

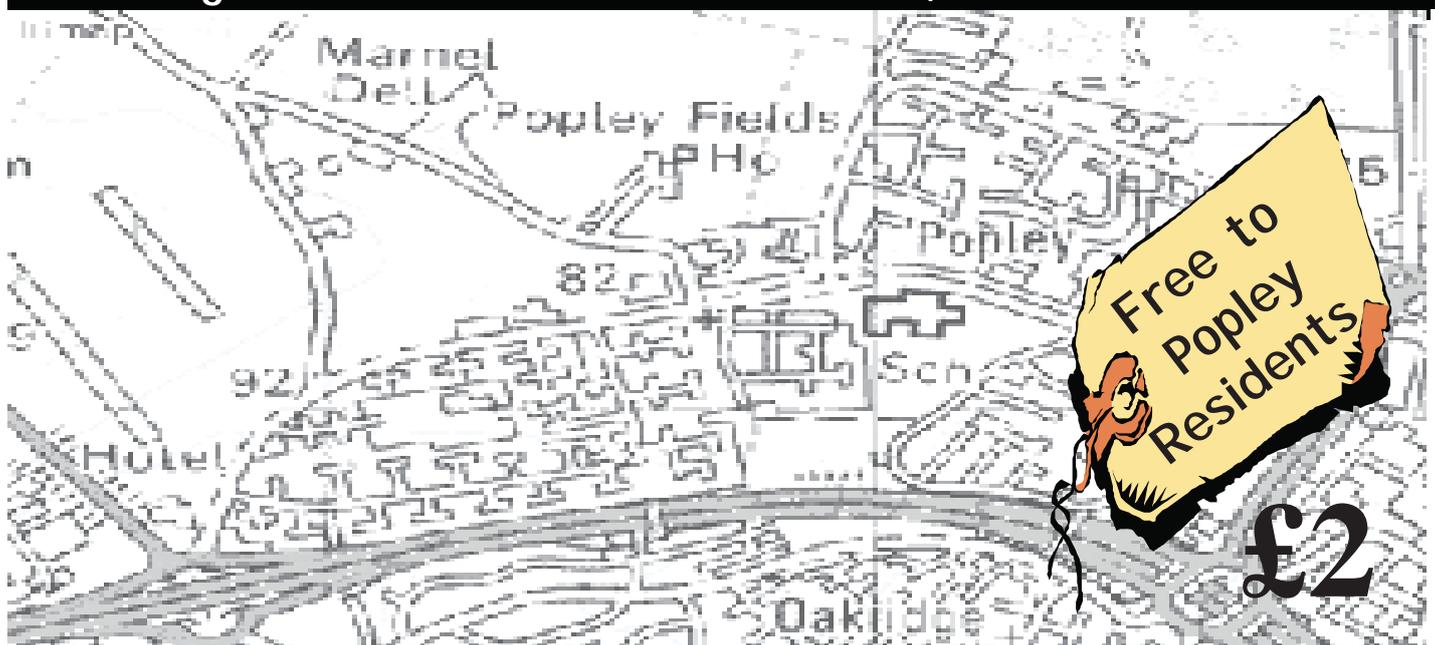
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

August 2013

Distribution of 5,000

Issue 138



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-08-13) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- The sun is shining and the long summer school holidays have now begun. We have tried to put in some places to visit and things to do over this summer. With any luck many readers will get away for at least a few days, or maybe you will have family come to visit you? This is a tough time for our family as we go into another year without Ken. It does remind me of how close we were and how the love and caring of Paul and Tony our sons have sustained me. I speak to lots of people who have lost members of their family and their life partners and some

lonely people, so we have tried to include places and groups for all ages where you can meet some very friendly and welcoming people. Chill and Chat is open to all ages and families and the details are on page 25. On the opposite page is the Summer Streez programme again this year. It has loads to do just turn up at the Popley Youth Club. The Spotlight Centre (in the old Chineham Park School site) has masses of choices of activities too, details on page 3. Of course there are always the community centres and they often put on extra events. The over 55s Club events are on page 9 and The Discovery Centre has a variety of things to do on page 12. If you are having a BBQ there are some handy hints and advice from the Fire Service on page 27. I would like to take the opportunity to ask if you know who the youths are that are leaving litter i.e. cans and bottles and having BBQs please ask them to take your litter home. The green areas are there for all to enjoy and feel safe in. We hope you all have a happy and safe summer. Bonfires though small are a real safety hazard and the fire service have plenty to do without having to attend to these. You can email me at editor@popleymatters.org.uk call me on 01256 819924 or write to me at 405 Abbey Road, 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 Matters.

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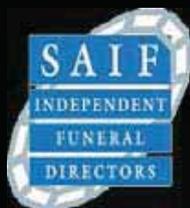
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Sun 18th August

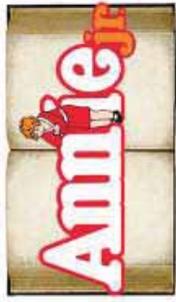
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Popley Spotlight Centre

Councillors Page: Cllr Paul Frankum and Cllr Jane Frankum met with officers of Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and as a result of the meeting the council are seeking to implement on-street parking controls in Marnel Park following concerns about parking behaviour reported by local residents and the police. Detailed parking surveys have been carried-out which show where vehicles parked at junctions, on bends and footways that are causing difficulties for both traffic and pedestrians. In response it is intended to promote some double yellow line (No Waiting At Any Time) parking controls at locations along the main traffic routes through Marnel Park to improve road safety and access for all road users. It is proposed to introduce the parking controls later this year on an experimental basis initially for six months, to enable their effectiveness to be assessed before considering introducing them permanently. The six month experimental period will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the parking controls and all representations that are received will be taken into consideration prior to deciding whether the controls should be made permanent. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: We are very concerned about the amount and type of rubbish and damage being done in the Marnel Park area. There are two main sites one owned by David Wilson Homes (The Copse) and the open green area behind Marnel Lodge. In both areas BBQs and small fires have been started and left. The fire service are having to attend and this takes them away from the fire station and could mean extra time on a journey if there were a major fire. 19 fire fighters were killed attending a grass fire in America. It has been a dry and hot summer and what seems like a bit of fun could escalate here. The rubbish is food stuff and alcohol, please do enjoy the lovely open area but take your rubbish and dispose of it at home.

Cllr Paul Frankum has been walking around Popley Abbeys and reporting back to highways department where there are slab paths that need replacing with tarmac, where there is no path at all and a clear need to have pathways, for instance to bus stops and shops.

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: At the end of June, work started on the access improvements in Popley Islands. Footpaths are being upgraded, with the old concrete paving being replaced with a modern durable surface. The work is expected to take about 20 weeks, and will be completed at the end of September. At times, some sections of footway will have to be closed while work is in progress. In order to shorten the construction time and reduce the period of disruption overall, materials will temporarily stored at sites prior to usage. Any disruption to parking should be short-lived as the works move to a different location. Further information can be found on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/transport-schemes-index/north-popley.htm> The next phase of improvements will be in the Popley Poets area concentrating on traffic calming measures in Shakespeare Road and to investigate the provision of off road parking in the area. After receiving a number of concerns from residents it is also hoped that improvements can be made to the approach to the subway from Shakespeare Road.

Quotes are now being sought for the work at The Dell, based on the idea of standing stones engraved with words, which has proved the most popular option with residents. It has now been decided to go forward with the idea of lines of poetry related to the Poets Estate being engraved into the stones. It would be great to hear from local residents and school children living in the Popley Poets of their thoughts on what lines of poetry should be used.

Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088

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Thank you to everyone who attended our Summer Fete. We had glorious weather and a brilliant turnout and all raffle prizes have now been claimed. Watch this space for details of our Christmas Fete.

27th-30 August sees the return of the very popular Summer play scheme run by The Romsey School. 2.00-3.55pm ages 5-11 £1 per child.

WHATS ON IN AUGUST:

MONDAY:	9.30am-12.00pm Little Rainbows (all carers) AFTERNOON AVAILABLE FOR HIRE 5.30-6.45pm NHS Quit smoking 7.00pm Phoenix Dog Training Club 8.00pm Phoenix Dog Training Club 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30-11.00am Popley Little People AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
WEDNESDAY:	9.30am Slimming World 9.00-10.45am NHS Quit Smoking Clinic 12-2pm Oasis Lunch club 5.30 & 7.30pm Slimming World
THURSDAY:	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE 7.00pm Beginners - Phoenix Dog Training Club 8.00pm Improvers - Phoenix Dog Training Club
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:	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
SUNDAY:	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, and Conferences and regular groups. 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.

Marnel and Merton Community Group

Attention Local Businesses – Marnel and Merton Community Group are looking to promote local business into their community and welcome you to advertise on their business page, managed by them. There is direct advertising on their community Facebook page, but message them directly and they will add, subject to distance and coverage to their document which is seen by all within the community good way to advertise your local business for free! You can find them here www.facebook.com/pages/Marnel-and-Merton-Community-Group/190711850945792.

Anyone wishing to join the community group and live within the estate you may contact them via the Facebook page also.



IT is closed season but, off the pitch, MFC Popley Youth are already gearing up for the new season. At its recent AGM, Ian Davies was re-elected as Chairman and Club Secretary, Glenn Taylor was re-elected as Vice Chairman and appointed Treasurer, Nicci Gambrell was re-elected as Club Welfare Officer and Minutes Secretary, Warwick Sear-Jarvis rejoined the Club's Ruling Committee as Director of Football, and David Gambrell and Marcus

Green also joined the Committee.

The Club has had more great news recently with the award of a £5,000 'Grow The Gamme' grant from The Football Foundation, and this success received media coverage on local radio station 'The Breeze' and in The Basingstoke Gazette.

The Club is currently engaged in a recruitment drive for next season's Under 7 and Under 8 and any parent who has a child who, in September, will be Year 2 or Year 3 and wants to get into youth football should contact Ian Davies on 07884 185 693 to arrange to come to train with the Club.



Well, work on the Dryden play area in the middle of Poets estate will start soon. I was pleased to see so many responses to the design options that were displayed at Popley Festival back in May, and am excited to see the project finally start after the summer holidays.

The paddling pool should be up and ready to use shortly. It will be manned during the day for the summer. There is more work to be done on the Dell, which I will tell you about as I find out.

We attended a workshop with the Islands community group recently, where we agreed to keep in touch and let each other know what we are up to. This allows us to take part in all events this side of Popley, and to share resources and volunteers. Hopefully we will be able to hold more events and fundraisers for you all.

Over the next couple of months we will be concentrating on getting our Community Plan drafted. This is a document which will be drawn up from the results of the surveys we have done over the last year or so. It will basically consist of a list of what you think would make our community better, and how we could go about making it happen. It will be hard work, but worth the effort once it is done.

If anyone would like to get involved in the Shakespeare Community Residents Association, or has ideas on small community events, or would like to volunteer to help out please let us know. We will be happy to see you!

You can contact Julie Johnson, Chair of Shakespeare Community Residents Association at jjohn957@aol.com or 816101. We meet informally most Thursdays between 11am and 1.30pm.

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New for Popley!

Age Concern Hampshire is delighted to bring its popular Roadshows to Popley, offering friendship and activities along with our Information and Advice service.

From September Age Concern staff and volunteers will visit Melrose Hall once a month. Join us on Tuesday 10th September between 2 and 4pm for our first Popley Roadshow. Pop in for a cuppa and a cake - naughty but nice!

We offer a fun social afternoon where you can catch up with old friends and make new ones. We also help with enquiries affecting older people and invite occasional speakers on topics of interest. We look forward to meeting you – come and say hello.

For more information please call Mark at Age Concern Hampshire on 01256 423874.

Over 55s Forum

The next Open Forum meeting will be held on the 14th August 2013 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Speakers are Julie Summers (New Book) Women's Institute in the Second World War.

Lynda Mellor (Hounds for Heroes), Mark Thorpe (BDBC) & Bob Williams (How to Complain and Pursue).

New members welcome.

New Trips added to list:

22nd September 2013 - Poole & Brownsea Island - £27.25 Members (Non members £29.25) includes coach travel, boat fee and landing fee at Brownsea Island = if you have a current National Trust membership card the cost will be £21.50 (non members £23.50).

11th October 2013 - Hawk Conservancy - £24.10 members (non members £26.10) includes coach travel, entrance fee and standard cream tea.

24th November 2013 - Petticoat Lane and Spitalfield Markets - £11.50 members - non members £13.50. Celebration of "International Day for Older People" will be on Saturday 28th September 2013 'THE SWINGING SIXTIES SHOW' (a show not to be missed) at Aldworth Science College, Western Way, Basingstoke, 2pm to 5pm. Refreshments and Grand Draw.

Tickets £5 each. Please purchase tickets from Oakridge Hall for All, Age Concern (The Orchard), Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Offices or Gerald .Merritt 01256 412119 or e-mail; gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com.

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August at Basingstoke Discovery Centre

To book a place visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended. To find out more about Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Hampshire Libraries visit www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc.

Local History Talk:

Whitchurch Silk Mill Silk has been woven at Whitchurch Silk Mill for almost 200 years, originally using water power to drive the looms. Fabrics such as organza, taffeta, ottoman, satin and ribbons are woven for the clothing and entertainment industries and more recently for interior designers.

After a pictorial presentation of the Mill and its history, yarns and fabrics will be described and samples handed round. Thursday 8 August at 2pm, £3.

Creepy Storytelling for Children

30 minutes of the creepiest tales on one sitting! Saturday 10 August from 10.30am, FREE. For ages 4 to 8.

Block Printed Tote Bags Workshop

This fun 2hr session allows children to explore a world of colour and pattern using simple block printing techniques. Poly block tiles will be scribed with a design and cut into shapes to be inked up, and printed onto tote bags to take home. Duration - 2hrs. All ages welcome. Dress for mess. Sunday 11 August at 11.30am, £8 inc tote bag.

Walking Tour of Hidden Basingstoke

Think you know Basingstoke? Phil and John from Hidden Britain Tours return to the Discovery Centre to lead a walking tour of the town that reveals the stories behind Basingstoke's hidden history. A must for anyone who enjoys local history and Basingstoke. The tour lasts approximately one hour. Advance booking highly recommended as these tours usually sell out. Tuesday 13 August at 11am, £3.

The Horrible Science Best Bits Show!

Join amazing author Nick Arnold for outrageous hair-raising highlights from the multi-million selling Horrible Science series including Really Rotten Experiments and Sick! From Measly Medicine to Savage Surgery Get ready for evil experiments, scary stories and queasy quizzes. With woeful water torture experiments, disgusting details and the odd shocking song this is roof-raising family fun with extra squishy bits. Not to be missed! Wednesday 14 August at 10am, £6.

FREE Film Screening: Silver Linings Playbook (15)

This week's blockbuster stars Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence and follows the story of former teacher Pat Solitano who moves back in with his parents and tries to reconcile with his ex-wife shortly after a stint in a mental hospital. Things get more challenging when Pat meets Tiffany, a mysterious girl with problems of her own. Thursday 15 August at 2pm, FREE.

Woodland Spirit Storytelling and Making

Make a willow head dress with flowers and ivy-complete with willow wands-and enjoy magical storytelling! Take home your summery new toys and the fun will carry on for weeks after the event. For ages 4-10. Friday 23 August at 10am and 12.30pm, £5.

FREE Film Screening: Lincoln (12)

This week's blockbuster stars Daniel Day Lewis playing the part of America's most famous president as he struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield and as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves.



Hello everyone, hope you have been enjoying this “warm” weather over the past few weeks. The weather has caused some issues to quieten down, however others have increased with the increase in temperature.

Since I last wrote in here the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel have met to discuss and update your priorities. Due to the ongoing issues with drugs in and around Basingstoke this still remains a community priority. However, reports of football nuisance in and around Abbey Road as well as criminal damage around Aspire Place have declined, and although these have now been removed from our immediate priorities, we will continue to monitor and patrol these known issue areas and remind all residents to report any problems via 101. Now all the schools have broken up, can I once again remind all parents that small communal gardens are inappropriate for balls games, please could you urge your children to play in the many parks available in and around Popley.

The panel has also agreed two new priorities. These are: Trespassing in Marnel Park Schools and Anti Social Behaviour in the park and wooded area behind Carter Drive, in particular the lighting of fires in the wooded area. Your Safer Neighbourhood team aim to patrol these areas as best we can in order to tackle these issues. In order to help us tackle this issue it is important that any resident witnessing any issue calls 101 in order for us to deal with and gather a greater understanding.

In other news, we are aware of the issue which travellers caused over the past month, leaving a trail of rubbish and much more. Anyone witnessing any travellers setting up are reminded to ring the police as soon as possible. On the 22nd June PC Dan Carter carried out a successful drugs raid in the Marnel Park area, a large amount of Cannabis plants were found, and a male is currently on bail for this. A car was stopped on 19th July in Falkland Road by police officers and a male was found in possession of cannabis, the man was arrested and charged with possession. On the 23rd of this month I stopped one male in possession of cannabis, officers attended and the male was given a street caution.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable and quiet summer.

PCSO Stephen Burgess



Headquarters:

Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake 01256 410559

Scout section: John-Paul Keetch 07899 087 275

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 01256 346510

In July the Cubs enjoyed a visit from Ellen, a Guide Dogs for the Blind puppy walker, who brought her latest charge 'Enzo' to meet everyone. The Cubs listened intently to find out how dogs are trained to help people with impaired sight to carry out the tasks of daily life. It takes a lot of time and patience to train a guide dog and unfortunately not all puppies achieve the required level of concentration performance and reliability. Puppies even have to be 'toilet trained' and are only allowed to go on 'command' which can be really difficult for some!

To close the summer session, the Beavers had a 'water pistol shoot-out' at the 'OK Corral' and finished by making paper windmills and 'bubble rockets' – a great hit! Andy Cullen, District Commissioner for Basingstoke East Scouts, presented Harvey with his Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Well done Harvey!



Later that same evening, the Cub Pack held a Pirates' Scavenge Hunt in the woods finding natural items to use as a 'hook' for a missing hand and something that could be used as an anchor for their pirate ship. Having returned to 'safe anchorage' in Base 2000 they then had to find hidden treasure and a drink of 'pirate's punch' 'Cap'n Akela' then invested new conscripts to the pirate band and the District Commissioner presented Sam with his Silver Chief Scout's Award. Well done Sam!

Well done Sam!

Some members of the Scout section will be taking part in Hampshire Scouts County Camp at Ferny Crofts in the New Forest in August. We hope the better weather continues until then and are certain they will have a 'fantastic' time. Underwater crate stacking, hiking, cycling and go-karting are expected to be included in the programme.

All sections are now closed until the September with meetings restarting week commencing 2nd September and a Beaver 'sleepover' scheduled for 7th September. More high jinks and fun are already in the planning for the autumn session. New recruits welcome – for more information, contact the leaders or use www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts

Base 2000 will be having its customary 'summer clean' during the August break. Booking enquiries to bookings@base2000.co.uk or call Colin on 07796 772 500 / 01256 410559.

BATS Next Gen **Basingstoke Youth Musical Theatre Group**

'BATS Next Gen is purring with pride performing hit west end musical!'

Basingstoke England, July 2013 – In the outer room of the dance studios, we hear the hubbub of excited young talented people meeting up, sharing their experiences, running through their audition songs and practicing dance moves.

It's that time of year again, where the families of Basingstoke and North Hampshire come together to allow their children to audition for the forthcoming BATS Next Gen Show.

The amazing thing about this process is the talent, commitment and integrity of the children who put themselves forward for audition with BATS Next Gen. The process is fairly demanding as we ask each young person to come along to a free workshop over a three week period leading up to the audition day. Show songs, characters and choreography are learnt and the attendees get a feeling for what is expected of them in the show.

97 children aged between 8 and 18 attended the workshops and produced 77 auditionees for a final cast of 47.

This year BATS Next Gen are washing their collective whiskers with excitement and purring at the prospect of being licensed to perform a west end hit musical which will have you meowing with melancholy and feline just great! Details of this new show and previous 'pawformances' are on our website; by visiting the following lynx www.batsnextgen.co.uk.

The performance itself is planned for Thursday 20th February through to Saturday 23rd February 2014 and will include a matinee. Rehearsals will begin shortly, at the Proteus Creation Space.

BATS Next Gen would like to heartily thank all the young people who put themselves forward and congratulate the newly appointment cast.

Find us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BATSNG>





Sentinel STEP up to help jobseekers

In these tough economic times finding a job can be hard, that's why Sentinel Housing Association has teamed up with Academy4Housing to launch our innovative, new STEP programme.

The Support To Employment Programme (STEP) helps anyone living in a Sentinel home and looking for work find a job or an Apprenticeship by helping them to: recognise their existing skills and discover new ones they didn't know they had; brush up their communication skills, so they can nail job interviews; and build vital work experience, to improve their CVs, through job placements and voluntary roles.

This flexible learning programme is specifically designed around each participant's individual needs and tailored support is provided by our experienced STEP tutor.

Based in our Basingstoke offices, STEP runs two days a week (Thursday and Friday) and at the end of their training, participants will be fully prepared to get and keep a job. There's also the opportunity to come away with a nationally recognised qualification.

STEP is completely free and Sentinel will also pay for participant's travel expenses and childcare costs, if applicable.

Sarah Smith, Sentinel's Community Development Manager, said, "By launching STEP we're doing all we can to support everyone, who lives in a Sentinel home and is looking for work, to find a job or Apprenticeship. STEP is different, as it's all about finding out each participant's goals so we can tailor the help and training they receive to meet their specific needs. The programme is open to all ages, but we're particularly keen to help younger people, who need extra support, take their first step on the career ladder."

STEP is funded by Sentinel and the Big Lottery Fund.

For more information visit www.sentinelha.org.uk/step or call Margareta on **0300 123 2191** or email margareta@academy4housing.com

Neighbourhood Watch and Police Newsletter

Please do not invite crime

Unfortunately in the last few days I have had reports of 'Opportunist Crimes' particularly targeted at the elderly and other residents, who had left their front door open during the very hot weather. In one case, the resident found the intruder going through her handbag and, when challenged, said he was looking for window cleaning work. Fortunately, in cases reported so far, nothing has been stolen and nobody has been injured, but PLEASE - PLEASE do not invite this sort of crime – always keep your doors and windows secure.

May I ask all coordinators, members and neighbours to be extra vigilant in the current hot weather. Be a good neighbour, especially where vulnerable residents are concerned.

Also, do not leave valuable items in your car when parking. Items left on view are all too easily stolen in seconds.

Hot off the press and new issues

I have updated the BDNW website with information about Yellow Pages deliveries and Rogue Trader announcements, so do please take a look at those articles. Police Twitter feeds are already in place and Facebook links should be coming soon. There is also an issue with catalytic converters being stolen at night, mainly from Mercedes Sprinter vans. It is difficult to stop this type of crime and some companies are switching vehicle supplier to try to alleviate the issue. Please be extra careful when parking any vehicle overnight and do please report any issues straight away on 101 or 999 as appropriate.

Younger members

Neighbourhood Watches everywhere are continually trying to attract younger members and various initiatives are being tried. We are open to all suggestions as to how we might actively encourage young persons to become involved and take an active part in the work we do. If you have any ideas that you think might work or help in this area, then do please let us know.

Traveller camps

We currently have travellers camps in the borough area and it may well be that some incidents are related to their arrival. Our Police are taking action to remove these camps but, as we all know, that takes time. Please be extra vigilant in all areas of our borough and report any traveller instances to 101 so that eviction proceedings can be instigated at the earliest opportunity. Also do not encourage their presence by "employing them for odd jobs at bargain prices". If there is no financial incentive in an area, maybe they will go elsewhere, hopefully well outside of our area.

Project Hermes

A new crime fighting system is being promoted by Basingstoke Police whereby valuable item details may be scanned in to a central database to record their rightful owner. Police Officers can check virtually instantly if items found in suspicious circumstances are stolen.

Hermes uses "Immobilise", so before your phone, bike, computer or any other personal item is lost or stolen, you can use Immobilise to instantly tell police, insurers, and the second-hand trade. These actions help greatly in the recovery of your property and capture of thieves. BDNW is considering training on the Hermes/Immobilise kit. Meanwhile, you may wish to take a look at the website at <http://www.immobilise.com/> for further information. New updates should be coming soon.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

Hart & Rushmoor SNT Officers are now actively trialling this scheme, which is supported by Neighbourhood Watch, with the aim of helping to protect elderly and vulnerable in instances of unknown doorstep callers. Further details are on the BDNW website. We hope it will come to our area fairly soon.

Ongoing crime issues. – the old favourites still happen

There are several witness appeals on our website this week, relating to recent crimes in our area. Please take a look.

Also on our website is an article about supermarket car park scams. Please do be careful.

Opportunist theft from all types of motor vehicles is unfortunately still happening, especially in rural areas like beauty spots, rural restaurant car parks and any similar areas. This is mainly being fuelled by valuable items being left visible and inviting crime. The police often undertake major crime prevention initiatives and you may get a letter from them, if their patrols reveal you are thought to be leaving your vehicle and valuable contents at risk. Also ongoing is thefts from vans in many areas of the Basingstoke patch. Where possible, please remove or hide all valuable items from your vehicle, especially when parked overnight. Do remember that thieves know where to look for your valuables and it just takes seconds for a thief to rob you of your most treasured items. NEVER leave keys in your vehicle when it is not being driven and always lock it when parked and don't leave any items on view.

Always remember that the issues from previous editions never go away. We are always aware of Rogue Traders offering their services heating oil thefts, cold callers, other scams and frauds etc. Again – see articles on the BDNW Website

Also be aware of any "extra devices" designed to skim your details, when using your credit/debit card at cash machines, petrol pumps and other outside card facilities. If it looks strange or different, don't use the card machine, but do report it ASAP.

Every piece of information really does help the overall fight against crime. Every call can also help in deciding policing strategy.

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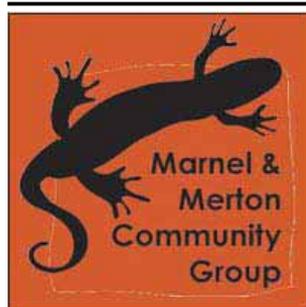
You are very welcome to join us at meetings, featuring guest speakers and refreshments on:

Last Tuesday of each month
2.00 - 4.00pm

The Shaftesbury Room,
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The meetings are attended by Respiratory Experts so members can receive expert advice. Join your local group and you will get access to: friendship and advice from people who know what you are going through and a chance to meet people in a similar situation; talks from nurses, doctors, physiotherapists and other speakers; and all kinds of social and fundraising events.

Get in touch today with your local Breathe Easy Group -
For more information please contact Judith on 07730366411

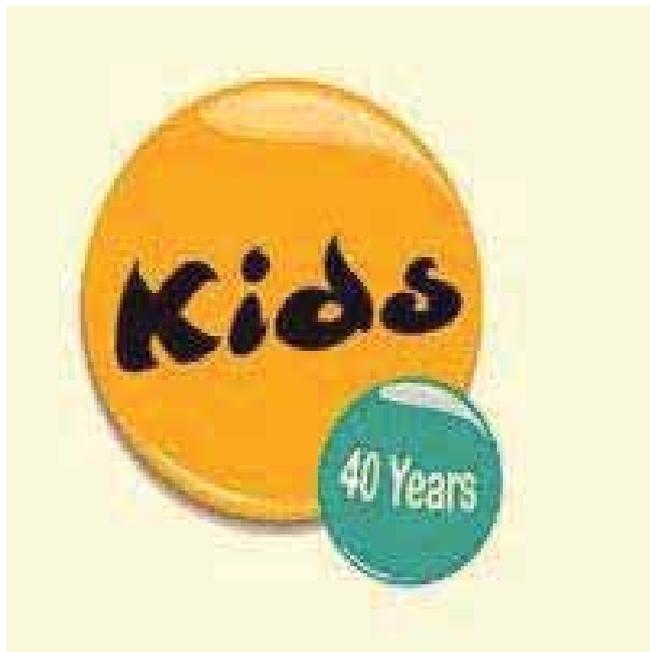


Marnel and Merton Community

We are busily working through the action plan following the surveys completed by residents. The next community meeting will be Wednesday 7th August, 7.30pm at Base 2000.

A couple of community projects are currently underway, "Meet a Mum" an initial meeting is being called to look for volunteers to manage this mum's group on a regular basis, This will be held at Junction 6 – TBC. All details are on our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marnel-and-Merton-Community-Group/190711850945792> or type in Marnel and Merton Community in the search field and up we pop! And a Date for your Diary Halloween Party 2nd November – at Popley Fields - details to follow.

All of our information can be found here <http://marnelandmerton.weebly.com/> or Twitter @marnelmmcg.



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Dear Friends

A song-worm has invaded my brain, it's that old Irving Berlin song "we're having a heat-wave, a tropical heat-wave, temperatures rising it's hardly surprising..." Phew! What a scorcher it's been so far and don't you just love it? Well I do, so I'm always a little disappointed to hear folk complain about the weather. I was watching Billy Connolly on TV the other night he was saying that there is no such thing as bad or good weather - only the wrong clothes! How right he is, but having said that it does seem to be an English national pastime to comment on the weather doesn't it! When we lived in Cyprus no one ever talked about the weather, mostly because the sun shone every day from early April to late October - you could plan a barbeque a month in advance and know the weather would be good – bit boring really – I do like the unpredictability of the English weather.

Returning some years ago from a visit to the RHS show in Manchester in July, we were on the M40 near Oxford when we had to drive through one of the most ferocious storms I've ever driven through anywhere or anytime before. Bolts of lightning were searing the ground either side of us, hailstones and rain pelted the windscreen so that you couldn't see through it and a howling wind rocked the car from side to side. Traffic on the motorway slowed to a crawl and the only thing we could see were the faint outline of the rear lights of the car in front and the white line marking the edge of the motorway lane through the side window. It was at one and the same time terrifying and thrilling. That's what I love about our weather and its changeability; scorching sun one minute and lashing thunderstorms the next.

I still remember how some of the sights and smells at that flower show combined with the weather on our journey home caused me to pause and think just how wonderful and varied God's creation is with all its immensity and intricacy. You know God has given us an amazing opportunity to partner with him in caring for his creation. I'm not a fanatic or fundamentalist when it comes to climate change but I am becoming increasingly aware of the personal part I have to play in caring for our wonderful world. Even the smallest things can make a difference – taking litter home with you; recycling when you can; conserving water and electricity; using the car less often and 'getting on yer bike'. Everyday things that if each one of us took on board could make a huge impact on reducing climate change.

We have a responsibility to one another, to our children and grandchildren and ultimately to God for caring for this world – you don't have to go mad – just pick one thing you can change in your life and do it!"

God's Blessing for a continuing fantastic summer!

Your friend and Vicar

Arthur.

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Important Changes to the School Leaving Age

This summer has brought important changes to the school leaving age. Those who will reach age 16 before the end of the current summer holidays were allowed to leave school at the end of last term. They were then free to take up employment if they wished to.

The new rules in force from this summer mean that those in year 11 will not be able to leave the education system until they are 17 and those in year 10 and below will have to wait until they are 18 before they finish their education. This is an initiative by the Government to keep young people in education or training longer and to encourage an increase in apprenticeships and training opportunities.

It will not be necessary for students to actually stay at school and if they prefer they can as an alternative, go to college, take up an apprenticeship or take up full-time employment (over 20 hours per week) combined with part-time education or training. This means that employers will hopefully be looking seriously into setting up training schemes and apprenticeships going forward.

This is just one of a number of changes that came into force this summer and which affect employment and the laws that relate to it. Those changes include the revision of the Employment Tribunal rules, a change to the redundancy provisions and amendments to the rules on whistle blowing and dismissal due to political opinion. It also saw the introduction of “protected conversations” in the workplace leading potentially to settlement agreements as a means of ending employment on agreed terms.

All of the services offered by Phillips Solicitors can be viewed on their website at www.phillips-law.co.uk or please call 01256 460830. Gill Brown heads up the employment law team and can be contacted on 01256 854605 or gbrown@phillips-law.co.uk.

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Monday evening - C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick Boxing from 6:30-8:00pm
Tuesday evening - Community Bingo, doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 8:00pm.
Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available halftime).
Wednesday evening - Available for hire.
Thursday evening- Street Dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult.
4:30-6:30pm. School term time.
Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484
C.M.A kick boxing from 7pm -8.30pm.
Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 5:00-6:30pm

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

**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERY ONE WHO WHO CAME TO THE
PRIZE BINGO ON 12TH JULY. ONCE AGAIN A GREAT SUCCESS. HOPE TO SEE
YOU ALL AGAIN AT THE NEXT ONE.**

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Diaries from the Old Codger

As I write this month's Matters the temperature is way too hot for me, and I expect for many others. Yet if it is raining we get down, so you can't win can you.



I don't know if you saw a programme in June about a woman that will not let her child play with so called common people! Common, well I am out for a start. Who are common people? I don't know, children are children and they play with each other all the time in school and in the park, I wonder does she lock her child up and select the children she wants to come round to play? What kind of life has this child got to look forward to with such a mother as her? It is just a thought I put to you about our kids and what life is all about and some of the idiotic people in it. Fool that I am tried to put down a new patio as the old one had to come up. I am so independent I tried the best I could. My legs are one mass of bruises if any one wants to see!!!! Her Indoors won't, she calls me spindle legs, O.K. after my stroke one leg has withered away and the other is not worth talking about. Back to the patio, I have a great family; my son took time to come down and put a new one down; Her Indoors took about twenty sacks of rubble to the tip; and my son-in-law came round and has done some of the joint filling. By the time you read this it should be down finished and I can scoot around in my wheelchair much safer.

I hope many of you have seen the advert the RSPB has on TV at the moment about how you can help our wildlife by putting up nest boxes of different dimensions so birds can nest next year and by putting a few logs to make a hedgehog house in your front or back garden. If you go on the their website it gives you the information. I hope our local schools take up this idea from them. Well kids summer break is upon us. Remember to tell mum where you are, do not play where you should not do so, and have a good holiday.

Her Indoors just had a week away in Provence and she had a lovely time with beautiful weather. She didn't expect to come back to the same here in Basingstoke!! Glad she had a much needed break, gave my poor ears a chance to rest too.....Ouch!

As I have said above, kids have a good summer, keep safe, live your life to the full and most of all, be happy



Till next month
The Old Codger



BBQ Safety.

-  Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby in case of emergencies.
-  Only use barbecues in suitable and safe areas.
-  Set up your barbecue on level ground away from bushes, tents or other buildings and do not put it where you have to squeeze past it.
-  Wear suitable clothing and use appropriate long handled tools.
-  Make sure the coals are cool before you move the barbecue. Once cool, dispose of the ashes safely - never place them in dustbins.
-  Keep young children, animals and ball games away from the cooking area.
-  Be careful when cooking fatty foods, the dripping fat can cause the barbecue to flare up.
-  Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue. Use only recognised lighters or starter fuel, on cold coals and follow the instructions on the container/packet.
-  Never leave barbecues unattended.

We Make Life Safer

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



Dear readers,

Wow it has been so hot so far this month which makes a lovely change from all the rain and the cold weather we've had. As you know, it was my 11th birthday this month and I had a party with all my friends. I think I can safely say that we all had a great time. We had a Gangnam Style face off with the boys versus girls as well as the usual dancing. For my actual birthday we spent the day down at the river Thames in Reading. We took a picnic, bats and balls and a football and had a great time just having family fun. To finish off the day we went on a boat cruise along the river. The boat we went on was called the Devon Belle. That very same boat had performed in the Queen's Jubilee Pageant. I was scared at first as I had never been on a boat but once we set off it was fine. It was so nice just going down the river with a cool breeze blowing. My sisters and I waved to all the people on the river bank and on the other boats, most people waved back.

The school production is going well. We have just done our first full dress rehearsal performance in front of an audience today. We had to perform to all the infants, the Governors and a few other selected people. My brother and sisters got to see it today and my brother said I was really good in it and they all said they enjoyed the play. The performances to the parents are on the 16th, 17th and 18th and I've got my Mum, Dad, Grandad and Dance teacher coming to see me. I am really excited about the play but it is a little worrying just thinking that you may miss out a line or not be quick enough to change into your other clothes, just little things like that on top of all the other things like performing in front of audience of people and when you have the main part you are even more nervous because you have such a big part.

One of the other things I had been worrying about was my SATS results. We got our results on Friday before our school reports came out. Although I was entered for a Level 6 in my Reading, sadly I didn't get it but I did get a 5a. The one subject I was sure I hadn't done well in was my Maths, but my teacher said to me that she nearly cried when she saw my result as I had done a lot better than any of us could have hoped.

As Year 6s, we have been very lucky as we have had a Leavers treat organised by the parents (well Mums mainly) and we are having one with all our teachers as a treat from the school tonight.

See you next month
Ellie

Summer Fate
At Marnel Lodge
Saturday 6th July

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- Nursing Care
- Residential Care
- Dementia Care
- Respite Care

Thank you,
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Please contact us for further
information or to arrange a visit

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