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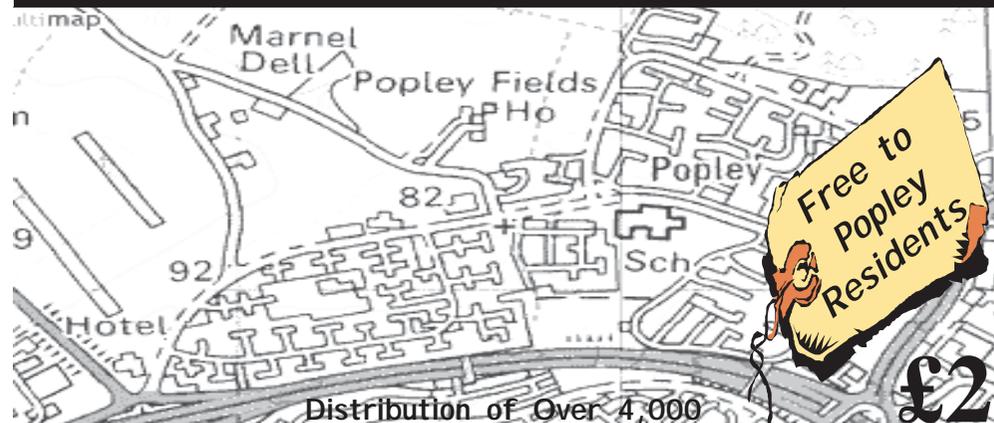
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

September 2008

Issue 79



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Don't Forget www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-09-08)



Editor Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- September, and the schools will be back to start another year! The weather has been so mixed, I hope if you were lucky enough to get away on a holiday, you at least got some sun.

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to Iris who stood with me as we tried to stop a mass encampment on our Popley Park area. I was disappointed that the police did not evoke the by law banning vehicles on the area at once, but

I hope it will not happen again. At least it stopped the possibility of masses of vans as in the past. The park has now been secured and the builders will be told when they restart that they must not leave the site unsecure.

The results from the public consultation on a new park for Popley are reported on pages 30 and 31. There will be new draft plans drawn up with the comments made and taken into consideration, and hopefully we can move forward soon and get the park started for next year.

The Popley Conservation Group are asking for volunteers on page 12, to some of their maintenance days so if your fit and willing they could do with your help.

Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team have their quarterly meeting this month and details can be found on page 28.

Sherborne St John Parish Council do not meet in August so there is no report from them this month.

We try in The Popley Matters to keep you up to date on the issues in Popley or that may affect or be of interest to the residents of Popley. We are always open to suggestions. You can contact me Jane Frankum at 405 Abbey Road or write to Popley Matters PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG.



Sub Editor Paul Frankum

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, PO.Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, email editor@popleymatters.org.uk. The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Acting Treasurer/Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;

Distribution Team: Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Iris King; Colin Karstake, Simon Leadbetter; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes Naomi Laffoley, Angus Miller; Elaine Dennis; Rebecca Butcher; Lisa Whitwell, Jamie Clarke, Ross Emmerson.

Youth Volunteers: Joseph Doran

More Volunteers Welcome

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Kylie's Whipper Snappers	Page 5	Sentinel	Page 14	Thank you for your continued support	
MAD Academy	Page 5	Little Pearls Nursery	Page 19		

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Simone's Column

Hello again, I would like to start by my sister Monique and me wishing my Mum a very happy 39th birthday this month! We would also like to thank her for all that she does for us, because she really does do everything. So thanks mum!! I would also like to wish my mum and my Nan good luck as they are both going to quit smoking together. I hope they both do really well. On the subject of smoking I thought I would mention that if anyone is thinking or have thought about giving up smoking, all you have to do is go to the doctors and ask for a quit smoking form. They will help you as much as they can. So if you are thinking about it, why not give it a try because it can have some really good outcomes.



I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer holidays despite the rubbish weather, and I hope that anyone who has been away on holiday enjoyed it as well. myself and my family had a really good time in Cornwall even though we only had a few days of sun, but regardless to that we still found plenty to do and had a great time. Also if anyone is thinking of planning a holiday in Britain but are unsure where to go, then I can fully recommend Cornwall, it has some amazing views and attractions and it is just a really great, fun place to go, especially for families.



I bet all of you new year sevens students are really excited yet anxious as it isn't long before you start secondary school,. I know you are probably pretty nervous as i know my younger sister is. When you get there it will be fine and you will have lots of fun making new friends and most probably annoying older brothers and sisters if you have them!! So all I can say is don't worry too much, and just enjoy feeling older I guess!!!

Well that's all from me again for this month. I wish all the new year sevens good luck and I hope everyone just has fun for the remainder of the holidays! Oh and let's hope the weather cheers up a little bit!!!! Don't forget next month's article! Bye!



We are delighted to be able to report that Pebbles Children's Centre will finally be up and running with scheduled activities from 8th September 2008 at their brand new building located in the grounds of Chineham Park School on Shakespeare Road in Popley. It is a very exciting time in the Centre's development and we are looking forward to welcoming families from Popley who would like to make use of the Centre and some of the services we will be able to offer.

Some of the services that we have been providing over recent months will continue to be run at Satellite sites like Melrose Hall, Popley Fields and the Base 2000 Scout Hut and you can sign up to these by contacting the centre. There will also be lots more going on at our new Centre which might be of interest to you, especially if you have children 0 – 5 or are expecting a new baby. For example in the not too distant future you may be able to arrange to see your local midwife or health visitor here.

At the Centre we have a welcoming Community Coffee area, where you will also be able to access the internet to look for jobs or child minders or even be able to write your C.V - as it is likely to be a popular service and we feel it will be more convenient for people to have a time slot available that they can book. So book your appointment at Reception.

We also would like to welcome Little Pearls Nursery & NCMA to the Children's Centre where you can be reassured your children are in safe hands.

The staff all look forward to seeing you – Drop in for a coffee to find out more.

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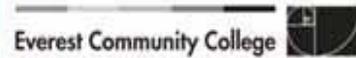
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10.00—12.00 starting 4th October (5weeks)

Healthy Eating ~ weekday evenings from 4-6pm

dates to be confirmed

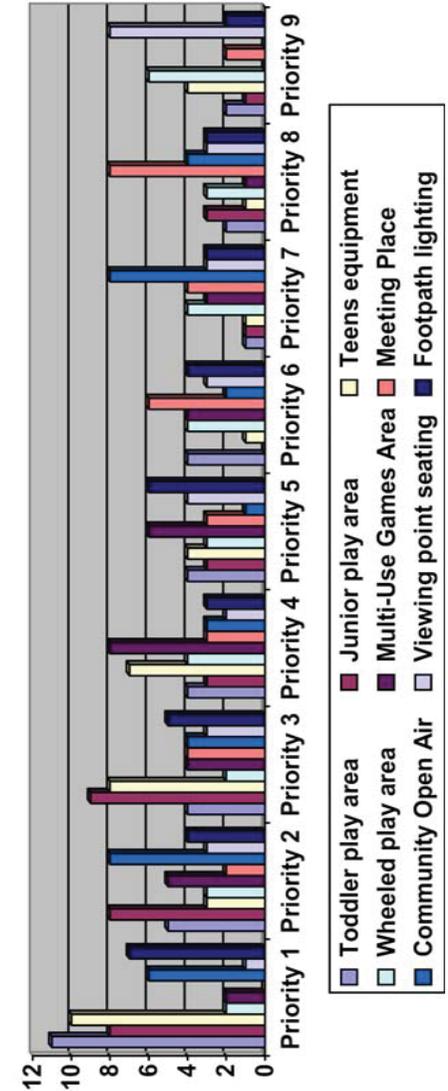
Strictly Come Dancing ~ tbc

Basingstoke & Deane BC A New Park for Popley – Feedback Questionnaire Results

Priorities

Question: If there is not enough money to carry out all of the works initially, which facilities would you like to see provided first? (Number in your order of priority, 1 = first)

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7	Priority 8	Priority 9
Toddler play area	11	5	4	4	4	4	1	2	2
Junior play area	8	8	9	3	3	0	1	3	1
Teens equipment	10	3	8	7	4	1	1	1	4
Wheeled play area	2	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	6
Multi-Use Games Area	2	5	4	8	6	4	3	1	0
Meeting Place	0	2	4	3	3	6	4	8	2
Community Open Air	6	8	4	3	1	2	8	4	0
Viewing point seating	1	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	8
Footpath lighting	7	4	5	3	6	4	3	3	2



The Initial Summary of the Consultation on “The New Park for Popley”

At the public consultation held over two days in July at Melrose Hall, the suggestion was also made to also ask the pupils in our schools on what they thought of having a new family park and what they would like to see ?

Since the consultation in Melrose Hall the display and information was indeed taken directly to the primary schools in Popley. The exhibition was also displayed at Everest Community College at the end of term. There were 15 feedback forms filled in at Everest Community College plus 14 forms from other primary schools. The vast majority were supportive of the proposals, and wanted to know when it would be happening! The main issues seem to be around dogs versus other park users, and concerns about removing the fence. Concerns were also raised that there could be play equipment for younger children sacrificed at the expense of slightly older children and teenagers.

Some suggestions were to have a separate fenced off area for dogs to use so that all residents could enjoy the facilities. Concerns were raised about travelers being able to access the site, and these are just some of the issues that are being looked at.

The consultants are revising the proposals to take account of all of the public comments and those raised from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Highways and Hampshire County Council with regard to Merton Rise. Once we have the revised version we will publish it for your comment.

If you have any further questions please contact.

Contacts:-

Margaret Mcgrath, Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer, Environmental Care, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH phone 845407 email margaret.mcgrath@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Jane Frankum 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL Phone 819924 cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Frankum 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9E phone 472496 cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

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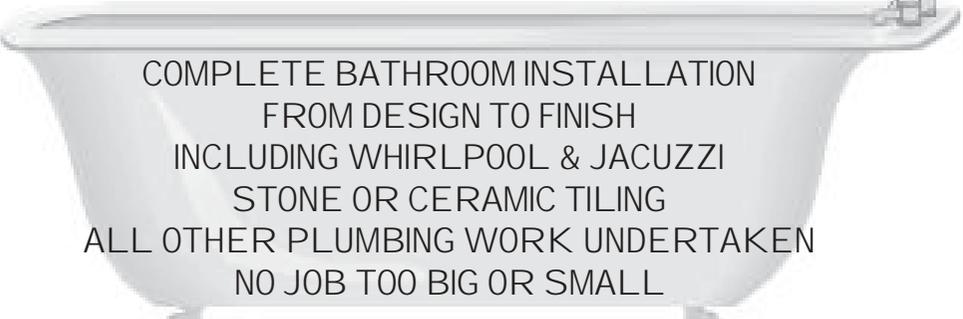
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Councillors Page: Good News, Pebbles the Sure Start children and families centre in Chineham Park School is on time and is to open on September 8th to start its work with residents. It came in on time and in budget.

Even more good news is that the results of the public consultation on the new park proposed in Aldermaston Open Space are in and a report in on pages 30 and 31. Thank you to those that responded, and to the pupils in our schools that gave their opinions. I will keep you posted as things hopefully move forward now.

The tenders are not in yet for the piece of land owned by the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority, as soon as I have any news I will of course let you know in Popley Matters.

I was able to make a grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau and they will be opening an outreach service to all Popley residents they will be based in the Shakespeare House Doctors surgery soon. More details to follow in Popley Matters as I get them.

Popley West: We had another encampment of Travelers on Aldermaston Open Space and the process to move these illegal trespassers took a week. This will not happen again as the by law was not brought in early enough. However if the builders had not left the gates open they would not have got in, in the first place! We have suggested very strongly that the builders should foot the bill for all the disgraceful mess that had to be cleared especially the "mess" that had to be removed from in the bushes. Thank you to Cllr Jane Frankum and Iris who as soon as they were reported went into action and stopped the camp of 6 caravans swelling to 30 or 40 as in previous times despite being threatened with having "the dogs set on you". The site has now been made secure and this should not happen again. The sooner we can get started on transforming the area to a park the better because there will be extra security measures and the facilities will fill the spaces previously open. The application to build 313 more flats this time in the triangle in front of the hospital was refused by the Development Control Committee as proposed by Cllr Jane Frankum.

Popley East. August is a quiet month at the Council, but as I write this the Olympics are on, and we've had a fantastic set of results. It just remains for sports people like me to convince other politicians to invest in our schools and sports facilities to make sure our young people get the best chance to develop their talent in the run up to 2012.

The Longfellow regeneration is dragging on and we've had more complaints from residents affected. We know you've had to put up with a lot. We've been to press with some of your stories and if there is anything more we can do please let us know.

The Faroe and Maldive regeneration has a planning application due to be heard at the Development Control committee but the date of the hearing keeps slipping. It was August but it now looks like it will be October.

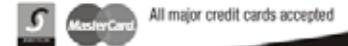
We had hoped to hear the school GCSE and SATs results by now but some of the SATs are caught up in this ETS marking fiasco. Well done to the pupils at all our schools anyway, I'm sure you did very well.

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Hello Folks,

As you may be aware the Beat Team along with the PSNT (Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team) have been working on three core priorities set by the PSNT. The three for July, August and September were 1) Anti Social behaviour in Abbey Road 2) Trespassing on building sites 3) School security. The three priorities were amongst a list of issues that community members selected. This process is about

dealing with the issues that are most relevant to the people that actually live in Popley, people like YOU. If you have concerns or issues that you would like the PSNT to work on, then please email me at: basinstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk If you haven't joined the modern world and the joys of email then I would be happy to receive a call on 0845 045 45 45. I am also contactable at my home station:

Old Basing Beat Office, 54 Belle Vue Road, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG247LG.

The Beat Team is made up of 4 individuals. Popley West is covered by PCSO Steve Smith and I, and Popley East is covered by PC Paul Thorne and his PCSO-Phil Rapley.

The split between East and West is at the traffic lights at the junction of Popley Way and Carpenters Down. As I say I cover the West side which includes Abbey Road. The Team deal with long term community issues and things relevant to the general well being of the community.

The PSNT will meet again on the 1st October to discuss the last three priorities for the year.

I will issue the results that the PSNT complete throughout the year on the Hampshire Police Website.

I would also like to promote a Community Meeting at the Popley Fields Community Centre on the 24th September 2008 1800 hours till 1900 hours. This is an opportunity to discuss any issues you have with the community and enable me to bring any issues or ideas forward to the PSNT meeting.

I hope to see you there!

Regards
PC 20686 Dan Carter



Popley West



Safer Neighbourhoods Beat Manager



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www.base2000.co.uk

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 - Jan or Pete Saunders 01256 410514



Meetings for all sections restart the week commencing 8th September. New recruits, both boys and girls, are welcome, and all sections have vacancies. Come along to Base 2000 and speak with the Section Leader or give them a ring to discuss the opportunities. Membership fees are £1.50 per week which can be paid termly in advance if preferred.

The Cubs enjoyed their camp at 'Paddicks Patch' and some of them will hope to join in District Camp at Foxlease in the New Forest at the end of September. It will be their last chance to go camping this year, so let's hope we will experience a bit of an 'Indian' summer with more sun and less rain that month!

Scout camp at 'Buddens' in Dorset was thoroughly enjoyed, despite not all scouts being able to take part. Striking camp in the rain was a challenge and meant all the tents had to be spread out to dry on the troop's return to Base. Plans for the autumn session are currently being finalised.

The Beavers had a super time at Moors Valley Country Park for the annual summer outing when two coach loads of Beavers descended on the park for the day. The older members will have the chance to take part in Basingstoke East Beavers' 'sleepover' in September. The colony's programme for the autumn session is in hand and they will be making the most of the lighter evening before the finish of British Summer Time so I am sure you will see them out and about in Carpenters Wood in their turquoise sweat shirts!

Visitors to 'Balloons over Basingstoke' at the beginning of August may have noticed Hampshire Scouting's publicity trailer. It is hoped that the presence of the trailer will encourage adults to become leaders or helpers which are desperately needed if interesting and active programmes are to continue. Adults interested in supporting the Air scout Group should contact the Group Scout Leader, Colin Karslake the Group Scout Leader or the relevant Section leader.

Redecoration of the large hall in Base 2000 and minor maintenance tasks were completed during August and new chairs delivered for the smaller hall. The carpets are looking spick and span to start the autumn session. Beware anyone with muddy shoes!! Enquires to use the building for parties and meetings are welcome – please contact the Bookings Secretaries, Jan or Pete Saunders on 01256 410514 or base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com to establish availability and cost.



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Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor, How sad that just a few anti social youths can make life so difficult for so many others?

I don't know if they have a conscience or they just don't care? There have been some thefts from garages with them being smashed in to gain entry, and things stolen that may have taken years to work and pay for. Who are these people? Someone must know when they try to sell all the things that have been taken. I would ask that people report it to the police because only when we stand together will we beat these dregs of society. Mr. A Popley
Editors reply Sadly there are just a few anti social people in Popley and saying that Popley is no worse than any other area does not solve the problem. These handful of unthinking and uncaring people do blight our lives, and I have to agree that until we as a community say that we are not prepared to put up with it and do something together about it, it will not go away. If you have any information you can call Crimestoppers anonymously 0800555111, police on 08450454545 or 101 though there is a 10p charge for this service.

Dear Editor The banning of smoking in public areas has been in long enough for people to know where they can and can't smoke so why do I still see people smoking in bus shelters with other people waiting for the bus having to endure their rancid smoke? Why do I still see people on the slope by Marks and Spencer smoking then throwing down their fag ends? Why do they smoke around the lifts by Primark and the underpass by Sainsbury's. Is it

because they don't care, or that they can't read the no smoking signs when they are displayed. I do note that there are places where there should be signs, and whoever is responsible should go round and put them up. Is it that the "smokers" don't know that they are breaking the law. I thought that ignorance of the law is not reason in court. People who want to smoke can do so but please not in my face and not when I have to pick my way through their discarded fag ends. Mrs H Popley East

Editors reply: I think most smokers do try to respect the law and other people, however it does not take many people to ignore it for it to notice. I have been in enclosed bus shelters when a smoker has lit up their cigarette and I have politely asked them to either go outside the shelter or put it out! I have had mixed reactions from apology to downright rudeness. Perhaps people don't know so I will find out exactly what the law is and report back in the next Popley Matters. In the meantime you can, as always contact us with your remarks by email at editor@popleymatters.org.uk or write to PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG
Editor's 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 cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.

Please send your letters to: The Editor, Popley Matters, PO Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG or email: editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone 819924





Water safety.

Young people who drown are often victims of their own misjudgement of their swimming ability. They may view a river or a lake as a tempting means of cooling off in a hot spell, but fail to appreciate the harmful effects that the cold water can have on stamina and strength.

- Drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death among the under 16s.
- Spot the dangers. Water may look safe, but it can still be dangerous. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water outdoors!
- Always take extra care around the water's edge, cliff faces and open mudflats.
- Take safety advice: always follow the flags on beaches and notices that may warn you of danger.
- Don't go alone: children should always be accompanied by an adult.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- Learn how to help: you may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency.
- If you see someone in difficulty tell a Lifeguard or go to the nearest telephone, dial 999, ask for the Police or the Coastguard.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809
Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



Children and young people in care need you

Jane fosters 14 year old Elliott who is challenging but always rewarding. For the past seven months she has been helping him to build his self confidence through a range of activities, including sailing. "To see improvements in his behaviour and the laughter and excitement in his eyes, especially after sailing, is my reward, and makes it all worthwhile – it is what fostering is all about," she said.

At any one time there are around 1000 children in the care of the local authority with almost 700 currently living in foster families. Foster carers are highly valued members of the community and play a vital role in supporting children in care across Hampshire.

A bus campaign is currently underway across Hampshire acknowledging the excellent work our foster carers do but also encouraging those with an interest to find out more about the profession. Whilst the focus this year is on teenagers, the campaign hopes to recruit an additional 65 foster carers.

Commenting on the new campaign Councillor Patricia Banks, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Children and Families, said: "Fostering is all about making the lives and futures of children and young people better. If you enjoy working with young people please do contact us and find out more about fostering.

"There are different types of fostering. These range from providing vital respite care, emergency foster care, short term placements to providing long term placements, where a child will stay with you until they live independently. Whatever type you are interested in doing you can rest assured that it will make a real difference to a child or young person and their family."

Foster carers come from all walks of life. If you can take on the often challenging role of a foster carer, have the time and space in your life to care for a child, have an ability to understand how a child or young person feels when their life may not be going smoothly and enjoy being and working with children and young people, then fostering could be for you.

Full training and support is available as is an allowance to cover the cost of caring for the child or young person placed in your care. You will need to be able to work with children, their families, schools, therapists and social workers. Young people come into care for a variety of reasons and in most cases the aim is to get them back with their own families as soon as possible.

Fostering can become a career with some foster carers undertaking further training; able to take on more challenging placements and therefore they attract a skills fee in recognition of their contribution.

If you would like to find out more call Hampshire County Council's foster line on 0845 6011895 or visit www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk

Julie's Gardening Tips

Well what happened to summer? I can't remember having such a dreary August before. But one bonus is that it has saved a lot of effort with watering. We should have bumper crops of vegetables with the warmth and rain too. Don't forget your neighbours might appreciate some home grown produce, and freezing it is relatively simple. Have you noticed how fast the grass and bushes are growing? I have had little chance to mow my little patch of grass this season, but the strimmer has been working over-time.

Keep picking those dead flower heads off to keep them producing new buds. Earlier flowering plants may well have a second flush of blooms if the weather stays the same. Keep picking your beans regularly to keep the plants producing flowers, and you could be picking them way into October.

Because of the damp conditions, any dead plant material will rot fast and can rapidly kill off plants. Check around the base at soil level and keep clearing the dead stuff out. You will probably find communities of slugs and snails hiding under there as well, giving you the chance to pick them out and dispose of them. Move your planters around to get at the slugs and snails hiding around them too. They like to hide under the top rims and underneath them where it is shady.

Aphids or greenfly and blackfly have had a great summer too. Spray them as soon as you notice them as they cause damage too. A little washing-up liquid in water can be sprayed on them regularly, or use preparations specially for killing aphids. Make sure you carefully follow any instructions.

Weeds always seem to grow faster than plants. They are also producing millions of seeds at this time of year, which if allowed to fall to the ground, will cause hours of weeding next year. If you don't have time to dig them out straight away, pick off the flowering heads to stop them seeding, but make sure you go back in a few days to dig the whole weed out. Dispose of them carefully too, as some will thrive in the compost bin. Nettles, docks, dandelions, bindweed, ivy and brambles should not be composted.

Trim back those unruly climbers, or tie the wandering branches back. Most climbers benefit from a good hair-cut, but leave it for a while yet as the weather conditions are ripe for breeding moulds and other things that can cause enough damage to kill plants.

Start planning for next year now. Seeds and garden products can be found in many places at discount prices now the summer is coming to an end. Take note of what grew well this year, and what didn't do so well. Choose new varieties to try while the seeds are cheap. Work out new places to put things and new ways to grow things. Gardening isn't just chance, and your patch can be a work of art if you spend as much time on the planning as you do planting. Look out for gardening stalls at car boot sales and fetes, you can pick up some bargains there.

Despite the miserable weather, I am pleased to see my fig trees have fruit swelling on them. Only a couple of fruits, but the first that have set on the plants. Figs form fruit buds during one growing season, then the fruits start to develop the following year. I have to admit I have neglected these plants for the last two years, but they have thrived on that neglect. It would be lovely to actually be able to pick ripe fruits off them to eat, but that will very much depend on a warm sunny autumn. I will keep you posted.

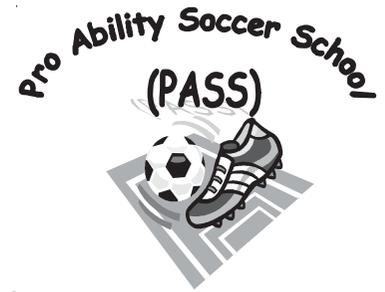


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Dear Friends

Summer? What summer? They weren't kidding when they said it was the wettest August on record, I would not be surprised if July weren't far behind. I guess the weather affects many of us, and our moods and I know a lot of folk have struggled to cope with the weather over the last couple of months – a very definite lack of clear blue skies and warm sunshine can often bring on a feeling of melancholy. Take heart – I'm told September will deliver what July and August should've done (but I'm not holding my breath!)

In spite of the weather there have been a few high spots. Not least the wonderful performance of Team GB in at the Beijing Olympics! Our athletes certainly out-did all expectations in winning medals and even those who didn't make the top three have done their country proud. It's a tribute to all the training and preparation in the years running up to their events. Hard work and commitment coupled with focus on the task will always bring its reward and you never get 'owt fer nowt!' as they say up North.

I likened the journey of our athletes have taken to the Christian journey through life. Sports and games were as popular 2000 years ago as they are today and athleticism and the ability to compete and win were much admired – I'm certain they had their own Ben Ainslie or Chris Hoy. St Paul makes a distinct comparison as he writes to a small church in a place called Corinth *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize... Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly."*

Alice Cooper the rock star said that 'becoming a Christian was the hardest thing he's ever done' It still is for me, it takes hard work, commitment and focus but the crown at the finish line is an eternal one and that for me makes it worthwhile – and I do have an excellent personal trainer!!!

In September St Gabriel's will celebrate two major events. The first is on 21st September at 1030 when we host the Battle of Britain service with representatives of the Royal Air Forces Association, the Air Training Corps and the Royal British Legion. Please do feel welcome to come along, especially if you or a member of your family is a former member of the RAF. The second event will take place on the afternoon of the 28th September at 4pm as we celebrate my 100th baptism at St Gabriel's. We're marking this event with a special service and celebration tea in hall afterwards. Again please do feel welcome to come along and join us.

Here's to a warm and sunny September and a champion's welcome home!

God Bless.
Revd. Arthur.
Vicar, St Gabriel's

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We have had a very busy summer here at the hall. The Play scheme was a huge success being full every day! The banners and lanterns made during the week looked fantastic in the childrens parade at the opening of Balloons over Basingstoke. Well done to all who took part, it was great evening! Two of the banners that were made here have been turned into wall hangings and will be used to decorate the corridor.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us maintain our gardens, there will be more work to do in the coming months as we prepare for winter. We are waiting for the result of Basingstoke in Bloom with baited breath so watch this space!

We will be completing the upgrade to Our CCTV system shortly. This upgrade sees a major improvement in both the quality and range of images both around the hall and the front and back of the shops. The new digital DVD recording equipment will be giving live images to the police. We hope these Upgrades will improve the safety for everyone using these areas.

Whats on at Melrose Hall

MONDAY: 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café
7.30pm-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistic

TUESDAY: 4.00pm-7.30pm Petite School of Dance
8.30am-3.00pm Marnel Early Years

WEDNESDAY: 10.00am-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
9.00am-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
7.15pm-9.00pm Slimming World

THURSDAY: 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café

FRIDAY: 6.00pm-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00pm-9.15pm age 11 plus.

SATURDAY: 9.00am-12.30pm Petite School of Dance

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. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.**



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Bankruptcy and IVAs

Basingstoke CAB has seen a steady increase in the number of people seeking its help with their debts this year. As debt levels soar country-wide, more and more people are having to turn to bankruptcy as the answer to their financial difficulties. The Ministry of Justice reports an increase of 5% in the number of people facing bankruptcy compared to 2007.

Bankruptcy is not for everyone, and won't necessarily resolve all debt problems. Court fines, maintenance payments, student loans will all still be payable after a bankruptcy. However, having lost some of its earlier stigma, if you don't own a home or any other significant assets, it could be for you.

While going bankrupt has become simpler over the years, it is still not an easy option. There is no guarantee that the judge will make you bankrupt in the first place. If they do, there is a lengthy form to fill in, followed by a court appearance in Reading. There are costs as well – fees of £345 for the Official Receiver (OR - the government arm that manages your bankruptcy) and £150 for the court. Some of these can be waived if you are in receipt of certain benefits. There are also interviews with the OR to work out the state of your finances and debts.

The OR takes over your finances – your bank account will be frozen, complete disclosure needs to be made about your financial position, and any assets that can be sold, sold. The bankruptcy will also affect your credit rating for years to come. The OR won't take your car if it's more than a few years old, or the children's computer, or things necessary to daily life or your work (tools, for example). The OR will work out the amount of money you and your family need for daily living using a system of allowances; the rest of your income will be paid to your creditors. Bankrupts are often discharged after a year – this means that the legal restrictions that apply to bankrupts will be lifted after a year, but the payments to creditors could carry on for longer, often 2-3 years.

IVAs (Individual Voluntary Arrangements) are often advertised as the one-stop instant answer to debt problems. In reality IVAs can be very lucrative for the companies that administer them, but are only suitable for certain groups of people.

If you have a regular income and do own a house, for example, and do not want to lose it by going bankrupt, an IVA is a way of getting round this. An IVA is managed by a company who work what you can afford to pay your creditors each month. They then contact all your creditors and ask them to agree to these payments. The company makes a charge for this service. The advantage for creditors is that they will normally get more this way than through bankruptcy. Once agreed, the payments begin and normally carry on for around 5 years. The company's fee is paid first, and only then do creditors start to receive money.

Once an IVA agreement has been drawn up, it is essential to stick to it. If payments are not made, the whole agreement can collapse and the debtor is back to square one.

At Basingstoke CAB we offer advice to many people facing debt problems. Our aim is to let our clients know of all the possible solutions to their problems, and then let them choose the option best for them, be it bankruptcy, an IVA or debt management – see last month's Popley Matters article for more information on this. Our advice is free and independent. You can drop in to see us at the library in Basingstoke, use our advice line (322814), or have a telephone or face-to-face appointment.

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Popley Conservation Group

By the time you see this Popley Conservation group will be preparing to start their winter conservation programme.

As I tried to highlight in the last issue of Popley Matters a great deal of conservation work has already taken place around Popley. However conservation is a form of land management which requires constant work to maintain and improve the habitat for plants and animals. Popley Conservation Group have devised an ambitious work schedule this winter but to carry it out successfully more hands will be needed. So if you fancy taking part in a healthy outdoor activity during the winter and at the same time spend a few spare hours helping to improve the green spaces in Popley we would be pleased to hear from you.

If you would like to give it a try, take a look at our conservation task schedule up to Christmas and contact our secretary who will be able to give you more information.

Date	Task	Site
Sunday 21st September	Grass Management	White Horse Pond
Saturday 4th October	Sycamore Management	Western Pond
Sunday 18th October	Willow Tree Management	Around Pond
Saturday 1st November	Chain saw work and clearance. No children please.	Near Eastern Pond
Sunday 16th November	Clearance following tree work	Near Eastern Pond
Saturday 29th November	Clearance around pond	Basing Wood
Sunday 14th December	Clear Silt from pond	Basing Wood
For all tasks meet at Tobago Close RG24 9PX at 10am. Tasks may change. Please telephone our secretary Lee Roth on 01256 330738 or email lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk to confirm.		

Popley Conservation Group are supported by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council



Diaries from The Old Codger

I was asked to say a bit on what I started my working life as. Well I left school at the grand old age of 14. For the first year I worked with my dad and uncle, they were floor layers. Chinham Park, John Hunt were two of the places I worked, as time went on Dad decided that the future was in mosaics, so I was off on my own into the big wide world. I received £1.17 pence in old money, about 60p in today's money. No it was not an hour or day, it was my whole week's wages and I got stopped tax and insurance. When I got home on pay day mum would split it with me, my money would only last the weekend, mum would give me money each day and again, I would pay her back every week. This is how we went on. I don't know if dad knew about it. Well onto my job in mosaics. It was a hard job, especially murals and being on your knees all day long cutting the small cubes in order to form a pattern. My love was pictures or murals, it was a long apprenticeship. A lot of the people that taught me were Italian. When I finely got to Italy they were the first things I wanted to see. The Italians work was great and they made me work just as hard. I went through hell with them, if I did a bit wrong they would not let me finish until it was perfect. Don't get me wrong we had fun as well. At the end of the day I would crawl along the ground to the nearest wall in order to stand up. I can remember one man that comes to mind back in the fifty's, he was a street fighter, bare knuckle fighter Smiler Bush, he was great, and played many a joke on me. However I did get my own back. He always sat in the same place at night, and would take his boots off before going home. One morning I got in early and nailed them to the floor, he could not chase me as I shot out the door. I loved doing the apprenticeship. I then went on after to become an improver, that meant two more years. Mosaics have been part of my life from then, on or should I say until they decided it was too expensive to do them. Also the base of my spine wore away, I still suffer badly with that, in fact when I was about 24 they put me on a rack and pulled me, yes a rack. They used it in orthopaedics at the old Basing Hospital. When they stretched me they then put a full body cast on. I had it on for three months, boy did that stink as you could not wash that part of the body. For anyone that goes to London have a closer look around you and look for the mosaics, a lot of people just walk past them. I would love to see a lot of our underpasses done like this, they would brighten up many of them in the town. It was not just Roman's that did mosaics, a lot have been found in some form or another around the world. They come to life if you see them finished. Walk into a church and see them on the floors and walls, mosaics take all forms of shapes and are made of many things, but people still relate to the wonderful ones the Italians produced. I know that many I have done will be there long after I am gone, in fact in thousands of year's time they may even dig one up on time team. Well that was my life as a mosaic artist. Four years in collage, who in their right mind would want to go back to school? I did and again was only too pleased to be given a second chance. I had left school before I should have. I had no education in school, collage and uni are the best years of your life because after that you are on your own to fend for your self. WHAT not saying anything about her in doors this time, not on your life my head is still thumping from last month now I have the MOTHER-IN-LAW move to Basingstoke, I have two to have a dig at in time well three if you count my part time sister. All with the same broom sticks. *Till next month The Old Codger*



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Popzone Youth Club

This has been very quiet over the summer as most children are on holiday, although our books remain full, we look forward to seeing every one back in September. Times are as follows 5.30pm-7.00pm and 7.15pm-8.45pm ages 8 to 16

Family Fishing Trips funded by the Big Lottery Fund

These are now taking place and so far Derek has taken 25 people fishing and they have all had a great time, but there is still time for families to book a place on one of the trips, children must be accompanied by a family member, so any of you mums, dads, granddads etc who would like to have a go at fishing, Please contact Derek at Popley Fields Community Centre for more information.

Free Computer Classes – Courses will begin again this September, so pop along to the centre to register your interest. There will be courses in Beginners Guide to Computing, Desktop Publishing with Digital Photography; Internet and email; Learn how to help your children, or yourself, by revising basic grammar (in a fun way!); Spreadsheets and introduction to Word-processing. Also trace your family history using the internet. All classes run for a 10 week period and take place on one morning or afternoon per week. For a full list of classes or to enrol, please contact Queen Mary's College on 01256 417517 or Popley Fields 414494. Classes are free to anyone who does not have 5 GCSEs grades A*- C. All classes are ideal for beginners!

Line dancing-Wednesday Evening

There is a beginners' line dancing class held from 6.30pm-7.30pm in the large hall. And a more advanced class from 8.00pm-10.00pm.

Dynamics Baton Twirlers-Thursday Evening

This takes place in the large hall from 5.00pm- 7.00pm

Mad Academy– This is a new opportunity for toddlers and will run on Tuesdays 9.15am-11.15pm – 'Mad Academy' will be holding high-energy music and dance classes combined with learning for babies from 3 months to 5 years.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and kids' parties at very reasonable rates.

Call us now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the centre every week!

Tel: 01256 414494 or email:popleyfields@hotmail.com

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INFORMATION DAY - WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER, CHURCH COTTAGE, BASINGSTOKE

An opportunity to gather information and advice from a wide range of organisations working with older people - all under one roof! Everyone welcome. Refreshments available from the Age Concern Café, open every Wednesday. Please note there is no public parking at Church Cottage. For information about who is taking part please contact Age Concern on 01256 423874 or pick up an Age Concern newsletter from the Café in September.

WIN A SCOOTER OR RISE RECLINE CHAIR with AGE CONCERN & KEEP ABLE!

Local mobility equipment supplier Keep Able has generously donated a mobility scooter (or rise recline chair) to Age Concern as a raffle prize! For this fantastic prize we are holding a SPECIAL GRAND DRAW which will take place at the Information Day on 22nd October at Church Cottage (12.00). Raffle tickets (priced at just £1) are available now from the Age Concern office at The Orchard and Wednesday Café (10.30 to 1, Church Cottage). For more information call Age Concern on 01256 423874.

Sentinel

New Homes On Parade

November will see the completion of the first 25 new homes in phase one of Sentinel's Longfellow Parade Regeneration Programme. Providing 12 new homes for rent, including six, two bedroom houses and six, three bedroom houses, a further eight flats and five houses for shared ownership are also available.

Construction of the three new retail units in Shakespeare Road has now started and is due for completion in March 2009. This will provide a new home for the One Stop shop and a further ten flats above.

We would like to thank all local residents for their patience and continued support during this challenging first phase. We will continue to keep you updated via regular newsletters and on-site drop-in surgeries. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Andrea Weeks, Sentinel Regeneration Project Manager on 0800 195 5515.

Young Raiders Hunt for Rubbish.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Sentinel's Rubbish Raiders event in Malta and Bermuda Close earlier this month. It was great to see local young people having fun while taking pride in their neighbourhood.

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 with our self advocacy groups for adults with learning disabilities or autism

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

Little Pearls

(currently known as Chineham Park Preschool)



Opening September 2008

Based within Pebbles Children's Centre, in the beautiful grounds of Chineham Park School, the Nursery will provide a safe stimulating and fun environment for children to grow and learn.

Education grants are available for children from the first term following their 3rd birthday. Unfortunately, there are no free places for children under 3.

We can take up to 56 children aged from birth to 5 years and we are working in conjunction with the NCMA and local childminders to provide continuity of care.

Places are available 5 days a week (8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday) all year round and the children have either a full-time or part-time place, depending on the availability of places and the family's needs.

We are currently taking enquiries and booking places for September start.

For further information please contact 01256 464750 (incl over the Summer Holidays)

Over 55's Forum

The Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum are now organising the 2008 Special Day Variety Show on Saturday 27th September 2008 at Queen Mary College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke. Doors will open at 1.30pm. The show starts at 2pm until 5pm.

We have again, the brilliant compere "Del Boy" Trotter a look-a-like from only Fools and Horses.

The acts are Basingstoke Tappers - Si tar and Tabla Players- Bollywood Dancers - Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra - Footsteps Dance School - Carnival Chorus with Jane Cole. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Tickets cost just £4 and can be purchased from myself at 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS, with a stamped addressed envelope, cheques made payable to Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum. This event is important to us to raise money, so that we can try and give the over 55s in the Borough a better quality of life.

Our 13th August Open Forum meeting went very well with over 200 members in attendance, the speakers were Karen Bri mi combe(BDBC), Mary Henri kson(Pensions) and Deborah Upham(Hampshire PCT -GP-led super surgery)

The Friendly Café at Melrose Hall

The Friendly Café is just that, a friendly place to go and meet people. We have also had two good days out. The first was to Monkey World, it was a wonderful day, and the weather was very kind to us. Ten of us were in electric buggies which meant we could manage to get round the whole place and didn't have to miss a thing. None of us bought any mementos although we would have loved to.

The second outing was to The Beech Arms. This was paid for by our weekly raffle so people who are regulars go to our outings for free. The Friendly Café is run by a wonderful band of volunteers. A special thank you to June, who organises the outings. Thanks June your doing a great job. By Ann



*Basingstoke
and Deane*

**THE BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH
COUNCIL (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE)
(PRIESTLEY ROAD, BASINGSTOKE) ORDER 2008**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council proposes to make the following Order:-

Effect of Order: All vehicles will be prohibited from proceeding along that length of Priestley Road (southern length) between its junction with the A340 Aldermaston Road and its junction with Priestley Road (northern length) **between the hours of 19:00hrs and 06:00hrs only**, as indicated by traffic signs. The closure is necessary to reconstruct part of Priestley Road at its junction with Aldermaston Road.

Duration of Order: The Order will come into effect on 25th August for 6 months. (Notwithstanding the above, the road should only be closed for 3 months).

Reasonable facilities will be provided to allow access to adjacent premises while the work is being carried out.

Alternative Route: Via A340, Aldermaston Road and Priestley Road (northern length) or vice versa.

If you have any queries regarding the above please contact Steve Parkman, Tel: 01256 361908 on behalf of Carillion Plc.

C J Guy Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Thursday, 14th August 2008

