

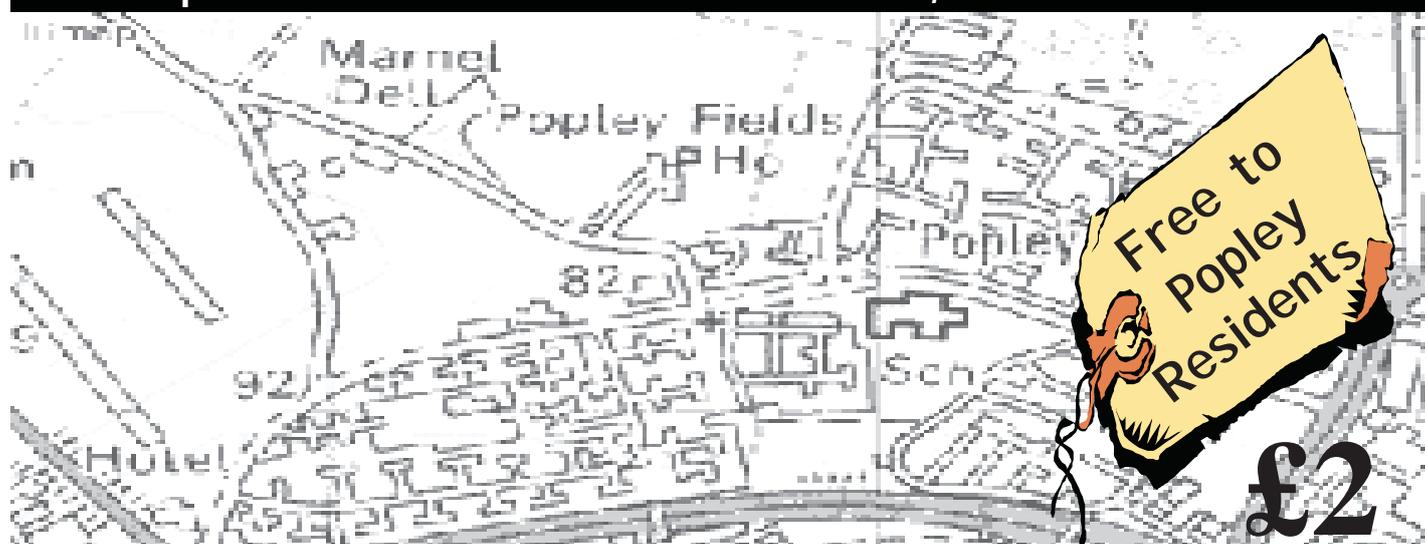
# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 122



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-04-12)



**Editor  
Jane Frankum**

**Message from the Editor:-**Next month's issue will be the 20 years of Popley Matters, any ideas as to how we can celebrate this huge milestone? Unfortunately it would not have to include any cost as we are non-profit and all monies are spent on getting the magazine published. Do you remember the first issue or have any memories you would like to share with the readers? I remember Bill Ind the vicar of St Gabriel's and am very sad to hear he is unwell. All who remember Bill, who is now a Bishop, and want to sign a card can do so in the foyer of the church.

There seems to be a big shortage of volunteers in group and charity organisations just when they are most needed. NeighbourCare needs a lot more volunteers and there is an appeal on page 34. The Home Library Service is also asking for volunteers on page 24. If you do have any spare time or want to help, the Basingstoke Voluntary Service based at Orchard House, phone number 472816 and they will always give advice.

The Over 55s Forum go out on monthly coach trips and the details to join and where the meetings are held is on page 6.

The police report is on page 18-19.

The Kiln Farm Fields planning application will possibly be going to committee on 18th April. If you want to be informed there will be announcements on The Popley Matters website [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) or on Facebook:- Norman the Newt or Marnel and Merton Community group.

Sherborne St John have submitted their last regular page article as Marnel, Merton, Oxford Way and Speckled Wood will no longer be part of their parish. The questionnaire sent out by Basingstoke and Deane Electoral Services at the request of the parish came back with an enormous amount of people wanting to de-parish. All these areas have been, and will continue be, in the Popley West ward and will continue to cast their votes at Melrose Hall in Abbey Road. We continue to fight against the application to build at this time on Kiln Farm Fields. Though technically in the ward of Sherborne St John the impact of an additional 380 houses and 70 flats has the biggest impact on Popley. I owe an apology, last month I said in this column that 242 dwellings would be built on the old John Hunt site and as the article on page 29 said it is the regeneration on the Islands. As ever we need more people to deliver Popley Matters and if you can spare an hour a month to help it would be greatly appreciated.

If you want to write an article, advertise, or be a volunteer for Popley Matters, contact Jane Frankum on 819924 or Iris King 411113, via email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk), or write to Popley Matters Group, 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

# **POPLEY**

# **FESTIVAL**

**SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**

**11.00AM-16.00PM**

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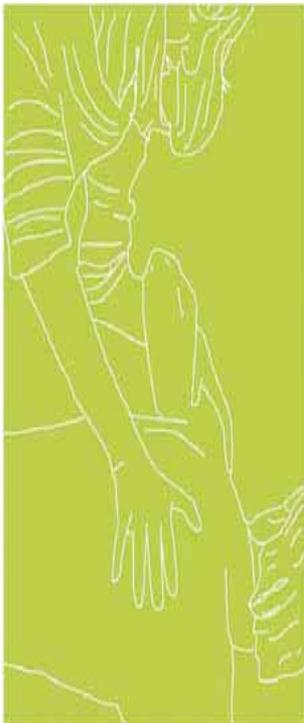
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# INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday 21st March



10.30am - 1.00pm

St Michael's Church Cottage

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

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# Over 55s Forum

Our April Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. 10.00am to 1pm

Our Guest Speakers will be representatives from Totally Tennis and TV Licensing and the main Guest Speaker will be Countess Carnarvon from Highclere Castle.

The closing date for renewal of membership is 31st December each year and we had 578 members, but we always give members until the end of February the following year to pay. At the end of February our membership stood at 506, with 141 not renewed to date, but when they read or hear from friends that they have been taken off the database, they will soon pay up.

In the last couple of weeks we have had 18 new members join.

Our coach trips each month are very well supported with some trips having 2 coaches laid on. The next trips will be: is in April to London with a tour of the Royal Albert Hall: May to Cardiff with a ride on the Waterbus; June to the Black Country Museum; July to the Big Pit; and many more.

Thanks

**Gerald (Secretary)**

## **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.



## **Knitability Knitting Club**

The Knitability Knitting Club (which is held in the Popley Fields Community Centre on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10am to 12 noon, except August) has been busy again. Before Christmas we held a hot water bottle cover competition, and Laura Cruickshank from Tasmania Close was our winner.

Recently we were invited to Marnel Lodge to talk to the residents there about what we do at the club, and to show some of our work. We all wore an item of clothing that we had made, and passed round some of our handiwork, both machine and hand knitted. It was a very enjoyable morning, and much appreciated by the residents. We also had a guided tour around the very nice home by Ann Hadley. It is certainly a place I would like to be should the need ever arise in the future.

We have also recently lost one of our much loved members, from Lychpit, Joan Naylor, who despite very poor eyesight knitted many articles which benefitted children in other countries. We were very surprised to hear at the funeral that Joan worked at Bletchley Park during the war, decoding the German messages, and some of us were privileged enough to see her medal and certificate. This was a side of her that we never knew about.

Our club is very friendly and open to knitter, machine or hand knitter. We sometimes have a speaker, but we do learn and get ideas from each other. For further details, phone the secretary on 01256 772083. **Ann Moore**

---

## **‘Taste of Brazil’ evening**

Rotary Basingstoke Loddon are holding a fun filled ‘Taste of Brazil’ evening in aid of the Missao Resgate Art Project for underprivileged children in Brazil. It will be held on 21st April from 7pm at Carnival Hall, Basingstoke. Authentic Brazilian 3 course buffet with Brazilian music and dance demonstration plus auction of childrens’ paintings - only £17.50 per person – for more information email Margaret at [Margaret.macklin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Margaret.macklin@tiscali.co.uk) or call 07834 068580.

---

## **Walk for Pancreatic Cancer UK**

Thank you to all who came and walked in the rain and the snow on 4th March, and to all the helpers who stood and froze, (or sat in their cars and froze) on the route through the village. How we chose the worst day, so far, this winter I don’t know, but we did. Thank you also to those who didn’t walk but who gave us donations. I have over £350 to send to Pancreatic Cancer UK, and sponsorship money still to come in. I will let you know how much we raised when I have the final figure from the charity.

Future activity. Coffee Morning Saturday 12th May Beddington Centre., Old Basing. **Liz Gray**

# **BASINGSTOKE AIKIDO CLUB**

Although founded in Basingstoke in 1968, the club only moved to the Oakridge West Community Centre some 4 years ago. Until recently, we mainly kept our practice sessions to those participants who came with the club, but having purchased new mats we are now actively recruiting new members.

Traditional Aikido is a relatively new Japanese martial art developed from the Ju Jitsu schools along with the various self defence, bayonet and short weapon techniques in the early 1900s by the founder Morihei Ueshiba. Derek Eastman (whose Black Belt 1<sup>st</sup> Dan was signed by the founder in 1963 and 6<sup>th</sup> Dan presented by his grandson Moriteru Ueshiba) is still active in the club now run by Mark Eastman (graded 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan Aikido by H Ellis) and Brad Beeden (graded 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Aikido by H Ellis and 1st Dan Black Belt Shotokan K Oneada). All grades by these Senseis are recognised by their respective head Dojos in Japan.

Being a small world it was interesting to discover that Brad's father, who also lived in Oakridge, wrestled as Buffalo Bill, whilst another visitor to our club, Ted Stratton, went under the name Kendo Nagasaki. This only came to light when we represented Basingstoke on one of the twinning visits to France where perhaps we partied too much and various people joined in the merriment, one of whom, who is now a professional magician, wrestled as Catweasel. This brought back memories of the all-in wrestling community, who back then usually trained in the many Judo clubs, which having matted areas also housed the Aikido and Ju Jitsu community. Many of the members would have come from the Forces having been demobbed and found work as doorman in the drinking and dancing establishments.

With little money these were tough but fun times; you could always get into the clubs and halls as this was a fairly small community and everyone would help each other. There were many characters and one, Norbut (Big Ron), when walking down from the Kensho Abbe Judo Club in Sandwich Street, on passing tailors dummy gave it such a blow its head rolled down the street. On being asked why on earth he had done that the reply was: "Well he would not stop looking at me."

BASINGSTOKE AIKIDO CLUB, OAKRIDGE WEST COMMUNITY CENTRE  
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# Hampshire Autism Strategy – tell us what you think

A new approach to helping adults with autism is being set out by the Hampshire Autism Partnership Board and is now out for a three month consultation between 27 February and 18 May 2012.

The draft Hampshire Autism Strategy for Adults will run from 2012-2015 and is the first part of a Hampshire lifespan autism strategy. The second part for Children, will be published in 2013.

The draft Hampshire Autism Strategy for Adults is a joint piece of work by Hampshire County Council, NHS Hampshire, Hampshire Autistic Society, the voluntary sector, people with autism, their parents and carers.

The strategy, which aims to give adults with autism the same opportunities as anyone else to live a rewarding and fulfilling life, can be viewed online at [www.hants.gov.uk/autism-strategy-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/autism-strategy-consultation) or by visiting one of our consultation events (details below).

It is estimated that more than half a million people in the UK have autism, with around 10,000 adults living in Hampshire. It is recognised that services they receive need improving from the point of diagnosis to accessing the right services and helping families and carers.

The strategy places adults with autism, their families and carers at the centre of planned improvements to service delivery and will be achieved through health and social care agencies working together

The strategy aims to increase awareness of autism amongst GP's, ensure that people with autism have better housing choices and the chance to gain employment and continue to support the development of pastoral support in education settings. The County Council wants to ensure that initiatives for apprenticeships and job tasters within the County Council include people with autism. The strategy also says that people with autism should lead on change and be able speak out when things are not right.

Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Councillor Felicity Hindson, said:

"Autism is a lifelong hidden disability that affects the way a person communicates with, and relates to, people and the world around them. The County Council wants to ensure we do everything we can to help people with autism live their lives as they wish and make sure we provide all the information and help we can.

"I would urge everyone to take time to read this strategy and feedback any comments you may have. I want to make sure this strategy is as robust as possible so it can make a positive difference to people."

The Hampshire Autism Strategy will take forward the Council's commitment to meet requirements of the Autism Act 2009 and the National Autism Strategy of 2010 and it is expected that the finalised Strategy will be launched in late summer/autumn of 2012.

Paper copies, or alternative formats such as Braille and audio of the strategy can be obtained by telephoning: 01962 847946, The Council is holding nine events across Hampshire where people can comment on Draft Hampshire Autism Strategy for Adults. Copies of the Draft Strategy and a feedback questionnaire will be made available on the day. To book a place visit: [www.hants.gov.uk/autism-strategy-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/autism-strategy-consultation).

The events will be held at the following places:

- 20 March, 10am-12 noon at Wells Place Centre, Eastleigh
- 26 March, 6-8pm at Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood
- 16 April, 10am-12 noon at Westbury Manor Museum, Fareham
- 20 April, 10am-12 noon at Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst
- 26 April, 10am-12 noon at Penns Place, Petersfield
- 30 April, 10am-12 noon at The Harlington Centre, Fleet
- 4 May, 10am-12 noon at Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Basingstoke
- 8 May, 6am-8pm at Winchester Baptist Church, Winchester
- 9 May, 10am-12 noon at the Wellington Centre, Andover



Hampshire  
County Council

## Fashion Show for Naomi!!

Naomi House Children's Hospice are delighted to be holding their first ever Fashion Show in conjunction with the ASDA clothing brand 'George' to showcase their brand new Spring/Summer collection, whilst raising vital funds for local charity Naomi House Children's Hospice.

Naomi House are delighted to be working with ASDA, Basingstoke on what should be a fun evening of fashion for the whole family. In addition to showcasing the latest clothing range from 'George', the evening will include a hair and makeup demonstration by local hair salon, and the Body Shop at Home. There will also be the chance to browse some wonderful stalls and receive your very own free George goody bag.

The event will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April at Popley Fields Community Centre, Basingstoke. Stalls will open from 6pm, with the fashion show commencing at 7pm.

Tickets are priced at £5.00 per person and include entry to the fashion show and a free 'George' goody bag. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting the Naomi House Fundraising Office on 01962 843513, or by emailing Natalie at [Natalie.Hargreaves@Naomihouse.org.uk](mailto:Natalie.Hargreaves@Naomihouse.org.uk)

Tickets will be available on the door on a first come first serve basis only.

All money raised on the evening will contribute towards the £5 million that is needed each year to keep the doors of Naomi House and *jacksplace* open. With only 15% of this total coming from government funding, the charity relies on fundraising events such as this and the support of the local community to continue providing its vital services.

Natalie Hargreaves, Community Fundraising Co-ordinator for Naomi House said "We are absolutely thrilled to be hosting what should be a really special evening. We are so grateful to ASDA, Basingstoke for all the fantastic support they have given us, and I really hope the evening is a success."

For more information, please visit the Naomi House website at [www.naomihouse.org.uk](http://www.naomihouse.org.uk)

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## **What**

Zumba fundraising evening  
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Hampshire

## **Where**

Costello Technology College,  
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## **When**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
7.30pm - 9.30pm

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**Youth Club for 11-17 year olds:**

This takes place on Monday nights 7.00 - 9.00pm.  
Come along to chill and relax with your friends.

**MG School of Dance:**

This takes place on Tuesday evenings 4.00-9.00pm.

**Slimming World:**

Slimming World is at Popley Fields on Wednesday mornings 9.00 - 11.30am. For more information contact Hazel on 07796158098

**Silverwings Line Dancing:**

Wednesday evenings, 7.45 - 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 - 7.00pm.

**Zumba:**

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

**Knitability Knitting Club:**

Are you a machine knitter or would you like to learn (hand knitters also welcome)?

This group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 10.00am - 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](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)

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## **Popley Islands Community Group**

A new community group has been formed to represent residents from the Popley Islands area. Popley Islands Community Group will provide a means for residents to influence what happens in their community. The next meeting will take place at 7.30am on Thursday 19th April at the Popley Fields Community Centre on Carpenters Down. If you live in the Popley Islands area please come along to get involved with the group and help plan the future of your community.



## Phillips Legal Corner



### I'm not a celebrity, so why should I have a prenup?

'You may not be a wealthy celebrity but if you are planning to get married, you should think hard about having a prenuptial agreement because they are for ordinary people too' advises Emily Poynter, family solicitor at Phillips. 'Marriage is about love and sharing the rest of your lives together but in the eyes of the law, it's a contract between two people and it deals with the financial consequences of the marriage ending.

Clearly you are not going into marriage thinking that your relationship might break down but unfortunately that happens more frequently nowadays, so here are some good reasons why you should have a prenup:

- If you are much wealthier or poorer than your partner, then a prenup can ensure that your partner is marrying you for who you are, and not for your money or lack of
- If you are remarrying and you have children from a previous marriage, own a home or other significant assets, then a prenuptial agreement can ensure that when you pass away, your assets are distributed according to your wishes, and that neither your first family, nor your new family are cut off
- If you own part of a business and your marriage ends, your spouse could end up owning a share of your business if you don't have a prenup. You and your business partners may not want this to happen
- If your partner has a lot of debt and you don't want to be responsible for these debts if your marriage ends, then a prenuptial agreement can help ensure that this does not happen

It's tough to talk about your loving, committed relationship as if it were a business arrangement and it may seem unromantic' concludes Emily, 'but if you can sit down and discuss your future plans and expectations, logically rather than emotionally, you'll find it much easier. A legal professional will help you to understand the different kinds of issues that might be covered in a prenup. The better informed you are, the easier it will be for you to explain things to your intended.

You can call me at any time – but make sure you do it at least a few months before the wedding!'

Call Emily Poynter, family solicitor at Phillips on 01256 854630, or email [epoynter@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:epoynter@phillips-law.co.uk) . [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

## Beckies Column

Hello! How is everyone? By the time you read this, the Easter Holidays will probably have started! Don't you think this year's going really fast?

We've got lots of exams from here onwards, a lot of revision to do over the holidays! I'm waiting to find out my results for the maths exams we did recently which we will get in April, so good luck to the Year 11s who are waiting too!

Adam Seal also wrote a column in this issue. I've read it and I think it is really good. I'm always being told that I spend too much time in my room! It would be nice to be informed of the activities in the area for us to do...when we aren't revising!

Anyway, we are off on a canal boat soon; me, my parents, my sister and my grandparents! This year, we have a nice double width boat, which means we take up a lot more room! Hopefully I'll get a go at steering it; we're very excited! We've got a lot of locks to do as well. We are going to be very tired by the end of it!

Well, I need to get back to my revision; I have a whole lot of art to do!

Talk to ya soon!

**Beckie**



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## February 2012 (PCDC Blogs)

**5th-** PCSO's from Basingstoke, Safer Neighbourhoods Team, helping out with a gas explosion on Abbey Road (BBC report)

**13th-** My first day back at work this month! It's always nerve racking coming back to work after a holiday. The day is pretty much written off with paperwork, and those dreaded emails. I had about 120 to wade through, and many with read receipts. So, it's not as easy as just deleting them. In the afternoon I did something more fun..I twitter trained PC Matt Sard from the Basingstoke Investigation team. Look-out for tweets from his team on @BasingstokeCops.

**14th-** Happy Valentine's Day everyone. Today I managed to get out on my bike early. Miles of patrolling Popley, and Oakridge. I reported some fly tipping, and damage to a bus stop. This was reported to the council, via FixMyStreet. Good little phone app. I also

reported on a burst water-main on Cayman Close. Later I assisted PC Karen Binney, after she arrested several males in Popley on suspicion of possession of class A drugs.

Karen gets all the glory and I'm typing this whilst looking after one of her suspects! Swings and roundabouts so they say.

**15th-** A very slow day today. There were a number of ASB reports about youths throwing stones at builders on Popley Way. Patrols dispersed a large group of youths. The bus-stop on Popley Way, reported yesterday, has been further damaged today. Please call 101 if you know who is responsible.

In other news: the Popley team continue to patrol the three core priority areas: i.e: 1) ASB Sark Way 2) Drug issues in Pitcairn Close 3) Arson in Popley. There has been a marked reduction in all 3 issues.

**16th-** I attended Alton Maltings Centre today. I completed a refresher day on investigations.

In other news: I'm looking forward to Operation Slipstream this weekend. It's warm so there should be a few arrests for the team!

**17th-** In the afternoon I patrolled Popley and Oakridge with Sgt Paul Markham. Sgt Markham is the most pro-active Sgt I have ever known. Always willing to get his hands dirty and a real motivator to our team. We patrolled the Popley Hotspot areas and all was in order.

We received reports of youths causing ASB at the Melrose Community Centre. On attendance a large group of youths were dispersed. The area has been subject to criminal damage and verbal abuse by a number of youths.

In other news: I crewed up with PC Mark Gallagher to patrol the town centre for another weekend of Operation Slipstream. PC Chris Whittington made an arrest for assault in the top of town. Mark and I assisted with statements. We also dispersed a few people. I had also arrested a male for an assault, however, the aggrieved refused to cooperate, so I de-arrested the male.

**18th-** I crewed up with PC Chris Whittington for Operation Slipstream. A much colder and busier night in town. I located a female smoking a cannabis joint on Wote Street. Thankfully she was eligible for a cannabis street warning.

Half an hour before I was due off duty, I arrested a man for section 5 public order

**20th-** I crewed up with PC Rich Heard today to conduct plain clothes cycle patrols as part of Operation Nemesis. (Burglary Op) No burglars just drug users! I located a male smoking cannabis in Falkland Road. I reported the male for summons. I also located a male smoking a spliff on Shakespeare Road. The male was given a cannabis caution. PC Heard also located a male in Westray Close with cannabis. The male received a cannabis caution. Any info on drugs then call me on 101.

**21st-** I patrolled all the Popley hotspots today. I took details of a criminal damage to two cars in Abbey Road. the suspects were described as two white youths with dark hair. Both youths are aged approx 12 years old. One of the youths wore a dirty white hooded top.

I also took a harassment statement from a family that have been suffering from verbal abuse.

In other news: I reported some fly tipping to the council.

**22nd-** More solid patrols of Popley today. The weather was awfully windy. I took a loss statement from the victim of yesterday's criminal damage.

In other news: I attended Peugeot on Aldermaston Road after another theft of catalytic converter. On-going work is being conducted to prevent further thefts.

**23rd-** Today, I along with all Basingstoke Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, took part in the South Ham "Day of Action" I issued a male with a cannabis street caution and arrested another on suspicion of burglary. Great work by everyone involved with numerous arrests/cautions/positive warrants and community engagement. Look out for the Popley "Day of Action" on 23rd March.

Sgt Paul Markham briefing the troops.

My handy work during the execution of a drugs warrant.

**24th-** Happy Birthday to me! It wasn't a great one to be honest. I had every intention of patrolling my beat prior to Operation Slipstream, but things went wrong. To cut a long story short, I arrested a male in Oakridge for assaulting me as I was en-route to Popley. This created lots of paperwork, and meant I was back in the office.

In other news: I took part in Operation Slipstream after 10 pm. Town was the busiest I had seen in recent months, especially for a Friday. PC Rich Heard was on particular good form in the town, with several arrests, and one for robbery.

Also.. News that PCSO Phil Rapley will be leaving the team at the end of March. Phil will take on the new challenge of

intelligence analyst. Phil is the longest serving PCSO in Basingstoke and we will all miss him.

**25th-** Lots of patrolling Popley, Oakridge and Chineham prior to Op Slipstream. I visited the traveller site on Don Allen Drive after reports of travellers, however they had left prior to my arrival.

In other news: Tragic news of a hanging in Carpenters Down Woods: PCSO's Tarren Porter and Pete Windust were on the scene guard.

The FedsOnPeds were out in town again. Many arrests and positive action from the team.

**26th-** Normal Sunday patrols in Popley and Oakridge. I issued an harassment warning letter to a youth, who had been verbally abusive to a family. Marnel Park was heavily patrolled after reports of ASB in the area. Several youths were verbally warned.

In other news: I attended Abbey Road in relation to a parking dispute. Hopefully this is has now been resolved.

**29th-** I was meant to attend court today, however, I was Stood Down. I was updating the computer when a call came over the radio...An allegation that a male had indecently exposed himself. I attended the War Memorial Park and arrested the male. I handed the male over to an investigation team. Later, the male was charged and remanded for court in the morning. After I had completed more paperwork I headed into Oakridge. I located a male in Forsythia Walk with a wrap of heroin. I arrested the male. Later, the male was cautioned and released.

### **March 2012 (PCDC Blogs)**

**1st-** In the morning I assisted shift officers by attending Crockford Lane. A member of public had reported that travellers had moved on to the site. I attended, however, the travellers had moved on. As luck would have it though, I located a male smoking cannabis on the same road. The male was given a cannabis caution.

In other news: I patrolled the hotspot areas in Popley but the night was fairly quiet.

**2nd-** Another busy night for the #FedsOnPeds. I crewed up with PC Rich Heard to conduct patrols in Popley, and Oakridge. As always, the hotspot areas were heavily patrolled. I located a male smoking cannabis outside the Popinjay public house. The male was given a cannabis street warning.

In other news: The usual team crewed up for Operation Slipstream in the town centre (tackling violent crime). The team dispersed 4 people, and arrested 2, one for failing to disperse, and one for failing to provide details for a dispersal to be issued. We were sworn at more times than normal tonight! Saturday night may be a rough night judging by tonight's standards!

\*observation\* Drugs are prolific in Basingstoke. We seize drugs off people daily. Usually cannabis/cocaine and heroin. There is also a batch of valium (diazepam) doing the rounds at the moment. People ask me if I think cannabis should be legalised. I am quite happy that we will never solve the drugs issue, however, if we fail to enforce the drugs laws there would be chaos in my opinion. Most normal people won't even know there are drugs about (thankfully) but they are there in our communities, and towns, wrecking lives. We will do all we can to prevent drugs on the streets. The Basingstoke Safer Neighbourhoods Teams are more robust than ever, with drug offenders, and we are always working on ways to tackle the problem.

**3rd-** Operation Slipstream round 2! The night was hectic but very enjoyable. I reported another male for possession of cannabis after door staff at Lloyds Bar smelt cannabis on a male. PC Rich Heard arrested a male for possession of cocaine and assault. We also dispersed a few drunken volatile people. All our live tweet updates can be found on twitter along with photos @BasingstokeCops.

**4th-** Paperwork day I need a PA.

**7th-** Patrols of Oakridge and Popley with PC Rich Heard. I located a male smoking a spliff in Normanton Road. the male received a cannabis caution. PC heard also located a male smoking cannabis.

**8th-** I crewed up with PCSO Tarren Porter, and PCSO Pete Windust. As we entered Oakridge, on Norn Hill, I stop checked a male. The male was wanted for recall to prison. The male also had stolen beauty products. 2 arrests for the price of one!

**9th-** Prior to Op Slipstream I arrested a female for breaching her court orders. That took a bit of time to sort out. During Op Slipstream I crewed up with PC Karen Binney. Whilst we were at the top of town a male jumped on me, taking me to the ground. Bit rude! Anyway, he was arrested by me for police assault, and section 5 of the public order act, as he was very vocal. PC Binney issued a female with a fixed penalty notice for some bad behaviour. PC Rich Heard on the other team, arrested a male on suspicion of assault. Good nights work!

In other news: CSPOs Paul Bowman and Dan White of the Popley crew located a stolen motorbike in Oakridge. Two suspects were arrested by the #FedsOnPeds in connection with the bike

**12th-** A cannabis factory was located in Orkney Close over the weekend. I assisted with taking it down. All related photos can be found in the @BasingstokeCops website.

\*I supply daily updates on my work in Popley and Basingstoke. This includes, arrests, community work, agency work etc. You can follow the PSNP's work on: <http://psnp.zapd/net/> or my personal blog: <http://pcdancarter.wordpress.com/> also see @BasingstokeCops on twitter and @PopleySNP

If you have information of crime in your area call 101 and report it!

Regards

**PC 20686 Dan Carter**

**Popley West**

Safer Neighbourhood Team Manager

(Meet The Team)

# DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT

FREE information and advice  
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**disability forum**  
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**10am-4pm**

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Does your dog pull on the lead or misbehave? Or do you just want some additional dog or puppy training? Phoenix Dog Training Club are happy to announce that from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May they will be holding weekly classes in Melrose Community Hall. The Beginners Class for puppies or dogs with no training will start at 4pm. This eight week course teaches all of the basics and tackles common issues like jumping up and nipping. The Improvers Class starts at 5pm and is aimed at improving the basic skills that your dog has already learnt, along with teaching new ones. We are a friendly club where your dog is treated as an individual and we meet for social walks on a regular basis. All instructors are qualified, experienced, insured and this will be our third club in Basingstoke– allowing us to offer affordable, effective dog training at times to suit you, for just £5 per session. Dogs of any breed or age are welcome. To book a place please email [phoenixdts@aol.com](mailto:phoenixdts@aol.com) or call 07733994841 or 01256844421.

**WHATS ON:**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9.30am-2.30pm	Pebbles Children's Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9.30-11.00am	Popley Little People, Baby and Toddler group
	9.00-10.45am	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm	Oasis Lunch club
	5.30 and 7.30pm	Slimming World
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	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.
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	9.00am-12.30pm	MG Dance Academy
<b>SUNDAY:</b>		MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.

**NEW!!! Phoenix Dog Training Club - Starts 6<sup>th</sup> May See above for details!**

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](mailto:Melrosehall@btconnect.com)

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

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Dear Friends

It was reported recently on the news that a syndicate of bus drivers had won £38 million pounds on the Euro Millions lottery draw! What fantastic news – news that was splashed all over the press, especially as it was the fourth ‘big win’ for UK residents in this particular draw over recent times – some winning in excess of £40M –wow!

Good news is something we all want to share and be part of. What good news will you share this coming year: a wedding, a special anniversary or birthday, exam passes, a successful driving test?

I really want to share some GOOD NEWS with you this month– it’s the good news of Easter that we celebrate in the church every year; the heart of which is that sin and death have been overcome by the death and resurrection of God’s son Jesus and new life waits for everyone of us!!

Easter for so many, sadly, will only be associated with eggs, particularly those of the chocolate variety. Why do we have Easter eggs? Well, doesn’t an egg represent all the potential for new life, new beginnings! And why are Easter eggs hollow? Because the empty egg is symbolic of the empty tomb of Jesus when he rose from the dead to resurrection life on that first Easter Day offering a whole new life for all who would follow him.

St Paul wrote “If any one is in Christ they are a new creation, the old has gone the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17). If we truly want a fresh start for our lives, if we truly want to leave the mess of the past behind, then as a Christian I believe there is only one place to start, or rather only one person to turn to and that’s Jesus. And this new life is not just for the now but for all eternity; Jesus himself said “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life eternal.” (John 3:16).

So as the new life of Spring begins to emerge all around us may your thoughts turn to the possibilities of new life for yourself and, if like me, you’re a chocoholic then may your Easter eggs this year take on a new and added meaning. Hope to see you at one of our Easter Services!

With God’s blessings, your friend and Vicar  
**Arthur.**

Easter Services at St Gabriel’s  
Sunday April 1st 10.30 a.m. – Palm Sunday  
Family Communion with giving of Palm Crosses

Good Friday 5th April  
10.00 a.m. ~ All Age Family Service  
12 noon – 3pm ~ Three hours by the Cross

Sunday 8th April ~ Easter Day  
7.30am ~ Sunrise Service outside the church

10.30 a.m. ~ Family Celebration with Communion



# **BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE  
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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 car boot (indoor and outdoor) on Saturday the 14th April 2012. At Bermuda Community Centre, Bermuda Close Popley 1pm-4pm. it will be £5 a table, to book ring 01256 363156. Sellers can set up from 12pm.

---

## **Bishop Bill Ind**

Many of you still remember with great fondness Bishop Bill's tenure as vicar of St Gabriel's in the 1970s/80s.

Unfortunately Bishop Bill has been diagnosed with a serious illness for which he is undergoing radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments.

Bishop Bill has asked for our prayers and while we would not want to bombard him or the family with calls and emails I am sure many of you would like to wish him well. There are two 'get well' cards in the foyer of St Gabriel's which are available for folks to express their good wishes. Please do pop along and write in them and we will send them off to Bishop Bill and the family after Easter.

## **Rev Arthur Botham**

---

### **Need help with library books?**

The Home Library Service is for people who are no longer able to get to the nearest library or mobile stop, due to frailty or mobility problems, and don't have anyone living locally to borrow books for them. If you know someone who could benefit from this service, or you'd be interested in helping once a month as a Home Library Service volunteer, then please talk to staff at your nearest library or email using the feedback form at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/library-contacts.htm>

Please note that potential volunteers have a free Criminal Records Bureau check and all accepted volunteers need to comply with instructions and standards as set out by library staff.

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## What is state pension age

Your state pension age depends on when you were born. Currently the State pension age is:-



- 65 for a man born before 6 December 1953
- 60 for a woman born before 6 April 1950
- between 60 and 65 for a woman born on or after 6 April 1950 but before 6 December 1953. This is because state pension age for men and women is being equalised gradually from 6 April 2010 onwards, so a woman born on or after 6 April 1950 but before 6 December 1953 will have a higher state pension age than 60, depending on when she was born.
- between 65 and 68 for a man or woman born on or after 6 December 1953 but before 6 April 1978. This is because state pension age for both men and women is being increased gradually from 6 December 2018, so a man or woman born on or after 6 December 1953 but before 6 April 1978 will have a higher state pension age than 65, depending on when s/he was born.
- 68 for a man or woman born on or after 6 April 1978.

There is a pension age calculator on the Directgov website at <http://pensions-service.direct.gov.uk>.

## Changes to the State Pension Age

In his Autumn Statement, on 29 November 2011, the Chancellor announced that the State Pension age will now increase to 67 between 2026 and 2028. The government said it took this decision because of increasing life expectancy, to help manage the cost of State Pensions. If you were born in the 1960s, you could be affected.

This will mean that people born after 5 April 1961 but before 6 April 1969 will have a State Pension age of 67.

People born after 5 April 1960 but before 6 April 1961 will reach State Pension age between 66 and 67.

***This change to the timetable is not yet law and will require the approval of Parliament.***

## 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.

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

## Diaries from The Old Codger

Many years ago as a young man/boy, We had what was called Working Men's Clubs Most of the time mums and dads would go to them but every now and then all the kids would go with them especially on a weekend. They had good old fashioned entertainment on. Why do I bring this up now? Yes we have Community Centres and I don't knock them. Where I live we are the poor relations to the rest of our estates. Yes we could go off around the community to visit other clubs but many wish to stay on their own estate. So at nighttime people come home and shut the front doors and that's it until work the next day. No entertainment for our children, leaving the youngsters to make their own. So consequently they tend to find the wrong 'entertainment'. Why after so many years do they still forget about the Poets it's as if we are not apart of the strong community it once was when we first came to live here. I would love to go for a pint and a good natter with people I know. The only way I communicate is by email or the phone.



Other parts of Popley have very nice community facilities so what is wrong with the Poets I wonder? We have talked about a move away from the community that we brought all our children up in and the schools they went to and how much Her Indoors and I got involved with. They were great times, now it is no longer a strong community as it was. Ok you do get people move on but newcomers must feel very lonely. If the Old Codger does I am sure they do.

As I said last month, Her Indoors has taken a job locally so she can spend more time with the help I now need. It is nice for her to get home in the afternoon and not drive 120 miles a day. Well, she is getting on a bit!! I saw Flog It on TV yesterday and I looked on the site they have to see if they are in Basingstoke this year, I was thinking of taking Her Indoors along. Well you never know, do you? She could be worth a few bob! When she reads this I am in for it so if I am not in traction next month you will read more from me. If you just hear from Her Indoors I must be in a bad way. You would not like her writing this as it would take all of Popley Matters up they way she can rabbit on!

Till next month  
**The Old Codger**



# BACK TO THE FIFTIES

Saturday 5th May 2012  
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After such a tremendous turnout for the February Parish Council meeting, it's great to think that these notes will be already understood by so many people in the Parish! The meeting focussed on the proposed development at Marnel Park / North of Popley and hit home on a number of levels – firstly it was a coordinated expression of local concerns (which were widely reported by the Basingstoke Gazette and Basingstoke Observer), and secondly it showed the community of Sherborne St John pulling together when threatened.

**BDB 75761 / 75762 North of Popley.** The Parish Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> Objection Letter was duly submitted on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and can be seen on the Parish Council website - [www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk). The letter attempts to clarify any mis-understanding on the part of BDBC Cllrs, identify shortcomings in the planning application, and expose the apparent disregard for due process. Following the meeting, the Parish Council has been pursuing legal options (and has taken advice), planning consultants, local pressure groups and the possibility of retaining a lobbyist. Discussions with SOLVE (Save Our Loddon Valley Environment) have been very helpful and shown that our aspirations are now more closely aligned with their aims. This has prompted us to approach Country Watch - *'an environmental pressure group formed in the late 1990s with an area of interest that covers the whole of the Loddon & Lyde river valleys from the eastern boundary of Basingstoke Town to the Borough Boundary and beyond. We believe the valley's natural and built environment – in some cases unique - to be something special, a jewel in Basingstoke's crown and an area to be protected for its biodiversity'* - with a view to becoming a Member.

In the meantime (the result will be known long before this reaches you), we await the outcome of the High Court action brought by the Manydown Co. against BDBC concerning the exclusion of Manydown from the pre-Submission Core Strategy process. If this action is unsuccessful, we understand that SOLVE/Country Watch will then bring their own action – which is based on a different argument (see SOLVE web site [info@solveloddon.org](mailto:info@solveloddon.org) ).

Full marks to Cllr Syd Abraham who is relentlessly pursuing BDBC to agree to install earth bunds to assist in screening Marnel Park from SSJ Village!

Meanwhile, the Parish Council has also submitted a formal complaint to BDBC about the parlous state of the so-called 'screening' installed by David Wilson Homes as part of the existing Marnel Park development.

You might ask - is there anything else happening in Sherborne St John?

**Parish Council Elections – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.** Please think about doing your bit for the new Sherborne St John Parish (we say goodbye and very good luck to Marnel Park, Speckled Wood Road and Merton Rise at the beginning of April – and we hope to see a new Parish Council there in 2016). If you would like to stand for election you can obtain instructions from BDBC (01256 845355), or from **Mandy Haworth, Parish Clerk** ([ssjclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ssjclerk@gmail.com) or **07714 770940**). You must submit your application no later than 4<sup>th</sup> April. In essence you need to live in or near the Parish and be supported by two eligible residents. Obviously, not everyone will be putting their name forward – but please make sure you vote on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May! As already stated, for my own part, I believe that 12 years as Chairman is long enough – so it is time the Parish Council deserves a new Chairman.

**Good News! The Chute Pavilion** now has a 8kWp PV Solar panel array, which is already generating electricity. The Parish Council is pleased to be able to play its part in providing renewable energy, and supporting the Greening Campaign – please ask yourself whether you can support them too!

**The Villager** has passed 'seamlessly' to new management – well done Andy Page and team for the last two years, and good luck to Crissy Humphreys and the new team. It is very encouraging that people are prepared to give up their own time for the common good.

**The Jubilee Celebrations** are well advanced (see this Villager) – well done Tracy Jeram et al. Please make sure **you** join in!

**Next Parish Council Meeting** – 7.30pm Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (St George's Day!) in SSJ Village Hall. All welcome!

**SSJ Parish Council AGM – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012.** Short formal proceedings, review, information and an update from the Greening Campaign – plus refreshments and a chance to talk to friends.

And finally – at the recent meeting we noted that it was **Mrs Clover Morgan's** last meeting as Parish Clerk and thanked her for all her hard work over the past seven years. She brought a very helpful and friendly commitment to the post. There were over 100 members of the public attending the meeting – fittingly, they marked their approval with spontaneous applause. No pressure there Mandy!



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MFC POPLEY Youth is ending the season well ahead of its Tournament on Popley Fields on 12th/13th May.

Manager Andy Williams' Under 7s have had a fab first season and continued the good form with a good set of matches against CSA. The talented Koby Collingwood again played a key part, but all the boys did well.

Warwick Sear-Jarvis, new manager of the Under 8s, is doing a great job and has ambitious plans to expand his squad next season when they turn competitive.

Lee Austen and Tom Bartlett, the two Under 9s Managers, can also be proud of their squads who have performed with credit.

And at Under 10s, Russell Graves' and Glenn Taylor's boys have shown much improved form this season, including a recent 6-0 victory at Hatch Warren which featured a Nathan Taylor hat-trick, two goals from Harry Beagley and one from Sheldon Wright.

At Under 11s, Danny Oates's boys have hit form, beating Barton Rovers Rebels 9-0 and Andover Youth 7-5. Particularly outstanding in those matches were captain Cole Oates, attacking midfielders Taylor Ross and Harry Wildash, winger Tyrese Richardson, left back Nick Bundy, centre back Andrew Hyde and athletic goalkeeper Tola Adebowale.

At Under 12s and Under 13s, Paul O'Shea's and Dave Wright's boys continue to do well as do Danny Oates's and Chris Gordon's Under 15s.

The Tournament draws near and, with entries coming in all the time, the Club has booked local band Quace plus support acts to play live music in the Community Centre on the Saturday night of the tournament where there will be a bar from 7pm to 11pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along and attend and support the event.

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## **News from Merton School's**

Maddison Barker and D'Andre Brown have written the following”  
On Tuesday 13th March at Merton Junior School, parents were able to come into the school and celebrate a lovely, delicious Mother’s Day lunch with their child. It was a pleasure to come into the school and have lunch with my child” explained one of the parents. All of the children had a great lunch with their parents and the day was a great success”.

The children at Merton Infant school had their “Mothers Day lunch on the 19th of March and that was just as successful.

The new blue fencing for the Merton Poppits is now in place. The children are already enjoying playing in the larger, safer area. Hopefully there will be lots of sunny days for them to enjoy outside play.

# Popley Youth: Summer Boredom

Being a teenager in Popley is just like being a teenager anywhere else – you base yourself around friends. You go to school with them, you work with them, you go out with them to hang out and so forth. The most ideal time for us to do this though is in the summer.

However, our Summer Holidays are not always as we hope them to be. Nine times out of ten, you'll find us “hiding away” in our rooms during our six week break from school – but why is that? Simply put – we're bored.

Sure, we can go out and walk through Popley with our friends, we can get exhausted in the heat whilst playing football etc., but we're never fully satisfied. Eventually, we get bored of the same routine and waste our 'precious' time by spending it on things like the computer and Xbox Live.

Other teenagers spend their nights out, getting drunk and, occasionally, ruining our reputation and increasing the stereotype that all of us are “anti-social”. Again, we are simply just trying to make up for our boredom. So, how should this be solved? A simple answer to a simple question: Keep us occupied.

Activities that 'Streetz' and 'Get With' host just aren't the type of things we older teenagers would go to. Really, they're aimed at the younger ages of the group. As we get older, we find that we want to do less energetic and more 'laid-back' things with our friends. However, there are still some of us who enjoy various activities - better advertising to encourage us to join in and bring our friends could possibly bring in some of us older teenagers to the summer groups.

I asked various teens about what they thought should be done about the tiresome summer days, and an idea has been brought to my attention. Many of us look forward to Basingstoke Live, a concert that takes place here in our town once every year. If the community were to create a show in which we could listen to Popley's hidden talent, then many of us would come and watch – maybe even audition! Not only that, but it also encourages the older members of our community to join in; therefore it wouldn't just be aimed towards us youths. Also, a majority of us enjoy listening to music - a 'laid-back' activity in which we enjoy.

Summer boredom is like a disease, it never fully comes to the surface until a few days pass, or even a week. We spend our time simply trying to fill the void of our empty holidays and whittle down the weeks until the school term starts again. Parents complain about how we shouldn't be spending too much time indoors when the weather is lovely, but what else are we supposed to do?

**Adam Seal**

# 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



The Beavers had a great time at the Olympic themed District Beaver Scout Fun Day at The Vyne School. Activities included mini volleyball, Olympic bingo, 'javelin (welly) throwing), shooting (cans and bean bags), discus, skipping, press-ups and other exercises, limbo and making paper boats. Five Beavers 'swam-up' from the Colony to the Cub Pack in March to enjoy new skills and challenges.

Our team at the District Cub Scout Six-a-side football competition acquitted themselves well despite the very wet conditions - good job the matches were played on astro-turf! They managed to win one game, drew another and lost the third by just one goal. They were especially proud of the drawn game which was against one of the strongest teams in the competition and it was good to see them all play in such excellent sporting spirit. Well done! Weekly programmes have been focussed on 'Our Sporting Adventure' activity resource and the Pack also went 'pond dipping' in Eastrop Park. Next the 'sleepover' and a 'Great Egg Race'.



The Scout Troop has spent several evenings working towards the Meteorological activity badge as well as learning about food from around the world and completing mini-pioneering projects such as camp gateways. Next session they will be working towards achieving Aviation Skills activity badges including (we hope!) using the new flight simulator.



As I write, the Group is putting the finishing touches to its plans to celebrate St. George's Day in the town centre on the afternoon of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - the Air Scouts being the host group this year.

Some four hundred Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders will assemble at the 'top of the town' to parade via the triumphal gates in London Street for a service in St. Mary's Church Eastrop led by the Old Basing British Legion Band. The theme of this year's service is 'Diamond Jubilee'

New members welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -8) and Cubs (aged 8-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14) on Friday. Contact section leaders as above for more information. 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.

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755



## Do you believe in Community Spirit?

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If so we would like to let you know more about Basingstoke NeighbourCare and how you can help us help those in need in YOUR community. We would like to invite you to come along to our 'drop in' sessions at **Popley Fields Community Centre** Carpenters Down, RG24 9AE on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** between **10.00am** and **12.00pm** to meet us and talk about the work you can help us do.

We need help to provide a wide range of services for the community we serve, so please come along, find out more and discover how you can be a good neighbour by joining our volunteer team.

Formed in 1997, we are a registered charity dedicated to helping people remain independent and in their own homes. We help with everyday tasks such as attending appointments, shopping, taking you to see loved ones or taking time to chat to the lonely and elderly.

Volunteers devote anything from an hour a week to a couple of hours a day to help our clients. We would be grateful for whatever time you can spare. Volunteer's fuel costs are reimbursed.

If you cannot attend the 'drop in' at Popley, there are others being arranged throughout Basingstoke or contact us direct on 01256 423855, email [volunteering@neighbourcare.com](mailto:volunteering@neighbourcare.com) or visit our web site [www.neighbourcare.com](http://www.neighbourcare.com).

Brighton Hill Church of Christ the King Hall, Brighton Hill Parade, RG22 4EH	2 <sup>nd</sup> May (Weds)	12.00 – 2.00pm
South Ham Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road, RG22 6QB	11 <sup>th</sup> May (Fri)	10.30am - 12.30pm
Hatch Warren Community Centre, Long Cross Lane, RG22 5BN	25 <sup>th</sup> May (Fri)	10.00am – 12.00pm
Ridgeway Centre, Blackdown Close, Buckskin, RG22 5BN	14 <sup>th</sup> June (Thurs)	10.00am – 12.00pm
Oakridge Hall for All, Forsythia Walk RG21 5RL	25 <sup>th</sup> June (Mon)	10.30am – 12.30pm
The Aquadrome, Basingstoke Leisure Park, RG22 6PG	10 <sup>th</sup> July (Tues)	11.30am – 13.30pm

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# April Fools Day

April Fools Day is thought to have begun around 1582 in France with the reform of the calendar under Charles IX. The new Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved from 25th March – 1st April (new year's week) to 1st January.

In those days communication travelled slowly and some people were only informed of the changes many years later. Others refused to acknowledge the changes and continued to celebrate New Year on 1st April.

These people were labelled 'fools,' and were subject to ridicule and sent on 'fools errands,' and had other practical jokes played on them. The butts of these pranks became known as a 'poisson d'avril' or 'April fish'.

Over time it became the custom to play practical jokes on 1st April. This tradition gradually spread throughout Britain and Scotland in the 18th century and was introduced to the American colonies by the English and the French. Later it spread to other countries, each country celebrating April Fools Day in its own way.

In Scotland, April Fools Day is devoted to spoofs involving the buttocks and is called Taily Day. The butts of these jokes are known as April 'Gowk' another name for the cuckoo.

In England, jokes are only played in the morning, as its considered bad luck to play a practical joke on someone after noon.

In Rome, it's known as 'Festival of Hilaria' or 'Roman Laughing Day,' and celebrates the resurrection of the god Attis.

In Portugal, April Fools Day falls on the Sunday and Monday before lent. People celebrate by throwing flour over their friends.

In India, the Huli Festival is celebrated on 31st March. People play jokes on one another and smear colours on one another to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Wise men all agree that it is okay to be foolish at times and in fact, every silly act is a step to wisdom. So don't be embarrassed when someone plays pranks on you and calls you 'April Fool'.

**Viv Washbourne**



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