

# FASTFARE PHARMACY

UNIT 3 ABBEY ROAD SHOPS POPLEY

BASINGSTOKE RG24 9ES TEL/FAX 01256 357 637

**FREE PRESCRIPTION**

**COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE**

## HOW DOES IT WORK

- \* Bring in your repeat prescription(s) or we collect it from your doorstep
- \* Once you authorise us we will take it to your doctors to prepare your prescription
  - \* We will also pick up your prescription when it is ready
- \* We will get the prescription ready at Fastfare Pharmacy for you to collect or we deliver at your door

**AND ITS ALL FREE OF CHARGE**

## HELP US TO HELP YOU

**WE OFFER WIDE RANGE OF OTHER SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

- \* We dispense NHS and Private prescriptions
- \* Free pickup, collection and delivery of prescription(s)
- \* Patient medication record system for help and service
- \* Nomad System for patient needing help taking medication on time and regularly
  - \* Blood pressure testing and monitoring facility
  - \* Diabetic check up and monitoring facility
  - \* Cholesterol checking facility and help
- \* Provision for private consultation area for patients
- \* Help for safe disposal of unused /out dated medicine
- \* Providing help and support to Nursing homes with patient care and medication requirements
  - \* Advice on medication and treatment of minor illness if need be by Pharmacist
  - \* Pregnancy advice and morning after pill available



## Opening Hours

**Mon-Fri 9am -7pm; Sat 9am-5pm**

**HELP US TO HELP YOU - PLEASE ASK**

**Don't forget Fastfare Your Local Convenience Shop**

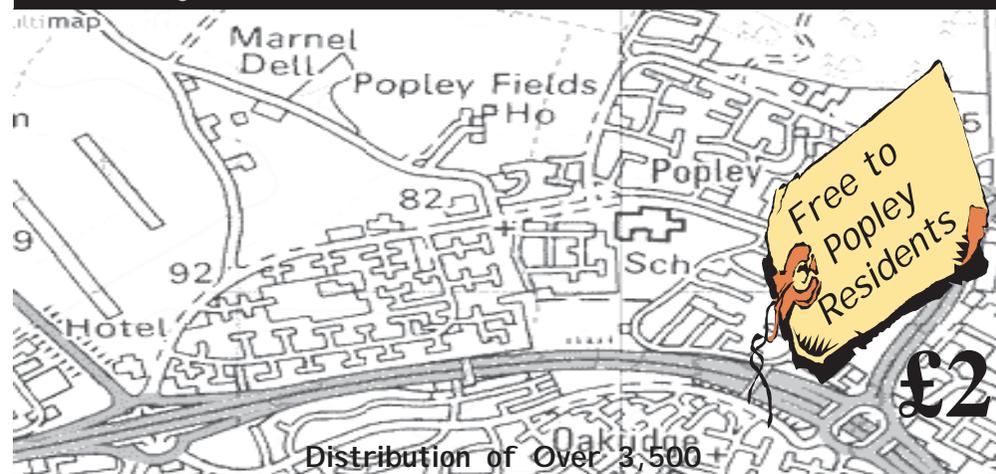
Printed by Personalised Print ☎352434 Email:p.print@virgin.net

# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

January 2006

Issue 47



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

## Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Basingstoke Air Scouts News	Page 12
Community Wardens	Page 1	Base 2000	Page 13
Popley Conservation Volunteers	Page 3	The Community Furniture Project	Page 16
North of Popley Update	Page 4	Message From Arthur Botham	Page 18
Councillors Page	Page 6	Abbey Court	Page 19
What is Oakfern Resident Forum?	Page 7	Magnolia Court	Page 19
Popley Fields Update	Page 8	Basingstoke & District Railway	Page 20
Police Report	Page 9	Popley Dell Poetry & Visual Arts	Page 20
Quit Smoking	Page 9	Diary from an Old Codger	Page 21
What's on at Melrose Hall	Page 10	Letters to the Editor	Page 24
Awards For All	Page 11		

[www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk)

Closing date to submit articles & Adverts (20-01-06)

## Message From the Editor:-

I hope you all had a good Christmas and had a nice break, well as a Mum I wont get much of a break like a lot of people as I will have chosen bought and wrapped the presents cleared the mess and cooked the massive Christmas dinner. If I am really lucky the washing up might have been done for me, well I can dream? But I wont moan because I will be saying thank you because in homes in many places they wont have the luxuries we have indeed some have no home at all not even a tent.

Have you made any New Year resolutions? I have decided again this year not to make any resolutions at all then I wont feel guilty when I break them.

Our local beat officers have a double page this edition with some advice for where you can call for help. On pages 12 and 13. The Hampshire Fire and Rescue service also have some very handy advice on page, Also Sentinel are giving some sound advice if you find yourself in financial difficulties with your rent, easily done around this time of year their advice is on page 7

The naming of the new development Popley North is on page 4 and on page 9 details of where you can get free advice and help if your new year resolution is to give up smoking.

We are always looking for people to write articles for Popley Matters, stories or factual accounts or if you are part of a club then write and tell us about it. Who knows we could publish a book of the writings in Popley. I might have a go at some poetry myself. You can contact us in several different ways phone 01256 819924 or 07974098131 you can email at [jane@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:jane@popleymatters.org.uk) or visit our website [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) and leave a message on the message board or write to me The Editor at 405 Abbey Road, Popley West, Basingstoke, RG24 9EL

**Jane Frankum Editor**

*Hits on [popley.matters.org.uk](http://popley.matters.org.uk) website for month of December 559*

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke.RG24 9EL email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk) The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

**Editorial Team:-** Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Kevin Walker; Distribution Iris King; Committe Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas; Administrator Sandra Cass;

**Distribution Team:** Ann Allwright; Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Iris King; Colin Karslake; ; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Martin Stacey; Kim Taylor; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Alison Walker; Kevin Walker; Stuart Humphries; Kylie Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Ernie Pierce; June Pierce; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn;

**Youth Volunteers:** Nathan Barris; Alex Humphries; Laura Humphries; Ryan Humphries; Martin Stacey;

## Quality, Flexible, Affordable, Childcare



We are a family owned nursery that believes in offering the very best in childcare

- Mature experienced staff
- A warm nurturing atmosphere where children feel happy and secure
- A quarter acre garden for children to explore, run and have fun in
- A self contained sleep room for when children need rest
- A focus on wholesome food – freshly prepared on the premises

Our focus is on

- **Affordability – we're cheaper than you think**
- **Flexibility – you can send your child for 4 or 40 hours a week**

---

## Special Offer for children over 3

- **15 Hours per week totally free**
- **ONLY £3 for each hour after that**

\* During term time. If your child is at nursery during lunchtime they will receive a full hot lunch at a cost of £1.60

---

For details please call **01256 81 81 18** – we're just  
around the corner in Priestly Road (near the hospital)



## Letters to The Editor



**Dear Editor;** Thank you for the advice on your front cover for December I and many of my neighbours have been driven nearly mad by those mini motor scooters and though I don't mind people enjoying themselves, the noise is dreadful and almost deafening but of more concern of myself and friends is how dangerous they can be and we worry about being knocked down. Should the riders wear crash helmets and be insured? I hope that everyone reports these anti social people

*Editors reply; Of course I agree that is why it was decided to put the notice on the front cover was taken we already had one child knocked down by an illegal vehicle last year. They are a menace on our estates. Phone the Wardens on 0845508 or Police on 08450454545*

**Dear Editor;** I would like to thank everybody who helped to raise money for my fantastic new wheelchair and I wish you all a happy New Year

*Joshua Toomer*

*Editors reply; Thank you Josh and we all were happy to help, I must say it is great to see you zooming around with such a happy face.*

**Dear Editor;** I went to the Christingle service at St Gabriels and I must say how wonderful it was to see the families with their children from babes in arms to teenagers and so many of the children in Popley some in their uniforms from Scouts

and Cubs The singing was beautiful and their behavior was exemplary. I will make sure I go next year too

*Editors reply; I was there too and it was lovely and so was the candlelight one the following week*

**Dear Editor;** I wonder what the new year will bring perhaps people could give a thought to the wildlife and pets not leave rubbish around the estates. Cans and bottles can be fatal traps to birds and small animals like hedgehogs. The rubbish be it small or large household items also make Popley look a mess. Please put your rubbish in the right place the bin or phone the council to take big items away.

*Editors reply; I can only agree and echo what you write. there is a cost to remove large items if you call the council however if the furniture etc is in reasonable condition the Community Furniture Project will collect it for free phone 320700. You can go and buy from them as well they are at unit 6 Joule Road.*

*Editors Note We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we can not accept letters that are sent anonymously.*

**Please send your letters to :**  
**The Editor, Popley Matters,**  
**405 Abbey Rd, RG24 9EL or**  
**email:**  
**[editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)**



# Happy New Year



from all in the Community Warden's Office!

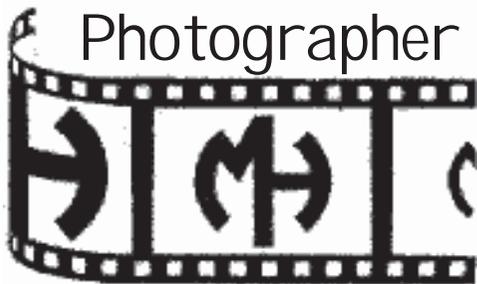
Thank you to everyone who has worked with us to make 2005 such a great year, and we look forward to working with many of you in 2006.

Keep an eye out for some exciting new projects in next month's issue, and we'll see you out and about.

All the best  
 Stephen Bate and Sarah Ratcliff  
 Community Wardens for Popley



Michael Herod  
Photographer



44 PITCAIRN CLOSE

POPLEY BASINGSTOKE RG24 9BD

Tel/Fax (01256) 468026

Mobile 07769-662917

Email: michaelherod05@aol.com

www.michaelherodphotography.co.uk

**Portraits, Weddings &  
Industrial Photography**

**1<sup>st</sup> Response**

Heating & Plumbing  
CORGI Registered  
No. 212273



FOR

- Heating Installations
- Boiler changes/upgrades
  - Servicing
  - Breakdowns
- Landlord Safety Checks
  - Power Flushing

**24hr – 7 Days a Week**

CALL

**Jamie Davenport**

Tel No: 01256 335858

Mobile No: 07876 687422

# DIRTY OVEN?

## DOMESTIC OVEN CLEANING

Franchise successfully cleaning and re-cleaning  
dirty ovens in the Basingstoke area since 2003

**OVENCLEAN**

NON-caustic, Biodegradable, fresh solution every time.  
Ovens, Ranges, Agas, Hobs, Extractors/Hoods, Microwaves, BBQ'S.  
Bulb, Seal and Hinge replacement service too.

**PHONE 0845 600 2745**

2 Buttermere Drive Camberley Surrey GU15 1QU

## Your Country Florist

*Award winning florist*

*Opening Thursday 10th November*

*Traditional and  
contemporary flowers  
every occasion  
including weddings  
funerals, parties  
& themed events to order*

Home Visits by arrangements

**Cathie Lloyd-Jones NCF**

1 Road Reading, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8LN

*Plenty of free car parking available at the shop*

**Tel/Fax: 01256 840222 Mobile 07786310505**

Page 2

This space would  
cost you only £20(1/4  
page) or 1/2 Page £40  
and full page £80 to  
advertise to all 3592  
houses in Popley.

You also go on the  
Popley Matters website  
for no extra cost

Contact the editor on 01256 819924  
for further details

Little Poppets



**Book a party and get  
20% off your order!!!**

Why not have a coffee morning or a girls  
night in and host a party  
Quality kids clothes @ fantastic prices! Ages  
0-15 years Boys & Girls  
New & Nearly New  
Named brands Book a party NOW  
Call Claire on 01256 322590  
Or Naomi on 01256 843565

Page 23

# Countywide Travel

By joining Countywide Travel's Excursion Club you receive discounts on all excursions and the opportunity to take part in our occasional exclusive outings and other functions. Membership costs £10 or £15 for joint membership, which lasts for any consecutive 12-Month period. Application forms are available from the Tourist Information Centre.

Reservations and Bookings can be made at: -

**Basingstoke Tourist Information Centre**  
**Willis Museum, Old Town Hall,**  
**Basingstoke. ☎ 01256 817618**

A small additional charge is made for a credit card booking

		DECEMBER				
Sat 3	0830	Bath Christmas Market	£ 17.50	£ 16.75	£ 11.50	£ 15.75
Sun 4	0830	Dickensian Christmas - Rochester	£ 17.50	£ 16.75	£ 11.50	£ 15.75
Sun 11	0900	Club Members Xmas Lunch inc* to be booked & paid by 25/11/05	£ -	£ -	£ -	£23.50

‡ on all trips abroad pickup are restricted to our depot in oakley. Basingstoke Churchill Way  
Coach Bay And Hook, Old white Hart (a30) only

Full details and bookings available at the tourist information centre, Willis museum. Telephone 817618

## KYLIE'S WHIPPER SNAPPERS

### 01256 410119 or 07971864304

Do you need quality reliable childcare?

We are 4 registered child minders with over 11 years experience, situated locally we are open all hours, for shift workers and night workers, daytime hours, overnight care and emergency care. We all have extensive training in childcare.

Regular outings and lots of planned activities. All food supplied is nutritious and home cooked. Special diets welcome, please see us.

We offer a home based and loving environment with a secure garden for your children to grow and develop to their full potential. We pick up from both Merton Schools, Treasure Island Playgroup. Chalkridge Schools, Brighton Hill, Parkview schools in Southam, let us know if you go to another school.

Why not phone and arrange to come and see us!

# Your Labour Councillors wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

There are no elections in Popley this year we would be happy to meet you we have a drop in surgery every first Saturday of the month at St Gabriels Church from 1 to 2 pm

If you would like details on how to join the Labour Party call any of the number below

To contact the popley labour Councillor:-  
write to Popley Labour Party 405 Abbey Road Popley West RG24 9EL.

## County Councillor

Jane Frankum 01256 819924 or 07974098131

Email [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk)

## Popley East

Andy McCormick. 01256 419376 or 07879436985

Email [cllr.andrew.mccormick@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.andrew.mccormick@basingstoke.gov.uk)

## Popley West

Paul Frankum 01256 472496

[Cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Jane Frankum 01256819924 or 07974098131

Email [cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Paid advert from the party labour party  
Promoted by Ray Curry, BCLP, Sandys Road, Basingstoke. RG22 6AS



## Merton Rise and proposed Everest Community College- Project Update

Well ... We “launched” successfully in early December, and from now onwards the North Popley site shall be known as Merton Rise.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 05, the County Council held a Launch Event at the Apollo Hotel, on Popley Way to an invited audience of representatives from the development industry (development companies and architectural practices), together with Members and Officers from the County Council and Borough Council. The Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Ken Thornber made the keynote speech, whilst I and another project team colleague undertook to do the main presentations. The event ended with a question and answer session which demonstrated the significant interest in the project, followed by a buffet lunch. In all some 80 people attended.

The purpose of the launch was to market the name change for the site, but also to share with the development industry the intended basis of sale where there will be a key emphasis on the quality of design in all the buildings on the site.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December then saw the Community Launch of Merton Rise to which all residents in Popley were invited. Although I am sure the weather and Christmas shopping played their part, we were pleased to welcome approaching 130 residents to the Abbey Road Hall and Base 2000 over the 2 days. For those that were not able to attend, the display information is summarised on the community website: [www.hants.gov.uk/mertonrise](http://www.hants.gov.uk/mertonrise) which went live on 1<sup>st</sup> December 05. Some copies of the community launch brochure together with a Merton Rise calendar were left at both venues and more can be provided if needed.

Finally, by the time you read this the Main School Contract will have started! Wates Construction Ltd are the County Council’s contractor for a proposed 16 month contract with a target opening of Everest Community College programmed for September 2007. It will again be necessary to close Sherborne Road for this contract to proceed safely and local diversions will operate via Chineham Lane as before.

HAPPY 2006!

Louise Hague – Merton Rise Project Manager

## **Diaries from the Old Codger**

I was talking to the Editor the other week and I would like to take you back in time, yes I know its now 2006 and it is forward and upward. This story of the Old Codger is about a reverloution that took place in this country in the 1960s. It was the time of the young peoples revolution, we became free people and discovered that we did not have to tow the generations line before us. We could have our own world and it started with of all things music. With endless groups and singers to list a few that will bring back days gone by; Billy Fury. Elvis, The Beatles, Manfred Man, Brian Poole and the Tremerloes, The Beach Boys, the good old Monkeys and one of my favorites, The Animals the longest playing single record of its time “House of the Rising Sun. We had flower power and the beatniks, the Mods and Rockers. Ah memories, the Rockers they threw my scooter into the sea off Brighton Pier. We had films like Quardrefenia with Roger Daultry, Screaming Lord Such, Cilla Black, Dusty Springfied and her Brothers, they came from Tooting and would play the pubs in that area. We had the skiffle groups, Tommy Steele and Loney Donnigan. Yes you all could look back and name groups of the 60s. But it was the life we lead then, for a few years we had punch ups in sea side towns like Brighton and Margate but that faded away. The police were harder then and did not take things mamby pamby as they do now, their hands were not tied and they could dish out punishment and if you answered back you got the same again THE OLD CODGER



**Base 2000** Carpenters Down Popley RG24 9DR

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

Please note change of booking agent – contact either Helen Brown on 07733 032407 or Pat Brown on 07716 855474 or write to 7 Remembrance Gardens, Chineham RG24 8DE. They will be pleased to show people round the facility and discuss your needs. We are happy to accommodate casual ‘one off bookings subject to availability; a damage/security deposit will however be applied under certain circumstances. Hire charges start at £3.50 per hour for the small hall and range up to £11 per hour for the large hall at weekends.

Regular users of the building include groups of Rainbows, Brownie Guides, Guides, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Wiggins Teape Pensioners and Melrose Christian Fellowship. CMA Kick Boxing also use the building on Wednesday evenings from 7.15 p.m. for a Ladies Keep-Fit group.

The Princes Trust, sponsored jointly by the Hampshire Fire Service, YMCA and Hampshire Constabulary, return in January for the start of a new course. The Princes Trust aims to improve young peoples skills and attitudes to better fit them for the world of work

# Basingstoke Air Scout Group



Beaver scout section (for boy and girls aged from 6 to 8 years)  
Meetings: Tuesday 5.30 - 6.45 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down  
Leader: 'Yellow Beaver' Eve Alexander 73 Falkland Road (01256) 346510

The Beaver Colony finished the autumn session on 13<sup>th</sup> December with a fancy dress party. The outfits ranged from a candle, a shepherd, a snowman, an advent calendar and a reindeer to Narnia knights, a surfer and superman such was their imagination. Well done to you all and thank you to Reverend Arthur who bravely came along to remind members of the advent story and judge the fancy dress! Pity they couldn't all win a prize. Eleven Beaver scouts attended Christingle Service in St. Gabriels' Church on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Meetings start again on 10<sup>th</sup> January.



Cub scout section (for boys and girls aged from 8 to 10½ years)  
Meetings Tuesday 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down  
Leader: Elaine Devenport 87 Saffron Close (01256) 323453

Great celebrations on 6<sup>th</sup> December when Councillor Jane Frankum attended the pack meeting to present Chief Scouts Silver Awards to Lucy and Simon. Both had worked very hard to achieve this, the highest award for the cub scout section. By way of a treat most of the pack went ice skating the following week to conclude the autumn session. Meetings will restart week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> January.



Scout section (for boys and girls aged from 10½ - 14 years)  
Meetings: Monday 7 - 9 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down  
Leader: Colin Karslake 14 Gilbert Close (01256) 410559

The troop finished the autumn session with a visit to JJs and had a great time. We are now closed until the New Year. County Winter Camp takes place at Ferny Crofts from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> March. The programme will include a mountain bike challenge and lightweight hiking - who'll be brave enough to take up the challenge. New recruits welcome - just come along to Base 2000 on a Monday evening between 7 and 9 p.m. and have a go!

## Group News

**Pat Brown, Group Scout Leader 07716 855474**

Six leaders from the Group successfully completed a Food Hygiene Course as part of the structured training support programme for adults and helpers. Congratulations to Eve, John-Paul, Colin, Andy, Mike and Sue - your certificates will be presented shortly.

Basingstoke Gang Show returns to the Haymarket Theatre from 9<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets on sale **now** and selling fast. Ring the Box Office on 0870 770 1088 to make your reservations. Matinee performances Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March.

'Sunday Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest School continue with each sale run by a volunteers from a local Popley charity and (weather permitting) are always well supported by 'booters' and buyers alike. 'Booters' are reminded that they must not obstruct the highway at any time and must remove any unsold goods, boxes and litter before leaving their 'pitch'.

On behalf of the Basingstoke Air Scout Group may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and offer the best of good wishes for 2006; may it prove happy, healthy and successful.



Moving or Re-moving Large or Small  
Gardening \* Grass Cutting  
Hedge Trimming  
Painting and Decorating  
No job too big or too small special rates  
for pensioners and disabled  
Phone 01256 417118  
Mobile 07866266492  
Email: [enquiries@mr-move-it.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mr-move-it.co.uk)  
Web: [www.mr-move-it.co.uk](http://www.mr-move-it.co.uk)

## Computer Services

Need Help? Then Call Phil  
on 01256 322590/07903 645674  
P C Martin, Computer Supplier,  
Upgrades & Repair Service.  
[www.pcmartin-computers.co.uk](http://www.pcmartin-computers.co.uk)



NO CALLOUT  
CHARGES!

Fixed Hourly Rate

Computer Supplier, Hardware,  
Upgrade, Repair, Printer Supplies,  
Virus Removal & Protection, System  
Security, Wired & Wireless  
Networks.

Call now for all your computing needs



## Treasure Island Play Group

### Looking for a Popley Playgroup? Come to us!!!

We also have a Parents & Toddler Group for  
more information telephone:

01256 414014

Registered Charity No. 282848

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9AE

Mon-Fri 9:15am-11:45am

Mon & Thurs 12:30pm-3:00pm

# Councillors Page

As I write the page today we are just a few days away from Christmas, and the Magic of Christmas Show I hope that went and you found it enjoyable. It looks like it might become an annual event and we know that we can organize any event in Popley, you only have to look at the success of Popley Festival,

The name for the new developments have now been announced officially Marnel Park that was "Popley Fields" and Merton Rise on the Popley North site. Merton Rise was a suggestion from me so if you don't like the name then you can have a moan at me. My reason was that the land around there used to be owned by Walter de Merton 1200 to 1277. Here was a man who was very influential in his day. He was the Bishop of Rochester and loyal friend of Henry 3rd and Edward 1st. He was a Chancellor of England but he is mostly remembered for founding the Merton College Oxford. Walter de Merton also he built a hospital for Basingstoke so I thought that it would be nice to bring together the old and the new as Merton is an area in London and it will commemorate the expansion of the town in the 1960s with the London overspill. I know there will be some agrivation from time to time but we will try to keep it to a minimum. I must say however that I will be pleased to see about 250 homes going to get families off the waiting list for housing. I know many families in Popley that want to stay near their friends and families and this new development will at least give some of them their first homes.

The building of the new school is moving along and it should be completed in the summer of 2007 ready to start the new school year in September, over 100 people came to the two days of the display and were able to ask numerous questions and got some very useful information. I think everyone who came enjoyed their visit.

I had a very enjoyable visit to the Air Cubs where I presented badges for the Chief Scouts Silver Award to Lucy Shillito and Simon Tustain they had to complete two badges and then a personal pastime which was bee keeping for Simon and tap dancing for Lucy they both had to give talks to their fellow Cubs. It was good to see so many young people there enjoying themselves. All too often we here about the anti social behavior of our youth, so it is good to see the more usual good side of our children. *County Councillor Jane Frankum*

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH JUST A FEW HOURS A WEEK!

We have the following opportunities for  
volunteers in Basingstoke & Deane:



Act as a one to one advocate,  
helping someone to speak up



Help supervise young people aged  
11 - 16 with Aspergers syndrome  
use our Internet Cafe

Full training and support will be given plus travel expenses.  
Interested? Call Speakeasy Advocacy on 01256 332795  
Or email [speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com](mailto:speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com)



The Pre-school enjoyed a sponsored Pyjama Party to raise money for Children in Need, where both staff and children dressed in pyjamas for the day. So far we have raised in excess of £500, with more to come in by Christmas!

The children performed their nativity play followed by a dance show for the parents on Monday 12th, and will be enjoying their Christmas party complete with entertainers on Thursday 15th, when the Pre-school will close for Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all your readers from all Pre-school staff and children.

Dear Friends

Okay, let's all say a big welcome to 2006! Christmas is done and dusted for another year – my bank account is a few pounds lighter and I'm a few pounds heavier and it's time to sit down and seriously consider my New Year's resolutions. Actually, a few years ago I made the one and only resolution that I've managed to keep and that's NOT to make any more New Year's resolutions.

That doesn't mean to say I don't have hopes, plans and dreams for the coming year, without them life could be really dull. So what are your hopes for the coming year? Perhaps you're looking forward to a family wedding or a birth; or maybe that holiday of a lifetime in the summer; perhaps a career change or a move of home. Perhaps the year ahead looks uncertain – career prospects looking dodgy, finances stretched or ill health.

Hopes and plans are important to us as they provide something to hang onto when times are tough. Hope for something better lying just around the corner, planning for a brighter future. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews in the bible writes "who hopes for what they already have?"

Before I became a Christian I used to dream of financial and career success in the belief that it would bring an end to all of my life's worries and anxieties. I used to believe that if I worked hard enough for the family the kids would grow up without suffering any of the storms of life that I'd had to sail through. Unrealistic or what? But it's what we spend a lot of our time doing for ourselves and those we love – isn't it?

One of the first things I discovered when I became a Christian was that God has the most amazing plan for my life. He doesn't promise to take away the stresses and strains of daily living but he does promise that whatever happens He'll be their right in the thick of it with us (have you ever read that well known verse 'Footprints'?) and he promises to fulfil that longing that is deep within our hearts. Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year I'll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: "May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit." Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year's resolution to discover God's plan for your life – you won't regret it!

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

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



## HAMPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BASINGSTOKE FIRE-FIGHTERS

We have had a fire appliance and crew, at the Popley Fields Community Centre since 4th April 2005. In this new venture, we have been busy working with the public we serve and have completed lots of Home Fire Safety Checks in the Popley area. If you are still waiting for yours, please bear with us, as we work our way through the backlog for this popular free safety check.

### MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS WEEK

In the run up to Christmas, Fire crews were involved in the 'Magic of Christmas' week, organised by the Community wardens. Green watch did a series of comedy sketches, based on the 'Little Britain' series. With the help from the Community Wardens, we put together a series of sketches. These included fire safety messages covering:

- ⊗ Not playing with fire
- ⊗ Fitting smoke detectors
- ⊗ Not overloading electrical sockets
- ⊗ Fire Escape plan

### SAFETY TIPS FOR PARTIES

We like everyone to enjoy the parties but also to remember some basic safety rules:

- ✓ Check that the maximum amps can be handled by the plug for your music and all electrical appliances

### Candles

- ✓ Don't leave unattended
- ✓ Put them out completely at night
- ✓ Keep them away from anything that can burn
- ✓ Make sure they are in secure holders on a heat-resistant surface

### Party Decorations

- ✓ Use common sense. Keep away from heaters, bulbs and naked lights

### Having a party

- ✓ Lets guests know where the door and window keys are
- ✓ Look out for the elderly and children
- ✓ Make sure the exits are clear
- ✓ If people are smoking, put out extra ashtrays and make sure cigarettes are put out properly

### HAMPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE WEBSITE

Further information about your Fire & Rescue Service, and safety in the home, can be found at the following address:

- ⊗ <http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk>

### NEW YEAR WISHES

The personnel from Basingstoke and Popley Fire Stations, wish everyone in Popley a happy and prosperous new year.

**Please look forward to another feature from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in next months Popley matters**



John Hunt of Everest Community School  
Working together to achieve success for all

*John Hunt is offering a range of FREE programmes to encourage a healthy lifestyle, leisure activities and opportunities to learn together as a family and something new!*

**Family Dance** ~ (Thu, 5.45-6.45, 20 wks, 19th Jan.) Learn

a new dance together and improve co-ordination and have fun

**Aerobics for Families** ~ (Mon, 6-7pm, 10 wks, 16th Jan.) Keep yourself fit this spring and have fun getting toned and learning to live a healthy lifestyle. Children must be over 10 years old.

**Football** ~ (Mon, 7-8pm, 10 wks, 16th Jan.) This course will get parents and children off the couch and onto the pitch. Improve your sporting techniques, stamina and keep fit.

**Self Defence/Judo** ~ (Fri, 6.45-7.45, 20 wks, 20th Jan.) Learn Judo as a family with highly experienced trained staff. Children must be over 6 years old.

**Spanish for beginners** ~ (Tue, 6-7.30pm, 8 wks, 17th Jan.) A beginners course for families wanting to learn a new language together. Children must be over 8 years old.

**Creative Arts** ~ (Sat, 09.30-12.30, 5 wks, 25th Mar.) Clothes Design. Learn a new skill and produce some super clothes to show off on the cat walk at Popley Festival.

**Confident Parents/Confident Kids** ~ (Wed, 1-3pm, 8 wks, 18th Jan.) This course is designed to help parents share ideas and learn different strategies in dealing with the behaviour of young children

**Music with Mum** ~ (Day, Time and Date to be confirmed.) A course for mums with very young children to learn to have fun with music and movement. Age range 0-3 years.

**Supporting Parents of Teenagers** ~ (Tues, 1-3pm, 8 wks, 17th Jan.) This course is designed for parents and carers of teenagers (from 10/11 to 16/17 years), who would like to improve their understanding, relationships and practical skills in managing their teenager's behaviour.

Spring 2006

For more information please contact:

Suki Binning in the Community office: 01256 338725 or

Marilyn Botham 01256 338726 or

e-mail: Suki.binning@johnhunt.hants.sch.uk

You are warmly invited to  
**WORSHIP WITH US**

at

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:

Graham and Barbara on (01256) 363692

New Testament Church of God

[www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk)



# Apple Blossom Catering



Planning a wedding, party or any special occasion?

Yes...you could do it yourself, but why bother when we can do it for you  
We will book the hall, decorate it to suit, provide a beautiful buffet and best of all clear up afterwards.

We can provide experienced security and bar staff if required.

We can also arrange the cars, the flowers, the photography, the disco and much much more!

Call us to discuss your requirements and relax  
01256 841996 or 07734 499193 email: [appleblossom213@aol.com](mailto:appleblossom213@aol.com)

**Nothing for you to do but enjoy your day we will do it all for you!**

# Speakeasy Advocacy

2005 was the official “Year of the Volunteer”. But 2006 could be the year you give some time and make a difference in your local community. We at Speakeasy Advocacy are determined to continue the search for volunteers. We are a local registered charity that has 11 years experience of giving a voice and support to people with learning disabilities, autism and/or Aspergers syndrome.

What is an advocate? Many of us already have advocates in our lives, somebody to rely on and talk things through with. This is not always the case for people with learning disabilities who are at risk of being socially excluded and ignored. As an advocate you will get to know someone and support them to get the kind of life they want. For example, you could help get support hours changed, help with moving house or help cope with family conflict. You can make a real difference to someones life.

You could be an advocate. All you need is a few hours a month and a common sense approach. You will be fully trained and supported. We will pay your expenses. Interested? Then what are you waiting for?

Call us at: Speakeasy Advocacy

Telephone: 01256 332795

Email: [speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com](mailto:speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com)

## **Quit Smoking 0845 602 4663**

**Free specialist help for those who want to quit across North and Mid Hampshire**

### **Benefits to stop smoking**

- Feel richer Quitting 20 cigarettes a day =£1500 to spend every year
- Look younger Circulation to skin improves within a few hours of quitting
- Feel fitter Lungs begin to work better within 3-4 days
- Feel calmer Blood pressure returns to normal in just one hour
- Be free from nicotine addiction



**Go for it phone now**



# **Free local NHS help to stop smoking**

The NHS is offering a New Year programme of free Quit Smoking services to all North Hampshire residents. Given the right help, people **can** stop smoking. It is not always easy but sometimes it is a lot easier than expected!

Quit Smoking Advisers provide you with positive support, encouragement and, through your GP, help you get on prescription something to help you stop, such as nicotine patches, gum and lozenges (they double your chances of quitting successfully and are very safe medicines indeed). The service is flexible: it does recommend you to attend a quit smoking group\*; but if there is no group running in your area or you can't attend a group, one-to-one appointments or drop-ins are often available.

The service currently runs evening and daytime services in various locations. At Basingstoke help is offered at: the hospital, the Vyne School, Church Grange near the town centre, Basingstoke library, the Sports Centre, Carnival Hall, Church Cottage near St Michael's Church, Buckskin, Winklebury, Popley, Oakridge, South Ham, and with more being set up all the time. Services also run at Alton, Bordon, Kingsclere and Tadley. Many clinics have free parking. (You can look up a sample of the clinics at [www.bvhpct.nhs.uk](http://www.bvhpct.nhs.uk) (under You and Your Health) or [www.northhampshire.nhs.uk/services/quit\\_smoking](http://www.northhampshire.nhs.uk/services/quit_smoking)) If you can't a service to suit you, do call us and we shall try to help).

It doesn't matter how long you have been smoking or how old/young you are. If you would like to know about the free NHS help available simply **phone 0845 602 4663**. Or you can pick up a leaflet at the doctor's- if you can't see any in the waiting room, just asks the receptionist. If you know of a clinic starting that you want to attend, you can e-mail your full details (and which clinic) to: [quit.smoking@bvhpct.nhs.uk](mailto:quit.smoking@bvhpct.nhs.uk)

*\*(Studies have shown they are the best way to stop- and so many people say that coming to the group was what helped them most)*



# MELROSE HALL NEWS

Don't forget our Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest Community School every Sunday throughout 2006 starting at 9am.

Melrose Coffee morning is now called The Friendly Cafe and it is open to all residents of Popley. Every Monday 9.30 - 12.00 and every Thursday 9.30 - 12.00. They serve Teas, Coffees, Biscuits, Bacon Rolls etc, at very good prices. They also have weekly raffles, board and card games, occasional outings and a foot clinic twice a month, which is also very good value. Please come along, meet new people & make some new friends

## TINY ACORNS CHILDMINDERS.

Not a childminder? Please don't be put off by our group name. We are mostly childminders but all carers with preschool babies and children are welcome.

No one person is in charge, but this isn't as chaotic as it sounds. Everyone's input is welcome. Anyone who wants to take a turn at organising our weekly craft. At song time we sing the children's favourites, old or new. We are always willing to try out your ideas, as long as they are safe and fun for the babies and children. As a small group we need to charge £2 a session at the moment. No joining fees, just pay if you turn up. Why not pop in one Tuesday to see if your little one enjoys themselves?

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY	9.30 -12PM The Friendly Cafe	7.30 - 10.30 Healing & Holistics
TUESDAY	9.30am - 11.30am TINY ACORNS CHILDMINDERS	4-8.30 PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE OF DANCE
WEDNESDAY	9.30 -11.30 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP 9-45AM-11-30 STOP SMOKING CLINIC	12PM - 2PM OASIS LUNCH CLUB
THURSDAY	9.30-12PM The Friendly Cafe	7PM-8.30PM WEIGHT WATCHERS
FRIDAY	10AM 3PM LODDON ALLIANCE	6.30PM YOUTH CLUB
SATURDAY	9AM -1PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE	
SUNDAY	10AM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	6.30PM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

For information on any type of booking please call, we apologise that you may get a answerphone reply until we employ a new administrator as Coo Cook has left for a new job. Good luck Coo Call 01256 420676 for information or booking or Email melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk



Base 2000 Carpenters Down Popley RG24 9DR

www.base2000.co.uk

Please note change of booking agent - contact either Helen Brown on 07733 032407 or Pat Brown on 07716 855474 or write to 7 Remembrance Gardens, Chineham RG24 8DE. They will be pleased to show people round the facility and discuss your needs. We are happy to accommodate casual 'one off bookings subject to availability; a damage/security deposit will however be applied under certain circumstances. Hire charges start at £3.50 per hour for the small hall and range up to £11 per hour for the large hall at weekends.

Regular users of the building include groups of Rainbows, Brownie Guides, Guides, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Wiggins Teape Pensioners and Melrose Christian Fellowship. CMA Kick Boxing also use the building on Wednesday evenings from 7.15 p.m. for a Ladies Keep-Fit group.

The Princes Trust, sponsored jointly by the Hampshire Fire Service, YMCA and Hampshire Constabulary, return in January for the start of a new course. The Princes Trust aims to improve young peoples skills and attitudes to better fit them for the world of work



The picture shows Councillor Jane Frankum making the presentation of the Chief Scout Silver Award to, Lucy Shillito and Simon Tustain, members of the Basingstoke Air Cub Scouts who meet in Popley every Tuesday.

The Chief Scout Silver Award is the highest award in the Cub Scouts. To be eligible for the award the Cub Scout must hold the Outdoor Challenge and complete at least two other challenges. Both Lucy and Simon have their Fitness Challenge and their Creative Challenge, and in addition to this they have completed their own Personnel Challenges. Simon gave a talk on bee keeping, his special hobby which he does with his Mother. His talk was so interesting that all the Cub Scouts were spell bound. Lucy's Personnel Challenge was tap dancing She told how she had improved over a period of time and showed us her certificates she also gave a demonstration to the group.

Akela, Mrs Elaine Devenport, said, I am very proud of both of these Cub Scouts. They have both gained a lot of badges through their hard work and by doing their best in keeping with their promise as members of the Scout movement."

# Bermuda Community Association

As most people in the locality know, the old Bermuda surgery was converted for use as a community hall. It is now one year on since we moved in and we are just about beginning to make full use for activities. Although the Early Years Pre School Group (Marnel Explorers) have been in attendance during school terms and our Bingo sessions are thriving every Tuesday, no other groups or agencies are coming forward to make use of our main hall, all this despite some advertising referring to availability. We are looking for someone who would be willing to start up a youth club junior or senior. Indeed any activity group looking for the use of a hall can contact the bookings officer on either of the phone numbers below.

We have a new toddler group run by Janet Ward. Janet can be contacted via the phone number below.

Sadly during the last few months we have had four windows smashed in. we are in the process of finding ways to deal with the situation, unfortunately the protection of the windows will not come cheap. Insurance companies do not cover for glass. Once again we do urge that parents and carers enthuse to the children the danger of braking windows this could cause harm adults or to the children inside and it also frightens the little ones.

We are looking for a caretaker/cleaner for information call  
Chairperson Marion Meredith  
Secretary Les Ward  
Treasurer Ron Rowe

For bookings or information call 01256 363156 we have an answer phone please leave a message and we will get back to you.

*Editors note Ron has been chair for as long as I can remember but due to his health Ron has to take it a bit easier. Though saying that Ron wrote this brought it round and when the magazine is ready for delivery he delivers some too. Good luck Ron with your op you are an inspiration to us all with your long and valiant fight with your ill health.*

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

poplefields@hotmail.com

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Youth Club:** The Youth Club is looking forward to an exciting year. Annual memberships are now due and cost £5 for the whole year!

**Xmas Tea Dance:** The tea dance held in November was a great success with about 70 people enjoying the afternoon.

**Floodlit Sports:** We still have a couple of vacant spaces for this winter for our multi-sports pitch so if you are looking for a venue for your team for all weather training, call us.

**Christmas and New Year:** We hope you all enjoyed all the events held here last year. If you have any comments or suggestions about how we can make them better, we would love to hear them.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you are planning an event this year, we are currently very busy and are even taking bookings well into 2007. So don't leave it too late to book the date you need or you may well be disappointed!

**Quiz Night:** Friday January 20th. The return of the popular quiz and a great night out!

**10th Birthday :** This year is our 10th Birthday! We will be celebrating on June 24th with a large community event that you will not want to miss! Look out for more info nearer the time.

We do have a large number of events planned for this coming year. If you are community minded and have a few hours of spare time, we would love to hear from you as we always need volunteers willing to help organise parts of the events, being involved with the fundraising committee or just helping out on the day.

Please call 01256 414494 or just pop in and have a chat about how you can help us make Popley an even better place to live!



## **Popley Crime News**

### **Garage Break-ins**

Popley has suffered badly in the last few months with garages being broken into. It would seem that garages in all areas in Popley are suffering. The standard locks on the garages are easy to force and I would urge all garage users to fit a hasp and staple with a padlock to your garage door **ASAP**. These can be purchased fairly cheaply from DIY stores and will greatly reduce the chances of you garage being targeted.

Have you heard about anyone selling cheap second hand tools or garage equipment in the area? You can call crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### **Moped Thefts**

This is a constant problem in the area particularly fairly new small engine mopeds. Please do not leave your moped outside in the street at night and again please buy an additional lock and chain your moped to a solid object. This even applies to mopeds kept in garages as these garage are targeted for mopeds so chain your moped to something solid inside.

The mopeds are generally ridden around for a day or so and then burnt out. This is often in or around the Carpenters Down Woods area, so dog walkers please report anything suspicious.

### **Nuisance youths**

The shopping area at Maldive Road has had lots of problems with youths causing antisocial behaviour. Please speak to your children and ask them not to congregate in this area.

### **Cycle Thefts**

Every year hundred of bicycles are stolen in Basingstoke particularly this time of year when lots of new bikes have been given as Christmas gifts. There are a few simple rules which will dramatically reduce the chances of your child's bike being stolen.

Tell your children to never leave their bike unattended even for just a moment even if their just popping into the local shop or going into a friends house. Bicycle locks are available from cycle shops are easily used to lock their bike to something solid like a lamp post or railings. Make sure the bikes are put away at night either in the house, a locked shed or if you do not have a shed make sure your back gate is locked. You will be amazed at

how many bikes I see sat outside the front door at night where children have left them out, gone to bed and forgotten all about them.

The police recover lots of stolen bicycles every year. But most of them have to be auctioned simple because there's no way of knowing who the owners are. You should make a written record of your bike's description as soon as you buy it. Then keep it safe with your other personal documents, so you can hand it to the police if your bicycle is stolen. Take a clear colour photo of your bike and attach it to written record of the description.

### **You should note the following details:**

Name

Address

Make/Model

Type (gents/ladies/sports/mountain/BMX etc)

Frame Number

Position of number on frame

Frame colour/s

Frame size

Wheel size

Tyres (make/colour)

Gears (make/type/number)

Position of gear controls

Handlebar type (standard/straight/drop/mountain)

Accessories (lights/reflectors/chain guard/carriers/bell/toeclips/peedo/pump/tools/etc)

Special features which help to identify it (stickers/badges/marks/repairs/damage)

If you require further details about any of the above or wish to discuss problems in your area then please feel free to contact us via the following methods:

Phone: 0845 045 45 45 – Switchboard

Email: [matthew.deery@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:matthew.deery@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

[paul.thorne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.thorne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

PC3126 Matt Deery

PC23234 Paul Thorne