan laid great importance on

- Maintaining the gap between SSJ and Basingstoke Town (avoiding 'inter-visibility')
- Avoiding breaching the ridge-line

• Allowing the area time to recover after the Merton Rise/ Marnell Park development was completed. You will note from last week's Villager that Marnel Park has just been completed – Merton Rise can only be 30 to 40% complete

- Secondly the site is green fields

• Thirdly the site is part of a proposal for inclusion in the 2013 Local Development Framework (Local Plan) which is currently out to Public Consultation. This is where BDBC seeks our comments – which we assume they will give due consideration. Since BDBC is now allowing the planning application to proceed it seems that they intend to take not one bit of notice of what we say. In other words BDBC is asking you what you want on the one hand whilst indicating that it has already decided what it will do anyway: not much of a democratic process and no recognition of local wishes!

SSJPC have written (twice – once by registered mail) to BDBC Chief Executive – but, as yet, we have not received a reply.

In the meantime, the Parish Council urges you to write to BDBC Planning Department to voice your concerns about the development and the timing of the development. There is a lot of passionate opposition to this application – both in SSJ and Popley. You should have received a flyer on this subject – which is reproduced in the Villager – it is never too late to write!

2. Mandy Haworth – New Parish Clerk. Mandy has now taken over from Clover and is in full control, her contact details:

Email: [ssjclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ssjclerk@gmail.com)

Phone: 07714 770 940

Address: 8 Spring Close, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 9JF

Don't forget our website - [www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk) - which Mandy is busy updating and which will be re-launched as soon as possible.

3. Parish Council Elections – Thursday 3rd May 2012. A new Parish Council is elected every 4 years – the last was in May 2008. This year's election will be for 5 Councillors to represent SSJ Village only. (You will recall that Merton Rise, Speckled Wood Road and Marnell Park will leave SSJ Parish on 1st April.). Local government, democratic representation and community aspirations seem to be under particular threat from any number of directions at the moment. Communities don't just happen, they need care and attention, vision, team spirit. I'm sure you will agree that Sherborne St John is a community worth fighting for – so, you really must ask yourself whether it is time you put your own name up for election. The process is quite simple – if you need some advice or background information, do get in touch with me at [julcrawley@gmail.com](mailto:julcrawley@gmail.com).

Cllr Chris Cooke (Vice Chairman and Treasurer) has announced his intention not to stand for re-election. He has done a great job for the Parish Council over the last 8 years – for which we all thank him. For myself, I believe that 12 years as Chairman is long enough – and that the Village deserves a new Chairman. So the Parish Council will definitely be appointing a new Chairman in May. I hope that I will be able to help and support the new Chairman as and when required.

Your Village Needs You!

4. Merton Rise, Speckled Wood Road, Marnell Park. This will probably be my last regular contribution to Popley Matters – so good luck for the future; I would say 'bon voyage' but you're not going anywhere! We hope to see Merton Rise / Marnel Park Parish Council(s) in the future... ..

**Julian Crawley**  
**Chairman**

## **Know your rights about secondhand cars**

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is warning people about problems they might face when buying a secondhand car. The most common problem is that the car turns out to be faulty. Other common problems include the seller giving wrong information about the car or not telling people about problems the car's got. People also often find that they're not happy with the service they receive when buying a secondhand car.

The OFT has the following tips to help you when buying a secondhand car from a dealer:

- before you buy, ask the dealer the right questions such as what mechanical, history or mileage checks have they done?
- any car that you buy from a dealer should be:
  - of satisfactory quality
  - fit for purpose
  - and as described

if it isn't, then it's faulty.

If you discover that the car is faulty, go back to the dealer as soon as possible. If they're not able to help you, contact Consumer Direct on 0845 040506

Warranties are an additional benefit and do not replace your rights

Cheaper cars might be available from auctions or private sellers but you have fewer rights than if you buy from a dealer.

### **Need Further Help or Info?**

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

The Advice Line telephone number is 0844 245 1283.

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

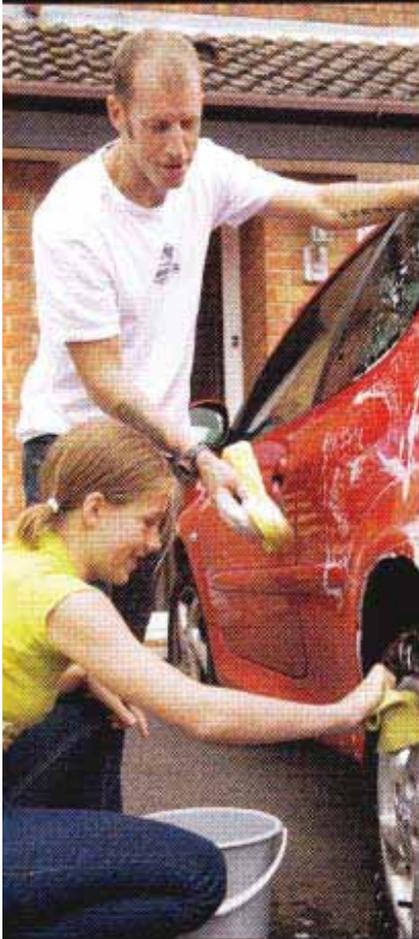
CAB Outreach Popley – one Tuesday morning per month 10am-1pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley

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

CAB Outreach South Ham – one Thursday afternoon per month at Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road.

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

# Foster Carers needed in this area



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## Fostercare

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[www.hants.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.hants.gov.uk/fostering)



**Hampshire**  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

# Sentinel

## Popley Pub Site Gets Go Ahead

Sentinel are pleased to announce that planning permission was granted last December for the final stage of the Popley Islands development, meaning we'll be able to provide a further 40 new homes in the area.

The site has been fenced off and full demolition of the pub is scheduled for 27 February. We'll keep any disruption to a minimum and although part of the car park near the shops will be needed as work progresses, we've managed to keep over 40 car parking spaces available. Work vehicles will not be using any of these customer spaces, instead we've set up site parking at the back of the shops.

We've used a special kind of mesh security fencing so if you fancy keeping an eye on how work is progressing you'll get a clear view of the site from the car park. Pedestrians will also still have direct access to the shops from both Cayman and Lundy Close.

Once complete this regeneration project will provide 242 new homes, a kick about area, a well equipped children's play area and an improved road layout giving better access to the estate.

You can find out more including details about home ownership options on our website [www.sentinelha.org.uk](http://www.sentinelha.org.uk)



MFC POPLEY Youth are looking to recruit new managers and coaches.

There is currently one - and possibly two - managerial vacancies and the Club for next season are looking to recruit coaches who hold at least the Level 1 FA coaching badge and have an enhanced CRB clearance via Hampshire FA.

Preference will be for candidates with a modern approach, who are proactive communicators with good networking skills and a keen sensitivity to the needs of being a modern youth football coach at an FA Charter Standard Club.

It's a lot of hard work if the job is done correctly - which it must be - hosting and delivering training sessions, liaising with the league to get players registered, liaising with other clubs to stage fixtures and doing all the paperwork and collecting fees while trying to keep all the players (and their parents) as happy as is humanly possible. Moreover, it's unpaid voluntary work.

Anyone not put off by all of that should email Ian Davies, Chairman of the Club at: [ian\\_davies\\_@live.co.uk](mailto:ian_davies_@live.co.uk) asap.

Meanwhile, while the recent cold snap had put paid to a few fixtures, preparations are still well underway for the Club's Annual Tournament which this year returns to Popley Fields.

Entries are good - with more coming in all the time - and it promises to be a great event.

## Trading Standards Warning Over New Phone call Scam

Hampshire County Council Trading Standards officers are warning people to be on their guard against a new UK cash voucher scam targeting residents across the county.

Fraudulent telemarketer are making unsolicited phone calls to consumers promising them ready cash in a lottery, sweepstake or even an insurance refund. Seventeen incidents have been reported in the last four months from all over Hampshire. The main locations targeted are listed below:

Winchester/Eastleigh 6

Alton/Denmead/Upham 4

The New Forest 2

The fraudsters often pretend to be bank officials, working for a government body, or lottery representatives, and try to convince consumers that their prize is genuine. To 'release' their winnings however, victims are told they must pay an up front fee using a UK cash voucher to allow the transaction to take place. Using their postcode they are then informed of where they can locally purchase a voucher, and after supplying the voucher's serial number to the cold caller, the victims are promised personal delivery of a cheque. Unfortunately once the scammer has the serial number, they are never heard from again.

This warning follows an incident in New Milton in which an elderly lady was swindled out of money after receiving a call from someone claiming to be from the Ministry of Justice. She was told that if she bought a Uk cash voucher for £150, a representative would come to exchange the voucher for her insurance refund. The fraudulent caller phoned back and she innocently provided the serial number of the voucher but he did not come to the house with a refund and she did not hear from him thereafter.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Ken Thornber, said:

“This is a new scam which often targets vulnerable residents. In some cases elderly victims have been cheated out of hundreds of pounds as these cold callers can be so convincing with their stories.

“It is important that everyone is sceptical about any unsolicited offers, refunds or prizes, if it seems too good to be true, then it probably is. A genuine government body or lottery operator would never ask someone to pay taxes, insurance or any other fee before receiving their 'winnings'”.

The advice from Trading Standards is never to send voucher codes to anyone asking for an up front fee. If you do receive a call about an offer that sounds too-good-to-be-true, contact Trading Standards via Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or visit the Consumer Direct website [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)



Hampshire  
County Council

# BRAND NEW 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS TO PURCHASE IN BASINGSTOKE

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quoting 'Aspire Place'

Take a virtual tour of the show  
apartments: [www.aspireplace.co.uk/tour](http://www.aspireplace.co.uk/tour)

1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE

\*Figure based on applicants purchasing a 40% share in a 2 bedroom apartment and securing a mortgage with 5.99% interest rate that requires a 5% deposit, and paying a subsidised rent on the remaining 60% share. Eligibility conditions apply. Applicants will be means tested to determine affordability and share to purchase. Prices shown are correct at time of sending but subject to change.



4 SHOW APARTMENTS TO SEE



**Sentinel**  
Homescope

Making home ownership a reality

# Mrs Blunden

During the summer holidays one year my mum took my sister and me to the Holy Ghost ruins, for a picnic. Whilst we were there she told us the story of Mrs Blunden who in 1674 was unfortunately buried alive.....

Mrs Blunden was the wife of a successful local malt merchant, who was often away on business. They lived in Wote Street in Basingstoke. Mrs Blunden was described as a gross fat woman who apparently liked a drink, often consuming large amounts of her favourite tippie, brandy.

Feeling unwell in the hot summer heat, she ordered some Poppy-Water, an opium based sedative from the local chemist. As the day went on she consumed more and more of the Poppy-Water, until she fell into a deep sleep. So deep that her servants felt certain she was dead. A doctor was called and could find no sign of a pulse. A mirror was held up to her nose and mouth, and found no signs of breathing. The doctor confirmed after seeing the empty bottle of Poppy-Water, that she was indeed dead. Poor Mrs Blunden was laid out carefully on a table and a messenger hurried to inform her husband of the unfortunate death of his wife.

As it was a very hot summer, the family decided it would be best to bury her straight away. So the very next day she was put into her coffin and carried off to the chapel of the Holy Ghost. In the chapel the coffin was placed on two stools and her funeral service began. During the service one of the coffin bearers told a workmate that he thought he saw the coffin move, but was soon convinced that it was either a weakness in the stools or a member of the congregation knocked into it by accident. The incident forgotten, Mrs Blunden was buried in the cemetery.

A day or so later some local boys were playing in the cemetery and thought they heard ghostly noises, coming from the area of the recently buried Mrs Blunden. Shaken, they rushed off to raise the alarm, but everyone thought it was a school boy prank, including the headmaster of their school who promptly punished them for spreading upsetting stories to the locals. Wanting to prove they were telling the truth, the boys went back to the cemetery and heard the noises again. This time they were believed, and the coffin was eventually exhumed. Unfortunately it was too late for the unfortunate Mrs Blunden. Several people were blamed for her death, but without enough evidence they escaped the death penalty, though Basingstoke was given a considerable fine for neglect.

**Viv Washbourne**



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**Cornerstone Priestley road (Nr Hospital, RG24 9PU) - 01256 818118**

**Cornerstone Miss Muffets (Abbey Road, RG24 9DX) - 01256 840300**

**Cornerstone Sunrise (Western Way, RG22 6HA) - 01256 356166**



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