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# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

July 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 125



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 18-07-12) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-**What changeable weather we are having so far this summer! I went to the Strawberry Fair at St Gabriel's. It started with sunshine and though not hot it was warm, but after a while the rain came. I got home just in time to take the washing in. I did enjoy meeting so many of my old and young friends there. Paul didn't win on the Tombola which is quite unusual, the strawberries and home made cakes were delicious. It's a sad month for my family as it will be one year since my beloved husband passed away and we have lost some dear friends too this year. What surprised me was the difference in prices and I was pleased that we used the web to search, finally finishing up with a headstone that we think he deserved and nearly half the price of going local, but I was born in Lincolnshire and the

company is a small family business there. I found it ironic that when I die I will have a piece of there at my head. Ken asked us to look after Popley and I hope we are doing that.

The application for 450 more houses and flats is before the planning committee on 4th July and all will be welcome to come and support your fellow residents in their opposition to more development. We believe it should be opposed when they haven't finished Merton Rise and others applications first. There is a need for more housing, there is no argument about that! But there are other parts of Basingstoke and Deane that could be built on. Only 56 people have expressed their wish to live only in Popley so why do we need to take well over 1,000 houses here?

I received a lovely postcard from Bill Ind to thank all the wonderful people of Popley for their good wishes as he hopefully recovers from his illness. Bill said he reads Popley Matters from cover to cover though I am not sure if it's his son's copy who still lives in Popley or off our Popley Matters website [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) where you can read the old copies from the past years.

We really do need more help with deliveries of Popley Matters especially in Popley Islands (the new roads) and in Marnel Park too. If you can volunteer to help it takes about an hour a month. Popley matters is a community magazine that is non-profit and paid for by the people who advertise with us. If you want to write to us or help then contact us at, [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk) or write to Popley Matters 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EL or phone me Jane Frankum on 819924.



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 Matters.

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# Beckie's Column

Hello! How is everyone? The weather's all over the place at the moment; I don't know whether to wear a coat, or a pair of sandals when I go out! I hope when you read this proper summer weather is finally here!

Luckily, the weather didn't manage to ruin our day out the other day. We went to the Harry Potter Studios in Watford. It was an Easter present from my grandparents. It was very interesting learning how they made some of the special effects in the movies. My favourite bit was the great big model castle they had built. It was amazing!

We bought my mum some of the sweets from the shop; all flavours of jelly beans. It was quite funny watching everyone try some; including the vomit, dirt and rotten egg ones!

I'm still not used to having no school or exams. I couldn't wait for the exams to be over, but now I have to wait until August to get my results! I've been going through old photos taken on school trips and found some from when we went to London. Kieran had the best sense of direction; no one believed him though! Poor Kieran, but it was funny and I'll never forget that!

Well, I'm going to go and look through some more photos. See you soon!

**Beckie**



## **BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available halftime)
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- 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.
- 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.

The next prize bingo will be on Friday 3rd of August. Doors open at 6pm eyes down at 7pm everyone welcome. Great prizes on bingo and raffle. Come along and join in the fun. Refreshments available.

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## **Hampshire Constabulary**

Chief Constable Alex Marshall QPM

Basingstoke Police  
Station  
London Road  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire

RG21 4AD

Telephone: 101  
Direct dial:  
Fax number: 01256 405001  
Minicom: 01962 875000  
Email:

**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:**

June 14, 2012

Dear resident of Marnel Park,

It has been raised by residents within your area that there is a current problem with inconsiderate and dangerous parking of vehicles.

The Basingstoke Safer Neighbourhood Team will now be completing targeted patrols in the area and will deal with any parking and obstruction offences that are identified.

This letter is to give you advanced warning in relation to this, to allow you to consider how your vehicle is parked within the area.

We appreciate that it is not all residents, and that parking is limited in the area, however this is not an excuse to park in a dangerous manner or to cause obstructions to other road users.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

The Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team

[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)



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# JONATHAN WILLIAMS

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# Sentinel

New look for Sentinel homes

Sentinel has worked closely with local residents throughout our Popley Islands regeneration programme. With phase four of our plans well underway, we are looking at ways we can upgrade the homes of our other customers in the area. We have put together some ideas to improve the appearance of the existing homes and enhance their energy efficiency at the same time.

We are planning to:

- Replace existing cladding with a modern, composite and easy-clean weatherboard
- Add render to the brickwork to improve the thermal efficiency of the homes
- Replace the doors to the bin storage area
- Repair external fascia, gutters and drainage pipes
- Improve the levels of insulation in the homes

The new design will look something like this:



Proposed Front Elevation

Despite the incessant rain around 15 residents braved the elements and popped along to our consultation event at Popley Community Centre on 11 June. There were varying degrees of support for our proposals and you gave us some really great feedback, which we'll now use to develop our designs further. We'll keep you informed of progress in future issues of Popley Matters or by letter.

If you weren't able to come along to the last consultation, please check out our proposals online [www.sentinelha.org.uk/pip](http://www.sentinelha.org.uk/pip) you can email us your comments or leave a message on our facebook page [facebook.com/sentinelha](https://facebook.com/sentinelha)

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Consultations by appointment.

## A Lesson Learned

Leaving school – some people find that it's a hard thing to face, whereas for others it's fairly easy to confront. Some struggle to accept the change that they'll be experiencing within their new-found freedom; others, however, will rejoice it.

The build-up starts when you're a few weeks away from leaving – the excitement you feel, knowing that you can stay up late on so many nights and have a lie-in every single day, compels you to keep on going. But, then it hits you on that very last day – you won't see your friends all the time like you used to.

Sure, you can go and hang out with them, you can always stay in contact and so on – but it won't be the same routine you're used to. You know you're not going to see everyone when it's all over, except when the Prom arrives. The people you're used to seeing every single school day will be following their own paths into life, as will you.

I will admit, it was hard for me on my last day; so many people were upset, struggling to come to terms that everything was changing. On the last day, everyone was exchanging hugs and words of good luck – even if some people never spoke to one another much, they were all giving their best wishes.

School is something you take for granted – sure, it's good to meet up and socialise with your friends every day, but it was such a drag with all of the lessons, homework and exams that followed you everywhere. Only when you have to leave it all behind do you notice that you're going to miss every single bit of it.

Back in my first year of Secondary School, I was so fragile and weak – I would have been the perfect target for bullying. I was never a target though, nor was I ever bullied, because of some of the amazing people I knew. My friends changed me into the confident, out-going person I am now – they've given me a backbone and a voice. Their comments, their very influence, helped to inspire my very character; without school, and the friends that I gained with it, my life would have never changed.

I owe everything to these people – if you're someone I knew in school, thank you. Even if you've never spoken to me much, or you've never liked me a great deal, you've still played a role within my transformation. I wouldn't be here now, writing monthly articles within this magazine, without the confidence that I've gained through the friendships with you and so many others.

So now I take my first steps into the “big wide world” – my life just beginning. I will encounter new people, make new friends (as well as keep in contact with old ones) and keep on developing as an individual. Something I've learned recently will stay with me forever: Never take things for granted, they may very well be important in your life.

## **Alternative treatments?**

It's hard to say which treatment is 'alternative', what is 'complementary' to medicine, and what is 'traditional'. In our multicultural community, acupuncture may be part of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Herbs are used widely, and there's a fine line between plants as food and plants as medicine.

Most health and healing work is done by ordinary people at home. Who taught you to clean your teeth, wash behind your ears and eat your greens? But sometimes it's necessary to seek professional help, as most do from our GPs.

Physiotherapy, chiropractic and osteopathy now have state registers. This means, for example, that no-one can call themselves an 'osteopath' if they are not on the General Osteopathic Council register (GOsC [www.osteopathy.org.uk](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk)).

In the past, under UK commonlaw, anyone could be a bone setter, herbalist, healer, or homoeopath. Today, more groups are working towards state recognition, such as counsellors and psychotherapists.

### **Where to find out:**

Your health centre may have information. Ask your health visitor, practice nurse or midwife. Contact registers for e.g. homoeopaths, medical herbalists, naturopaths.

Your local library will have books about therapies, and careers guidance about training. Once people learnt by apprenticeship with an established practitioner, but now most training involves several years of university level study and supervised practice before registration.

You can learn about the range of therapies from short courses in adult education, and further education courses offer specific skills training, say in massage.

### **Finding a practitioner**

What sort of practitioner would be most helpful to you? In London, some places offer a 'referral' consultation: you outline your needs, and get advice about which therapy to try. Some psychotherapy organisations provide a referring service e.g. [www.wpf.org.uk](http://www.wpf.org.uk).

Personal recommendation by a friend or relation is the way most people find me for naturopathy and osteopathy. Most of my colleagues find this as well.

### **Questions to ask**

Even if your best friend recommended a therapist, here are some questions to ask:

- What does your therapy do?
- How long have you been in practice?
- Where did you train?
- Are you registered?
- Are you insured?
- What happens in the first appointment?
- How long is the session?
- What does it cost?
- Will I need more than one session?
- What happens if I'm no better?

### **Less a therapy, more a way of life**

Like many practitioners, I was a patient first. I consulted naturopath Mr H Leslie Harrison of York during my second pregnancy, wanting to know how to avoid needing iron injections! His easy to follow advice worked.

Later I trained at the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy (now of Osteopathic Medicine). I still learn with every patient who consults.

July marks the start of my 30th year in practice. I belong to the Incorporated Society of Registered Naturopaths <http://www.naturecuresociety.co.uk/practitioners.html> and the GOsC.

Harrison claims: 'There is nothing I shall ask you to do that I am not doing myself, or am prepared to do'. Eating and moving for high level health is what makes this a way of life. This contrasts with therapies where prescriptions are given, whether herbal, homoeopathic or pharmaceutical.

Any questions? Contact Richenda.

**Councillors Page:** Schools close for the summer and it is always a worry about children and their safety. I worry about people parking badly and children not being able to see the road properly. I also feel sorry for the neighbours that find noise levels go up with open windows and noisy music. Also with the light nights people are out and about and its amazing how much louder things seem to get in the evenings, so I would ask that you consider each other and think about how other people are affected by your actions.

I spent an hour's lesson time at the Vyne School with the students for Basic English they quizzed me on lots of issues that I get involved in as a County Councillor from litter to recycling, street lighting, schools, cemeteries, roads and caring for the elderly and the children in care to name a few. They were students mainly from Popley and Oakridge and I was struck by their curiosity and caring about other people and the environment. Thank you to them all for a great insight into our future generation. Jane 01256 819924

**Popley West:** The planning application to build another 450 dwellings in the Kiln Farm Fields, behind Appleton Drive, and by the side of Jersey and Guernsey Closes goes to committee this month on the 4th. 588 people signed the first petition not to build there and 222 on the second. There have been around 300 letters and emails to back up the view that they should finish building Merton Rise and the other sites that have planning permission already. They have chosen to ignore the wishes of the people of Popley and Sherborne St John who are united in their objection and opposition to this massive planning application for overdevelopment in our areas. There are other sites they could use and what is also shocking is there is no provision in the application for social renting, so not one person on the waiting list would be housed on this unwelcomed site. We hope that lots of residents come to the meeting in the Civic Offices at 6:30pm on 4th July to let the committee see that we are against this application at this time, and finish the other 1,000 buildings first before even considering more. Cllr. Paul Frankum

**Popley East:** It was lovely to see all the Jubilee celebrations, over the bank holiday weekend, and although the weather wasn't the best it didn't seem to dampen people's enthusiasm. On Friday 8th June we were invited to a party organised by Basingstoke Mencap to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I had a lovely time and was made to feel very welcome by everyone there. Later that weekend, David went along to the Shakespeare Residents Jubilee Picnic at Chineham Park. A good time was had by all, with games, BQ food and a raffle. Congratulations to the residents committee and helpers on the day, who all worked very hard to make it a fun day for all. Kiln Farm Fields BDB/75761 and BDB/75762 will go to the planning committee on July 4th with a recommendation from the officer for approval. The plan is for 380 houses and 70 flats with the access road coming from Jersey and Guernsey Close. So far over 270 emails and letters of objections have been received by the council. If you have not already sent in a letter of objection there is still time to do so. The meeting will be at the Civic Offices at 6-30pm on Wed 4th July, please come to the meeting and show the strength of opposition Popley has for this development.

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088.**  
**Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801.**



MFC Popley Youth had a fantastic season in 2011/12 and look poised for an even better one in 2012/13.

The Club had ten teams in the season just finished. The Under 7s, managed by Andy Williams, did the Club proud in their first season and Warwick Sear-Jarvis did a great job stepping in in February to guide the Under 8s forwards.

Lee Austen's Under 9s Knights performed with great credit and played football at a high level, while Tom Bartlett's Panthers had no luck but still managed lots of good displays.

The Under 10s, Russell Graves's and Glenn Taylor's boys did the Club proud and showed improved form all season, as did Danny Oates's Under 11s, who won the Supplementary Cup Yellow and won at the Club's Tournament.

Paul O Shea's Under 12s won the Supplementary Cup, Dave Wright's Under 13s did well, and Danny Oates's Under 15s won promotion to the Premier Division.

All these teams moved up to the next age group on 1st July and are joined for next season by the new Under 7s, who will be managed by Peter Shearman and Andrew Mark Hopley.

All in all, the Club will have 13 teams next season with over 150 players expected to sign on.

## **Basingstoke and Andover RSPCA** (registered charity no. 258321)

This is a plea to any of your readers whom may have some spare space in their home to help foster animals (mainly cats or dogs) that come into the care of the local branch. The Basingstoke and Andover RSPCA urgently need foster homes for these animals until they can be found their "forever home". All food, bedding etc that the animal will need will be provided by the RSPCA.

If you'd be interested in fostering an animal, or would like to talk about this rewarding opportunity further, please call Mandy James (Animal Re-homing Coordinator) on 01256 353209 or visit <http://www.rspca-basingstokeandandover.org.uk/>

the charity for  
your community



### All vehicles kept off-road must be insured

New rules mean it's now an offence to keep a vehicle off a public road without insurance. This applies even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway, garage or kept away from your home address.

From the end of June 2011, if your vehicle appears to be uninsured, you will receive a letter telling you that you are uninsured. The letter will ask you either to insure your vehicle or check your insurance company has correctly entered your insurance policy details on the Motor Insurers' Bureau database (MIB).

If you fail to insure your vehicle within a specified time, you face:

a fixed penalty fine of £100, reduced to £50.00 if you pay early, having your vehicle clamped, seized and destroyed or being taken to court.

The new rules apply to most vehicles. However, you won't have to insure your vehicle if:

- you have a valid Statutory Off Road Notice (SORN) or
- your vehicle has been kept off a public road since before 1 February 1998 or
- your vehicle has been scrapped, stolen or exported and you have notified the relevant authorities
- your vehicle is in between keepers
- your vehicle is held in stock by an authorised motor dealer.

For more information about what to do as a vehicle keeper, how to check the MIB database and how to apply for a SORN, go to the MIB website at [www.stayinsured.askmid.com](http://www.stayinsured.askmid.com)

### Need further information or Help?

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

The Advice Line telephone number is 01256 322814

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

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

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

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

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

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# Lions Club of Basingstoke

## BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

The improved weather meant that more people felt like wandering about in town on Thursday 24th May when our bookstall got its monthly outing in market square. As a result Naomi House will benefit to the tune of £44. Not a mind blowing result, but a lot better than last month. We followed this up by taking our putting game "The Rat Race" to St Michael's Hospice Fete on Sunday 27th and raised £45 for them. We also took it to the Royal British Legion fete in Old Basing where we raised £69 for the Legion and again to Thornycrofts where we raised another £116 for our own charity account. "Aye a mickle maks a muckle" as our friends north of the border are wont to say or "every little helps" as some other organization puts it.

During the course of the month we had several approaches from caring organizations which bring matters to our attention if they are unable to help but think that we might. As a result we have assisted with various aspects of wheelchair procurement, found and installed a second hand washing machine for a lady with 2 young children and assisted with some house repair work. Small acts but they make life a little better for the recipients without impinging on their independence.

On Saturday 26th May the Graeme Hewitt High Society Jazz Band performed for us at Costello Technology College. I saw them last year, I saw them this year, and if they perform for us again next year I will see them again. They are brilliant! Not just my opinion – the President of another service organization announced to his members that it was "the best night out i'd had in years". The band creates a really happy atmosphere and it was small wonder that people got up and danced. There was a great buzz to the whole evening. With an audience of over 120 we raised over £600 for our charity account. Now that's a muckle!!

Remember you can always see what we are up to by visiting our website at [www.basingstokelions.org.uk/](http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk/). We are always looking for new members to join us and bring their mental and physical muscle with them. Why not give it a go? It's fun.

## DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER.

Well, what a wet time we have had to the start of this summer. I have a weather station in my garden and up to today we have had 200mm of rain from mid April. Why is it when you look back over the years every summer was long and hot, or as kids was that all we could remember i.e. the outside play? As you read this I will now be 65 years old and about ten years or so ago I was told not to buy any long playing records so it shows what you can do when you fight hard.

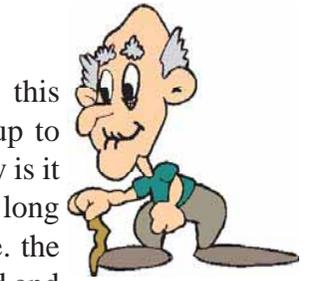
A nurse was talking to my wife, you know Her Indoors, she had been reading my notes. Her Indoors said that "He just will not give in". When I was last in hospital (I think I have qualified for a season ticket now) I did not know how bad things were for Her Indoors and my family. Mind you, I did not know or remember a thing. Last week I was so down that I told Her Indoors I had a screw loose and I was going mad, so I decided I wasn't going to take any more of my medication.

Well you can imagine what she said, plus some more words, Then she brought me down to earth by saying "I saw you laying in that bed in I.C.U and how hard you fought to live, so you will take your medication even if I have to hold you down". Well I would have no chance! If you see the muscles in her arms, Popeye has nothing on her.

The truth is I could not live with out her. She now does so much, I feel I have let her down. So darling I will keep taking the pills, The only thing I get upset about now is I no longer get to see all the friends I once had. The good thing is I have a great family.

Enough of this, I was so pleased to hear Popley Festival went off so well, and the amount of people that went. It shows off Popley and the people that live around the estates. They are a good bunch of people that went there to have fun and meet up with old friends. Not many places can say that. With all the amount of organization that the team put in they should all be congratulated. Well done to you all. Lets hope next year will be even better  
Soon it will need a new venue the size it is getting.  
Well keep well this summer in the holidays I hope all the kids that sat their exams do well

**Till next month.  
The Old Codger**



## **Basingstoke Voluntary Services (BVS)**

Basingstoke Voluntary Services (BVS) is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) that collectively form a network of local charities offering support and development services to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the UK.

BVS was set up in 1965 as a result of the town expansion. It has been instrumental in starting many of the charities that are now household names in the Borough. Examples of these are: Relate, Headway, Dial-a-Ride, Community Transport, Rape Crisis, CRUSE, Victim Support, Age Concern, Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme, Community Furniture Project and North Hampshire Mediation Service. Over the years the organisation has had to continually adapt to changing environments as its role has been, and will continue to be, one of support to the voluntary and community sector meeting their needs as they change.

### **We aim:**

- To pro-actively identify needs in the local community and facilitate improvement in service provision to meet those needs;
- To assist local voluntary and community organisations (VCO) to function more effectively and deliver quality services to their users, members of constituents;
- To facilitate effective communication or networking and collaboration amongst local voluntary and community groups;
- To enable the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be represented to external bodies, facilitating effective working relationships and two-way communication and embedding the sector as an integral part of local planning and policy making;
- To support and increase the quality, quantity, impact and accessibility of volunteering locally; and
- To maximise BVS effectiveness, efficiency and quality of services.

### **For more information read our Introduction to BVS leaflet**

Membership gives access to a wide range of services including:

- One-2-One support, advice and information on issues such as governance, funding, policies and procedures, finances, marketing etc.
- Finding Volunteers;
- Placing articles in Vol.Comm - the BVS monthly newsletter;
- Voluntary Sector Forum;
- Charity Fayre;
- Resources - Discounts on the Hire of the Orchard facilities and access to equipment (laptops, laminators, gazebo's etc) and photocopying;
- Representation and advocacy for VCO; and
- Participation in BVS Events;

Any voluntary or community organisation providing a service within Basingstoke and Deane can ask to become a FREE member of BVS or ring 01256 423816.

## **Marnel and Merton Community Group**

Hello everyone. First of all we wanted to thank everyone for their support at the Popley Festival - and for coming along and buying all our cakes and raffle tickets. I am delighted to let you know that we raised £597.70 which is a brilliant total. We were also very pleased to receive a donation of £250 from David Wilson Homes so once our costs were deducted we raised just under £700 - a great effort from all involved.

We were very lucky with the weather on the day of the Festival however the amount of rain we have had since April up to now has really played havoc with our attempts to come and visit you with the group's questionnaire about your community. We have therefore, with the support of Basingstoke and Deane, made the decision to change the way we are asking people to complete the questionnaire. We will shortly be calling to leave a questionnaire with you - rather than asking if you would complete on your doorstep. We will leave a stamped addressed envelope so there is no cost to you to return to us - and as well as this there will be a covering letter with a web address to enable you to complete the questionnaire online - which we hope will encourage more of you to complete the survey. This is your opportunity to give us your views on the community in which you live and help us develop our community plan and identify the projects that you would like the group to progress on behalf of the community. As a way of saying thank you, all completed questionnaires where the respondent leaves a name and address will be entered into a draw to win £50 of Festival Place Vouchers!

With the work involved with the questionnaire and plan and the increasing workload of our committee members we have, sadly, had to make the decision to cancel our Sunday Fun Day on August bank holiday weekend. Unfortunately we just do not have enough people to share the organising workload fairly at the moment so have had to cancel on this occasion. However we still plan to go ahead with the Christmas party on 16th December.

Members of the group along with support of a couple of residents in Marnel Park have made considerable progress with the issues of parking on the development. After much work with the Police it has been agreed that letters will be delivered to roads where the inconsiderate parking issue is at its most serious and once the warning letter has been issued, we are told the Police will commence enforcement action by issuing penalty tickets. We really hope that this will encourage people to change their inconsiderate parking behaviour and also make drivers think about the speed they travel through the estate.

Here's hoping the weather improves and we get some summer - even if it is only a little bit!

**Sarah**

**For and on behalf of Marnel and Merton Community Group**

**Facebook - Marnel and Merton Community group**



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## SCAM DEBT COLLECTION LETTERS

Mr T, from Hayling Island, who has dementia, received a threatening letter from a debt collection agency stating that he owed £300+. He was extremely worried as the letter stressed that if he did not pay within 10 days, he would be taken to court. He luckily told his daughter before paying and she contacted Trading Standards. Officers discovered that the letter was a scam and Mr T did not owe any money at all. The company was advised and have now amended their records.

## ONLINE DATING SCAMS

In online dating scams, the victim is quickly groomed with declarations of true love over a period of weeks or months before being asked for money.

Fake photos are sent of attractive models or service personnel. (In reality, the scammer may not even be of the same sex that they claim to be). Once convinced that the love is mutual and genuine, the victim is asked to send money to help the “girlfriend or boyfriend” after they typically state they have been the victim of an assault, need urgent medical treatment or just need money to come to the UK to meet their “beloved”, the victim.

Once the victim has been scammed out of as much money as possible the scammer will disappear. The victim is left, not only penniless, often feeling ashamed and foolish, but also alone to come to terms with the sudden loss of a person they felt they knew well and were deeply in love with.

Protect yourself from online dating scams by:

- never sending money to someone you meet online
- reporting any suspicions to the dating website

Report either of these scams to :  
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**08454 04 05 06**  
 or online using the  
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mertonpoppits@aol.co.uk

### Jubilee Party

We held a Jubilee street party for all the children who attended playgroup on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012, and the children enjoyed eating the many different foods that parents contributed.

This week the children have been creating modern art for Father's Day. The rain has meant the children have been able to go out and splash in the puddles, and make a muddy mess – which we all love.

We have places available at the playgroup from **September 2012**. If you would like to register your child for a place or if you would like to come in to see the playgroup in action, please telephone **Carey on 01256 351036**.

All children who attend playgroup, or who are on the playgroup's waiting list are invited to our **Olympics Day on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012**.

Charity Registered number: 1041186 / OFSTED URN: 511077

Leader: Carey West

Deputy: Michelle Green

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## Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke & Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum is still growing and our membership to date is 555 and the membership fee is still £6 a year which is very good value for what members receive. I am sure it is because we are pro-active in keeping our members informed, and trying to get improvements carried out within the Borough of Basingstoke. Our coach trips are being well supported and future trips are 12th September -Eastbourne, 20th October -Oxford, 4th November- Camden Lock Market, 1st December -Christmas Shopping to Coventry. Prices on request. We get very good support from the BDBC which helps a great deal.

We are now planning the performers for our Variety Show to celebrate the "International Day for Older People" on 29th September 2012 at Queen Mary's College. This should be another great afternoon of entertainment.

Dear Friends

Last night I watched one of the qualifying matches in the Euro 2012 Football Tournament, (Holland v Portugal). It's an engaging match and throughout the tournament there has been some quality football and that hopefully includes England!

I was watching a game last week and I was struck by the how many of the supporters were dressed in the most ridiculous outfits, how many of them had painted their faces or dyed their hair in their team's colours and how they competed with each to sing their national anthem the loudest with their hands placed on their chests over their hearts. It was a display of real passion, repeated over many games.

It was the same over the Jubilee weekend. People were all dressed up, dancing around and generally celebrating the magnificent achievement of sixty years of Her Majesty's dedicated service to the country – and rightly so.

What is that stirs our passion for such things as sport or other gatherings? It may well be that we are keen supporters of the glorious game but is there something else, I wonder, going on at a deeper level! Being in a large group who are sharing something in common generates a sense of belonging and I believe that at some level this is the desire of all of us – to belong! It's reflected in our culture by things like fashion for example. Who hasn't heard their teenagers (even younger these days) asking for this or that brand sportswear or ipod or whatever. Adults too – we join clubs or buy particular things because of their association with belonging, being included rather excluded.

Where does this urge to belong come from? I suppose if I was a supporter of Darwin's theories I might say it's an inherited pack or herd instinct! But I'm not! I believe that God created us to be in community with one another. The Bible tells us that when God created the Garden of Eden and placed Adam in it, even though Adam had all he could need he was still lonely and so God created a companion for him in Eve. God created us to be in community but that also brings with it responsibility. The Bible also tells us we are to look out for, and care for each other.

One of things I love about Popley is the strong sense of community and common identity – it makes us who we are! When we fail to care for the frail, the weak or the vulnerable in our community or when we ignore the needs of others and put ourselves first the truth is we gain nothing and diminish the whole community. You may not feel that you are a Christian or a churchgoer but we all still have a God given responsibility to care. The Bible says 'Love God with all your heart and love your neighbour as yourself. Food for thought in these uncertain times.

Be blessed this summer and lookout for your neighbours.

**Your friend and vicar  
Revd. Arthur.**

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## Police Blog For Popley

### May 2012 (PCDC Blogs)

**14th-** I returned to work from holiday. I had a lovely week in La Palma, Canary Islands and I'm refreshed and ready to spring into action... Well after sifting through 120 emails and various other paperwork.

**15th-** This morning I dealt with a bail return for a suspected criminal damage. I also further arrested the male on suspicion of perverting the course of justice. The male admitted the damage and was charged with criminal damage and obstructing police.

**16th-** I finally managed to get some good patrolling in, after the paperwork maze. Popley and Oakridge was quiet. I obtained a statement from Melrose Walk in relation to a public order offence.

**17th-** Rest Day

**18th-** I crewed up with PC Ian Hoile for night time patrols of Popley and Rooksdown. Popley was fairly quiet.

**19th-** After midnight, we were considering cycling back to the station for a brew, when I stop searched a male. I located the male in Popley West, and I suspected him to be in possession of drugs. He wasn't! A short while later, I arrested the male on suspicion of 'breach of a restraining order, police assault, criminal damage and possession of an offensive weapon. This created lots of paperwork and a handover for an early turn officer to continue with the investigation. I shouldn't have told Ian I was hoping for a quiet night! I finished 2 hours late. Later I was back in work and crewed with PC Ian Hoile again. We assisted shift with patrols in the rural areas. We completed several enquiries.

Update: The male that I had arrested for the various offences was charged with all the above, plus a theft!

**21st-** I assisted shift with various jobs. I located a male with cannabis in Church Square, in the town centre. I reported the male for summons.

**24th-** Today I attended Personal Safety Training down at Bramshill (Police College) great day. You will be pleased to know that I passed the annual fitness test.

**25th-** It was so warm, today out on bike patrols! I crewed with PC Rich Heard. Rich spotted a male wanted on suspicion of theft. The male attempted to make off near the Anvil Theatre. Not wise against the #FedsOnPeds. Rich soon had the male cuffed and under arrest.

**26th-** I crewed up with PC Ian Hoile and PC Rich Heard today. We patrolled many miles in Popley, Oakridge, Winklebury, and Rooksdown. Very good day for cycling! We located a male with cannabis in Winklebury. Rich issued the male with a fixed penalty notice.

**30th-** I crewed up with PCSO Pete Windust today. We patrolled about 15 miles through Popley and Oakridge. All the current Popley hotspots were patrolled. Once again, lovely weather, and quiet in Popley.

**31st-** I crewed up with PC Jim Charlton to attempt some arrests. Address checks proved negative. In the afternoon I helped to look for a missing child. The boy was soon located and taken home.

In other news: All the hotspot areas were covered during my patrols. I took a statement in relation to a criminal damage on Melrose Walk.

### June 2012 (PCDC Blogs)

**1st-** I assisted with shift cover today. At the start of the shift, I dealt with an elderly shoplifter at

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Wilkinson's. I issued the female with a community resolution. The first time offender was very apologetic. The anti-wrinkle cream was returned to the shelf!

I also helped locate a missing child. Or rather, a defiantly late home child!

**2nd** to the 5th- Rest Days plus bank holiday.

**6th and 7th-** I attended Winchester Crown Court on both days for the start of a trial relating to a job I investigated last year.

**8th, 9th and 10th-** Rest Days.

**11th-** Today PC Ian Hoile and I assisted shift with a flood on the A33. We stood guard at the Chineham Shopping Centre roundabout. The flood was by the Audi garage and near the Red Man roundabout. Highways informed us that the road could be blocked for up to 24 hours! The day was a total washout!!

I also learnt that my brand new boots weren't waterproof!!

**12th-** Training day. MDT or 'mobile data terminal' training at Whitechurch.

**13th-** I took part in 'Operation Nemesis' today. It was a very proactive and fruitful day! I issued 3 cannabis cautions in Oakridge. I also issued another cannabis caution in Popley and I reported a male for summons for possession of cannabis. Unfortunately, the harder you work, the more paperwork you attract!!!

In other news: There has been a number of 'ASB' reports about kids playing knock and run on Melrose Walk. Other issues include, criminal damage to motor-vehicles. The multi agencies are looking into this.

Also... Complaints about inconsiderate parking in Marnel Park continue. Further work is underway to find a partial resolution. This type of issue is very difficult to resolve for a number of reasons. In the past the local team has conducted letter drops in the relevant areas, and given advice to the car owners. Consideration will be given to issuing fixed penalties if matters cannot be resolved in other ways.

**14th-** Rest Day.

**15th-** I was on standby this evening for 'Football Patrols' in case there were issues in the town centre following the England match. As it turned out we beat Sweden 3-2 and all was well!

In other news: Patrols were conducted to prevent issues in Melrose Walk. One youth was taken home and spoken to with his parents following criminal damage and knock and run incidents. I also took a statement from a resident of Melrose Walk in relation to his car getting keyed. Work to identify suspect(s) is underway.

Also.... A letter has been drawn up to deliver to residents in a number of streets in Marnel Park. Residents will be requested to park more considerately. The letters will hopefully be delivered by the CSPOs as soon as possible. Failing that, I will deliver them myself, when I can.

Regards

**PC 20686 Dan Carter**

**Popley West**

**Safer Neighbourhood Team Manager**



## Smoking Hazards

If you or members of your household smoke, then you need to be aware of the fire risks and take the appropriate steps to avoid them.

### **Always...**

- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm on each floor level in your home.
- Double-check that cigarette ends, cigar butts and tobacco from your pipe are not still burning when you've finished with them. It's best to wet them and dispose of them in a metal bin outside the house.
- Use a proper ashtray - make sure it is heavy and can't tip over and is made of a material that will not burn.

### **Never...**

- Smoke in bed - numerous deaths are caused when people fall asleep whilst still holding a lit cigarette.
- Tap your ash into a wastepaper basket!

### **Don't...**

- Smoke if you feel sleepy - or if you've been drinking or taking prescription drugs. Again, you could fall asleep whilst holding a lit cigarette.
- Leave a lit cigarette, cigar or pipe unattended - as they burn down they can end up on the carpet and start a fire!
- Leave matches or lighters lying around where children can reach them.
- Leave your ashtray on the armrest of your chair. At the end of the day, make sure you empty them outside in a metal container.

### **Want to give up smoking?**

If you would like to give up smoking you can:

- Visit the NHS smokefree website (opens new window) or
- call Quitline on 0800 00 22 00, or visit the quit smoking website

### **Did you know?**

- Smoking and smoking materials are the second biggest cause of fires in the home.
- Cigarettes can burn at temperatures of over 700°C.
- Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette.
- You can buy child-resistant lighters and containers for match boxes.

Grass, wood and heath fires start when your attention stops! Never throw cigarette ends out of windows.



On 4th June we held a Jubilee celebration in Chineham Park. The weather stayed dry for us, and we all had a good time meeting new neighbours and catching up with old ones. We couldn't have done it without some extra help, so a big thank you to the 'boys' for their help with the barbeque. Also thanks to the children who helped out with litter picking and taking bins back – it was very much appreciated by us old folk who were absolutely exhausted by then! Congratulations to those who won prizes – come back next time for more chances to win. Thank you to Jane Frankum and Stephen Bate for your support, and to Sentinel for our main raffle prize. We took just over £180 which will help towards our next event.

On 18th August we are holding another event in Chineham Park, this time with an Olympic theme. More of our home-made cakes, hopefully a delicious hog-roast, tombola, raffle and lots of family fun again. We would love to see you there! Anyone able to help out with anything at all, including ideas for races, decorations, volunteering on the day and other fundraising projects, please give us a nudge at [jjohn957@aol.com](mailto:jjohn957@aol.com).

## Popley Islands Community Group

Popley Islands Community Group is there to represent the views of those who live in the Popley Islands area. We meet about once a month - usually on a Thursday, at Popley Fields Community Centre at 7:30pm for an hour or so. If you are interested in getting involved and ensuring that residents views are properly taken into account in the future of Popley please contact Stephen Bate, Community Development Officer

Neighbourhood Development. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council t: 01256 844844 m: 07500 987638 or email Stephen on [Stephen.Bate@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Bate@basingstoke.gov.uk). *Many thanks, Suzanne Dennese*

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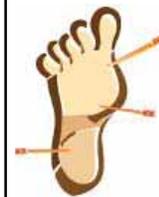
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### Real life case study

Mr L, a disabled man from Petersfield answered a telephone call out of the blue offering him a fast loan of £10,000 and was delighted to be told that his telephone application had been instantly approved regardless of his poor credit history. Before he received the loan, he was asked for an upfront fee of £400 to cover insurance for the loan. He borrowed the money from his elderly mother and paid the loan company by Ukash money transfer voucher bought from his local convenience store. He did not hear from the company again and the loan was never received. The company could not be traced.

The Consumer Credit Act 1974 provides that a credit-broker may charge no more than £5 for services if the consumer does not enter into a relevant agreement within six months of an introduction to a prospective source of credit or hire. If the broker has already charged more than £5 for his services in these circumstances, the excess must be refunded to the consumer upon request. However, tracing the company involved to request a refund can be difficult compounded by the fact that the only telephone numbers given are often charged at premium rate.

Payday loan companies have promised to improve the way they sell credit to borrowers under voluntary guidelines agreed with the government. Lenders have until 25 July 2012 to add new commitments to their existing codes of practice. These include a promise to increase transparency about loan repayments so borrowers are not surprised by hidden payments, robust credit and affordability assessments to make sure loans are suitable for the borrower, and more help for customers in financial difficulty by freezing charges and interest.

**Report to : Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on  
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**Headquarters:**  
**Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE**

**Group Scout Leader:** Colin Karslake 01256 410559  
**Scout section:** Andy Welham-Jones 07971 491 145  
**Cub Scout section:** Douglas Gowan 01256 412326  
**Beaver Scout section:** Eve Alexander 01256 346510



Beavers visited Hobby Craft for an entertaining evening in June and two more Beavers have been recommended to receive the Chief Scouts Bronze Award. The Colony is planning a lodge 'sleepover' on 14/15th July and the District sleepover' at JJ's Fun Centre for even more excitement and fun later this month. Beavers have also enjoyed an evening of science experiments recently. The colony now has a waiting list so please e-mail [alexander.yvonne@sky.com](mailto:alexander.yvonne@sky.com) with details of any child wishing to join us and she will contact you when there is a vacancy.

Three cubs, Ryan, Jack & Harry moved up from cubs to the scout section at the end of May and were invested as Scouts. We wish them luck in the section and hope to see them around on combined activities from time to time. Most of the Cub Pack is off to District Cub Camp which is being held at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre near Oxford at the end of June. Activities such as crate stacking, abseiling, archery & rifle shooting are on the programme. Let's hope the weather is fine.



At the end of May the Cubs all sections of the Group joined with Popley and Popley Scout Group for a "Jubilee Street Party" when they all enjoyed a BBQ, ice-cream and jelly and played games. Jubilee Scout Medals awarded for the best "Red, White & Blue" themed costumes for each section as well as for the best dressed Leaders.

Regrettably the Beaver Colony is currently full but there are vacancies in both Cub and Scout sections. Cubs (aged 8-10½) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10½-14) on Friday. All sections open to both boys and girls. Contact section leaders listed above for more information. Explorer section (for those aged 14-18) – contact Group Scout Leader.

Base 2000 is available for hire to community user groups and for private children's parties. Enquiries through [bookings@base2000.co.uk](mailto:bookings@base2000.co.uk) or telephone Colin on 01256 410559/ 07796 772 500. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends.

Charity number 267344

Headquarters registration number 42755

# Silver Neighbour

Last year some of the residents of Popley helped me to pilot a free test for assessing your own risk of Alzheimer's disease. Go to the charity [www.foodforthebrain.com](http://www.foodforthebrain.com) if you want to know about the end product, suffice to say 117,000 people have now taken that test and can either take steps to stop it progressing, or can relax in the knowledge that their risk is low. However, in the course of the pilot study I went into 50 people's homes and talked at length with them. I had a shock. I hadn't realised some of the problems of living in the UK in your 80s, 70s and even 60s and 50s, especially for people living on their own and in particular for widows who were used to their husbands managing things like the boiler service, electrics or clearing the gutters. They, in particular, don't want strangers in their homes, and worry about being ripped off by tradespeople they find on the internet. Fear of falling or being ill and not being found was another big worry, and then there was the issue of loneliness. If you can't get out and about, and you don't have family nearby, you can go for days without seeing another person. That was a surprise and I don't want to be like that when I am older. We have to do better for our senior citizens.

I come from a technology background and so I set to thinking about how technology could be used to help with these problems and I came up with an idea. It involves technology that no-body need fear because it is so simple to use, and a community co-ordinator - someone in the community who knows what is going on. Jane Frankum would be a good example – there's very little going on in Popley that she doesn't know about.

So now I need to test my idea on some volunteers. Firstly I need to speak to people who are over 60, living alone, and without a supportive family nearby, to test my idea, and in the future hopefully I'll need about 6 people to test the prototype. I have called it Project Silver Neighbour. If you would be happy to talk to me for about 20 minutes, please give me a call on 01256 332673 or email me on [trustrameve@fastmail.fm](mailto:trustrameve@fastmail.fm). *Catharine Trustram Eve*



Summer is upon us, are your children bored already? Romsey School is holding a play scheme for school age children from Monday 13th August to Friday 17th August, 1:30-3:30pm at Melrose Hall. For further details call Vicki in the office.

**WHATS ON:**

- MONDAY:** 9.30-11.30am Friendly Café  
 9.30-12.00pm Naomi's Childminders group (childminders only)  
 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
- WEDNESDAY:** 9.30-11.00am Popley Little People, Baby and Toddler group (all careers)  
 9.00-10.45am Quit Smoking Clinic  
 12-2pm Oasis Lunch club  
 5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** 9.30-11.30am Friendly Café
- FRIDAY:** DAY TIME HIRE AVAILABLE  
 6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years  
 8.00- 9.15pm age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9.00am-12.30pm MG Dance Academy
- SUNDAY:** MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.  
 NEW!!! 4:00pm Beginners - Phoenix Dog Training Club – Starts 6th May  
 NEW!!! 5:00pm Improvers - Phoenix Dog Training Club – Starts 6th May

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, and conferences. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information, or e-mail us at Melrosehall@btconnect.com

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

## Cornerstone Nursery News - June 2012

### Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way - 01256 840300

Over the last month the children in our Ducklings room have been participating in lots of sensory activities including body painting, water play and discovering different textures in the garden. Our Penguins room have been discussing colours, shapes and different sounds in and around their environments. The Swifts room have been enjoying our short spell of sunshine in the garden, discovering different sights and smells in the outside space. They have been doing a small project about spring, which was the children's idea, by creating a large rainbow made out of pasta, glitter and paints as well as having a huge amount of fun hiding and discovering objects in the shredded paper. Puffins have been discussing lots of things about going to school and how much fun they are going to have making lots of new friends. They are also doing a project on 'Winnie The Witch' stories for their new book corner display.

As a nursery we have had lots of fun celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee where we all made crowns, flags, carriages and made a large display about the Queen in our foyer. All the rooms have also been busy making lots of nice goodies and cards to give to their Daddies or someone special on Father's Day.

### Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road - 01256 818118

Although it's been a very rainy month, it hasn't stopped us from having fun at Priestley Road. We have played in the puddles making big splashes and the preschool children have been talking about the weather and have made some beautiful all weather collages to display in the rooms.

During June we have spent some time learning about colours. In the 2-3's rooms the children have made colourful displays and they have been on a 'colour hunt' looking for particular colours across the nursery and garden. In the 1-2's room they have also created some colourful paintings using different objects to create prints and marks on the paper.

The babies have been enjoying exploring their new baby garden. It has lots of interactive toys inside for the babies to play with, a lovely shaded area, separated from the main garden to ensure they can play safely. We have also created a construction area in the garden for the older children to build and create, which they have enjoyed exploring.

We had a fantastic time celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with a lovely tea party for all of the children on our patio areas. All the children wore red, white and blue and made their own beautiful crowns. The children in the older rooms really enjoyed playing snap with royal pictures on and making flags to wave at our celebration. A fantastic time was had by all.

### Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

In the Baby room we have enjoyed the Queen's Diamond Jubilee tea party out in the garden and to celebrate we also did some red, white and blue brush paintings which are in our art gallery in the Baby room for all parents to see. We also put up some flags and posters of the Queen. We have been singing and learning the 'Wind the Bobbin Up' song. We made some delicious chocolate rice krispie cakes which the children mixed using a large spoon. We have started to put together a 'Wheel on the us' display for our display board, we have also been very interested in 'Thomas the Tank Engine' and looked at our 'Thomas' books and 'Thomas' shape sorters. We have been pointing at parts of our body and singing 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' to help us.

In the Main room we have enjoyed the Queen's Diamond Jubilee tea party out in the garden. We made lovely Union Jack pictures and dressed up in red, white and blue. The children helped to decorate the Nursery to make it look patriotic.

We have been making lovely bubble pictures for our display. We also made footprint pictures and the children cut out their footprints and stuck them onto their Father's Day cards. The children have been making pasta necklaces and painting them the colours of their choice. The children have really enjoyed making shortbread biscuits getting very messy they also made different colour icing to go on our shortbread biscuits.

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