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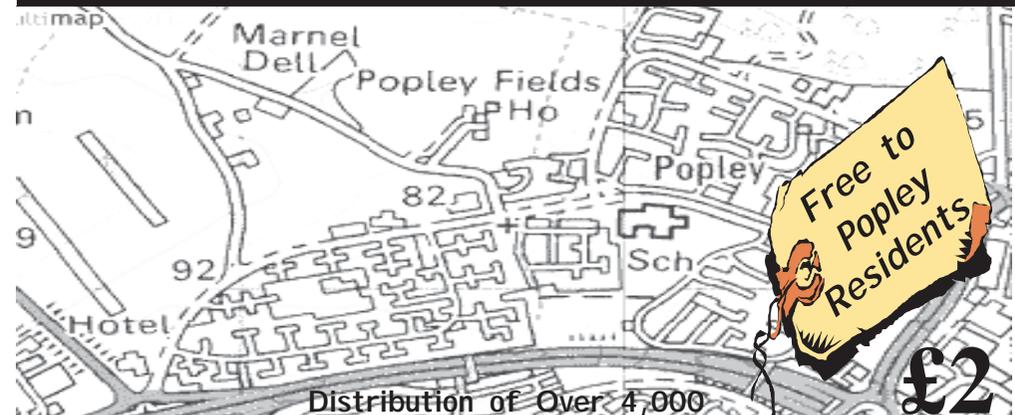
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

November 2008

Issue 81



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-11-08)



Editor Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- Firstly may we offer our apologies if you did not get the October Popley Matters. It certainly brought home to me how valuable Iris is as our Distribution Manager. Iris is still unable to do the sorting, counting and getting the magazines to our fantastic volunteer deliverers. It falls on Paul and myself again this month. If there are any volunteers that can help you would be welcomed with open arms. We have an amazing band of deliverers and they

were so understanding and some even came and picked up the copies from my house. We do have an added problem that I had a fall and have some bright purple bruises and was very embarrassed as I could not get up, I had to call my wonderful son, Tony, and daughter-in-Law, Ame, at 5:30 am and they were there in minutes. Thank you so much. Talking of thanks Iris wants to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes.

Winter is here and the cold is something I hate. Even though it looks pretty with snow on the ground I could do without it! The roads get icy and dangerous and it never ceases to amaze me that drivers go along the roads at high speeds then have such a look of surprise when there is an accident. The Fire Service have used that as their subject this month on page 12.

In this time of credit crunch with winter and the expense of Christmas there are several articles that may be of use. If I have one piece of advice it would be don't wait till the situation is desperate please seek advice If you have an article you would like us to include or even an advertisement you can contact us at Popley Matters, PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG or 405 Abbey Road email editor@popleymatters.org.uk or via the web



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;

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Youth Volunteers; Joseph Doran

More Volunteers Welcome

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If you don't know where to start when looking for a reliable tradesman, Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards BUY WITH CONFIDENCE scheme can help. This ground breaking initiative provides a list of businesses that have been independently checked by Trading Standards Officers for compliance with the law and trustworthiness. Members are also continuously monitored to ensure that they maintain their high levels of service.

With Hampshire Trading Standards alone receiving over 20,000 customer complaints each year, it is understandable that we all feel daunted when looking for someone reliable to carry out a specific job. It was with just this problem in mind that the Buy with Confidence scheme was set up. The aim is to give consumers peace of mind as well as promote the many reliable firms that there are in Hampshire.

While the scheme cannot guarantee that the work of members will never give rise to complaint, if it does, one of the requirements of membership is that such problems should be resolved quickly and fairly. It is currently the largest such scheme in the country, with over 400 members, covering a huge range of different businesses from builders to window cleaners.

To find out about approved traders in your area you can either visit the website at www.buywithconfidence.info or telephone 01962 869 765



Hi Everyone

More and more people this month have been coming to the new Children's Centre building to see what we are about. They have been signing up to the Centre so that they can receive information that will help them parent their under 5 year olds.

We are currently running an ESOL course that is an English course for those who speak other languages. We have a Breast Feeding Support Course running and this is all teenagers that want to help other know what is best for their babies.

Coming up in November we have a Baby Massage Course and an Understanding Behaviour Course. So don't miss out, come along and sign up to a course that suits you. You can, if you wish, just come along and have a coffee and a chat, or book in time on the computer to look for a job or a child minder or even write your CV.

Debbie, Rosa and Paula continue to help our families out in the community, running activities for parents and their children at Melrose Hall on a Tuesday; Popley Fields on a Wednesday; and Base 2000 on a Thursday. Sue, our finance whiz, is at Pebbles Centre, She is there to give you a friendly greeting and tell you what is on in Popley and where it is happening. Very shortly we will have a new member to our team Brenda, our Family Support Outreach Worker. I will tell you more about her role when she joins us next month. We are still on the search for good administrators to join our team so if you are interested contact the Centre on 01256 357028. You can use this number to find out all you need to know about us and what a Children's Centre is all about. If you have a child under 5 years old – DON'T miss out.

Janice Ampofo Centre Manager

The Vyne Community School offers a wide range of community activities:



Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities - Netball, Football, Badminton courts

Halls & Rooms for Hire – meetings, parties, community groups

Fitness Studio – no membership fee, monthly or casual use

Dance Studio – sprung floor, mirrors.

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& EVERY SATURDAY 12.00-3.00 pm

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HOLIDAY CLUB – 22/23 DECEMBER

£16 to 3:30pm / £19 to 5pm / £21 to 6pm

Arts & Crafts / Fun activities / Games Opens 8.30 am 5 – 14 yrs

Adult & Leisure Learning: It's not too late to enrol on British Sign Language Lev 1, Floristry: C&G Floristry, Party Flowers, Funky Floral, Contemporary Funeral, Christmas Floral, Creative Weddings, Digital Photography: Image Editing, Digital SLR. Family Learning and Parenting courses include: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Getting Back to Work, FEAT, Messy Play, Learning through Play and more.



Assisted by
Basingstoke
and Deane

For more information please contact the Community Office.

Tel: 01256 407037 Email: community@vyne.hants.sch.uk

The Vyne Community School, Vyne Road, Basingstoke, RG21 5PB.



Sources of help for those looking to make their money go further Help reducing energy bills:

Energy Saving Trust For free, independent and local energy saving advice, including how to access deals on discounted or free insulation, call 0800 512 012 www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Energy Watch For advice on how to reduce your bill by switching supplier or getting the best deal contact

08459 06 07 08 www.energywatch.org.uk

Warm Front Government grants to help make homes warmer, healthier and more energy-efficient

0800 316 2805 <http://www.warmfront.co.uk/>

Housing specific advice:

Shelter For help with housing queries or if you are at risk of losing your home call:

0808 800 4444 www.shelter.org.uk

Advice on managing debt problems:

Advice UK

020 7407 4070 www.adviceuk.org.uk

All members provide free and confidential advice, but not all provide money advice.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

01256 322814 www.adviceguide.org.uk

Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) Offers a structured programme of advice on how to manage your money.

0800 138 1111 www.ccss.co.uk

National Debtline Provides a free, confidential and independent telephone advice service.

0808 808 4000 www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Business Debtline Free, confidential and independent advice for self-employed people and small businesses.

0800 197 6026 www.bdl.org.uk

Payplan Free confidential advice on debt problems.

0800 917 7823 www.payplan.com

Other helpful contacts

The Community Legal Service Aims to make it easier for the public to get legal help and advice – look on its website for details of agencies in your area.

www.clsdirect.org.uk

Jobcentre Plus Office

01256 726400 www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

The Pension Service

0845 60 60 265 www.thepensionservice.gov.uk

Directgov For information about tax and benefits

Tax credits helpline – 0845 300 3900 www.directgov.gov.uk

Run by Fantasy Fudge Christmas Charity Fair



for Epilepsy Action & Air Hampshire Air Ambulance

13th December
Melrose Hall
11am-3pm



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Cake Makers

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General help on the day

Any one able to offer services & goods for

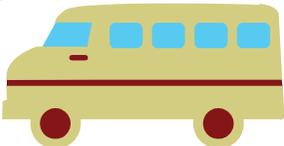
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Councillors Page: I am lucky enough as a County Councillor to have a budget of £10,000 that I can nominate local groups and charities. I have just posted three applications for approval; one is for help with equipment for youths another was for the over 55s and included is some equipment to help with exercise and healthier living, (among it is a we Fit). I have also nominated nearly £2,000 for much needed floor covering in the Little Pearls Pre School based in Chineham Park School. I still have some of the budget left so if your group is local to Popley or Oakridge please look on the web at www.hants.gov.uk and go into Member's Grants where all the details and forms are there for you to apply. Hopefully the disruption on the Aldermaston Roundabout is coming to an end. I thank you all for being so patient. You can contact me Jane Frankum County Councillor, 819924, jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: The replacement bus stops in Buckfast Close and Tintern have taken much, much more time than they should. The replacements are coming from Portsmouth and the hold up is there. The officer was told the delivery was imminent but that has not proved to be the case. We are continuing to get too many planning applications to convert our family homes into flats or HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation). We continue to oppose these as the need in Basingstoke and Deane is for three four and five bedroom homes. Residents are telling us that they are fed up with the extra call for parking and added noise levels this seems to bring. We have a housing list of around 6,000 and most do not want flats. We are unable to help our elderly residents when they want to downsize to smaller houses or to bungalows. They say in no uncertain terms that they do not want flats. *Cllr Paul Frankum, Popley West, 472496* paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: The problems and complaints around the Tesco shop in Carpenters Down have occupied a lot of our time. It is now one of the three priorities with the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team. This at least will mean that many agencies will get together, including Police, ACSOs Community Wardens, Councillors, schools and Sentinel. The new layout of the shop seems to have created more problems and we have approached Tesco to help find some solutions.

Phase two of the regeneration should be completed by the end of March. The new One Stop shop should also be ready then too. We have been keeping an eye on the building and have brought up many of your issues. If you want to contact us you can phone Andy McCormick on 419376 or 07879 436985, or Mary Brian on 322108 or write to Popley Labour, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

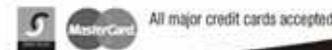
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Monday To Saturday
12pm - 2pm & 5pm - 10:30pm

Tuesday Closed



Hello,

I am currently looking at setting up Neighbourhood Watch within the Popley area. Currently Popley is underrepresented only having two or three schemes. This is something I would like to improve on. I recently sent out 350 letters to the new Marnel Park estate. This I am hoping will be just the start of a role out across Popley. In order to set up schemes it needs the support of residents to get it up and running.

Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent link between the Police and local residents. The police and the NHW Association encourage a two way flow of communication with schemes. Through this it is hoped that it will reduce the likelihood of NHW members becoming a victim of crime and it will assist the police in apprehending any offenders. There are a lot of benefits in being a member of a NHW scheme including, discount offered by some insurance companies, opportunities to receive funding for projects and local initiatives (ie. graffiti cleaning kits/training, youth activities), crime prevention advice and information, Neighbourhood Watch Signs that deter crime and reassure the community. NHW can make a difference in reducing crime and the opportunities of crime. It can also bring a community closer together and give it a stronger voice to tackle any issues that may concern them. The police, local authority and other members of the community safety partnership support NHW. Every Scheme needs a coordinator who will be responsible for organizing meetings and passing out information to everyone else within the scheme. The coordinator will speak to me directly and I will pass on information that will be disseminated by them.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Neighbourhood Watch then please contact me by the usual means. I would also ask that you speak to your neighbours and drum up support for a scheme in your area. Any scheme that will be set up needs at least 50% of residents in that area willing to be involved. Any schemes can only be started with your help and support.

We have been very busy over the last month stepping up our patrols in priority areas including Tesco, Carpenters Down and Guernsey and Jersey Close. We have also more dedicated Anti Social Behaviour patrols due to Halloween and Bonfire Night. We will all be working till late during these times to help this time of year run smoothly and be enjoyable for everyone.



Regards,

PCSO STEVEN SMITH 13324

ADAM

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Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

www.base2000.co.uk

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake (01256) 410559

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



The Beavers released a batch of Painted Lady Butterflies into the wild at the end of September. They had been nurtured in a 'butterfly farm' for several weeks and been closely observed as eggs became caterpillars, then chrysalis and eventually emerging as beautiful butterflies. The older members enjoyed the District Beaver 'Sleepover'. The theme was 'Around the World in 18 hours'. Passports, pasta picture mosaics, American rockets, Egyptian mummies, Chinese lanterns, French croissants for breakfast and German bockwurst sausages for supper and a dvd of Happy Feet (Antartica). Predictably not much sleeping went on!. The Cubs have been practising delivering messages accurately and using a public 'pay' phone (not man around these days but they need to know how to use them should the need arise. The Pack is looking forward to its annual Hallowe'en Party. Both the Cubs and Beavers will visit the pantomime at The Anvil during the Christmas season and the Beavers will join with Popley Colony to prepare a nativity play for the Christmas season.

The Scouts staged a JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) at Base 2000 for 24-hours on 18/19th October and linked to several other troops both in the UK and around the world. Some kept going all night to meet up with Scouts from the furthest continents during their day-time. Several plan to 'brave' Survival Camp at Pinsent later in the year for backwoods' cooking and bivouac building!

We have vacancies for new recruits in all sections. Give the section leader a ring or simply turn up for a free 'taster' evening to see what's on offer this session. All sections are open to both boys and girls. Subscriptions are £1.50 per week payable weekly or termly as desired.

Base 2000 was full to the brink on Saturday 11th October when Hampshire Scouts held their Annual District Commissioner and Leader Conference in the building. Conference is part on the ongoing training every leader is required to complete to continue to update themselves with new legislation and developments in Scouting.

Base 2000 can offer a venue for meetings, fund-raising events and sometimes parties from organisations other than Scouting. Special rates for charities/non-profit making organisations. Enquiries/bookings to Pete Saunders or Jan Saunders on 01256 410514 or e-mail base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com



Boy and girls 6-8 years
Meetings: Tuesday 5.30-6.45p.m.
Eve Alexander 346510



Boys and girls aged 8-10½
Tuesday 6.30-8.15p.m.
Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9p.m.
Colin Karlake 410559



Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor, Oh how I have come to hate Firework time. Maybe it is my age but when I was little we may not have had as big or as many as they have now, but we loved it. We would go to a park or village green and there would be a big bonfire that people had collected wood for. We would make Guys and go round or set up in the street to collect money. We spent mostly on fireworks, though I will confess we did buy sweets too. The families would gather around and we all donated our fireworks so that everyone could enjoy them. We had jacket potatoes (usually black and burnt), sausages and we all lit sparklers. Now it starts weeks before with bangs going off at all hours and going on for weeks, no months, after!

Editor's reply: You must have gone to the same places as myself, all those years ago. I agree it does go on too long. We tend to go to the fantastic Mayor's Display in Hackwood Park. The price of the tickets are very reasonable and it is always a spectacular show.

Dear Editor, I know most dog owners are very responsible but would those "owners" who don't clear up their dog's mess please take a leaf out of everyone else's book and clear it up. My daughter came home from playing with her friends over in the Open Space covered in the stuff. She told me there was one person with lots of dogs and they all ran off in different directions. The person with them

could and did not clear up after them. Is this a public park? I thought it was for everyone to use. Well my daughter is not going back to run free over there again until I think it's safe to do so.

Editor's reply: I do agree that most dog owners do clear up their dog's mess. In fact I have seen dog owners chase after another and tell them to pick it up. There is a need for more bins around the estate. I hope we hear soon what the draft plans will be for the new park. After many, many years of campaigning I am getting quite excited at the prospect of a family friendly park.

Dear Editor, I am single, in my thirties and wondered if you or your readers knew of any clubs or ways of people meeting in my age group. There are places and clubs for the young and the over 55s but what about us 25 to 55 s. Where do we go? I don't have a computer so websites are of no use to me. Please do you know of anywhere?

Editor's reply: Sorry, no I don't know of clubs for your age group but I will bet there will be readers out there that can. Can you help out here folks?

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, Popley Basingstoke RG24 9GG or email: editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone 819924



Basingstoke Voluntary Services (BVS) Christmas Charity Fayre

The Charity Fayre is a popular event organised by BVS with support from The Malls Management to help local Voluntary and Community Organisations fundraise and raise awareness of the important work they do in the local community. The theme for the Christmas Fayre is 'Christmas Songs'. All those taking part are asked to get in the spirit, dress up and decorate their stalls in line with the theme. The Malls Management have kindly arranged entertainment of Victorian Street Pianos and Barrel Organs to add to the festive ambience. The BVS Christmas Charity Fayre will be held on **Thursday 11th December** between 10am and 4pm at Station Mall/Castle Square, The Malls Shopping Centre, Basingstoke. To book a stall contact Cheryl Keates at Basingstoke Voluntary Services on 01256 423816 or e-mail ckeates@voluntaryservices.com. Organisations taking part must have their own Public Liability Insurance of at least £5 million.

Fauré – Requiem

Handel – Four Coronation Anthems (including Zadok the Priest)

These popular works are to be performed at St Bede's RC Church by Hook Choral Society on Saturday 15th November at 7.30pm, accompanied by organ and soloists. This is the Society's first visit to St Bede's and under the direction of Nicholas Woods hope to make it a regular venue. Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions), available from Dawsons Music, Festival Place, Basingstoke or by calling Helen on 766522.

Abbey Court Grand Jumble Sale

Abbey Court Popley Way
Saturday 15 November
1:00 - 3:30pm.

Attractions include: - second-hand clothes, books, soft toys, furniture, bric-a-brac, tombola, underground game, raffle.

All proceeds go towards subsidising social events for the Abbey Court tenants.



Tornadoes & Whirlwinds

We had a game against our main league rivals, Down Grange, and after a hard fought 50 minutes we were victors with a 4-2 win. Fynnlie Judd and Gaiyain Barry scored to put us 2-0 up at the break, but Down Grange came back to put things level. They were getting on top, until Jacob Austen inspired the tornadoes with a 20 yard thunderbolt nearly ripping the back of the net out and G-man to finish them off with a low, hard strike into the bottom left hand corner.

The next game was a long trek out to Andover for the Tornadoes where Nathan Parker and G-man Barry scored hat-tricks and Fynnlie scored to go through convincing winners 7-2 against Andover United.

The Whirlwinds have had what I would call a successive start to the season. They were beaten at home 0-5 against Hatch Warren, which sounds bad, but Hatch Warren have been winning 12 and 13 nil against teams that have beaten our Whirlwinds, so I look at it as progression. The Whirlwinds needed a win under their belt and it came with a 2-5 away win against Loddon, goals coming from Scott Forder (3) Jake Keywood and Travis Patterson.

Travis has come on board just at the right time and given the Whirlwinds a massive boost up front, which was desperately needed. Holding the ball up for his team mates to run onto and score is a talent in itself and not a lot of U10s players can do it, so well done Travis.

The Tornadoes also beat the Loddon A 1-9 away with goals coming from Fynnlie (2) Jacob, Nathan, Ellie and The G-MAN with 4 Kallum also saved a penalty brilliant!

The Spurs

We are in desperate need of players for the MFC Popley Spurs U9s team and require players who are in year 4 at school. So if you know of any kids who love football and want to be part of a team, please contact me or Kev, who is the Spurs Manager, on:

Kev: 07946179677

Lee: 07810444995

Or just turn up at Marnel School on Saturdays 10.30am for training.

Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

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Julie's Gardening Tips

Autumn is well and truly here!

Wet and warm, grass still growing, but too damp to cut, leaves falling and making a mess, and all the summer bedding looking bedraggled and untidy. This month is clean up time.

After picking out all the dead plants, spring bulbs can be planted in the gaps. Winter flowering pansies make a pretty display in tubs and baskets, and will give you colour right through the winter as long as they don't get waterlogged. While during the summer months we struggle to keep our planters watered, the excess rain in the autumn and winter months will rot the root systems and allow severe frost damage. This is why the planters should always have good drainage. If you have bought new planters, make sure they have at least 4 good size holes in the bottom, and that the water can drain away from the base of the pots. Poke bulbs down as far as you can – the deeper the better and fill the top of planters with pansies or foliage plants that will survive the cold weather. As the bulbs start to grow they will push up through the plants on the top. Extra plants in the pots will help use up more of the water, and protect the roots from frost damage too.

Roses and climbers can be pruned back now. As a rule, you can take away about two thirds of the top growth. This helps to strengthen the base of the plants and make them less twiggy. If you aren't too sure how much to prune off, there are plenty of good books in shops and the library that will guide you.

If you grew beans this year, they will not be producing much now. Allow a few pods to swell up and turn brown so you can collect the seed for next year, then cut the plants right down to soil level. Compost the tops, but you can leave the roots in the ground as they will break down nicely with the help of the insects and worms that live in the soil. Don't leave anything dead or dying lying around the garden or you may find it becomes a haven for unwanted guests like slugs. Most of the snails have gone into hibernation now, but if you come across any, dispose of them to save yourself a job early next spring. Slugs will happily feed on dead and dying plant matter as well as living plants, so don't give them the banquet they are looking for either! If you do come across any mouldy plants and leaves, put them in the dustbin rather than your compost bin to prevent spreading diseases.

We have all heard about the explosion of the rat population over the last year or so. They will be attracted to anything they can eat. Understanding this will help prevent having a problem in your garden or shed too. Don't put cooked foods in your compost bin if they have a fat content, such as meat or chips. Rats love fatty food and it helps them survive the winter months if they have a regular supply of food that will keep them fat and warm. If you want to feed the birds over winter, make sure the seed or fat-balls are high enough to stop rats making a feast of them too. It is always a good idea to hang bird food rather than scatter it on the ground so cats aren't tempted to take an extra meal or two also. Make sure you provide water for them too.

If you have a pond in the garden, float a cheap plastic ball on it over winter to help prevent it icing over completely. This will allow birds to get water from it, and also give any fish or wildlife in it a better chance of surviving the colder months. Never break the ice if the pond completely freezes over because it causes shock waves in the water which can kill small fish. If the pond has steep sides, hang a piece of mesh over the side so it dangles into the water. Anchor the other end with something heavy to make sure it stays there. This allows birds and small mammals like hedgehogs and voles to climb out again if they should happen to fall in.

An old wives tale says that if there is an abundance of berries on the trees and bushes at this time of the year, then it will be a hard winter. I have noticed quite a good crop this autumn, so we shall have to see whether there is any truth in it. The weathermen with their sophisticated computerised equipment are insistent it will be a warm, wet winter rather than a cold one.

We shall see!





Reach Out is a free, community based support service funded by Department for Work and Pensions through the European Social Fund 2007-2013. We provide personalised support and development opportunities to eligible adults living in Rushmoor who are looking to improve their skills and work towards finding and keeping a job. We will provide the service from local venues so you don't have to travel too far to come and see us. The new service will be tailored to your needs, and we will work to help you find and keep the job you want. We can also help with other issues such as benefits, childcare, money management and more!

If you have any questions or want to talk to us about 'Reach Out' in more detail, please give us a call:
 Hannah Phillips: 07714 064774 or
 Lynne Grimshaw: 07834 743380



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Longfellow Parade Regeneration Update

The first phase of our £15m regeneration project in Longfellow Parade is nearly complete. The site in Marlowe Close will provide 12 new homes for rent and 13 homes for part buy part rent.

Phase 2 in Shelley Close will be complete by the end of March 2009, as long as the weather doesn't cause us too many problems. This will provide a further six apartments for rent and 16 for part buy part rent. March will also see the completion of the Shakespeare Road site and the One Stop shop. This will mean the flats and shops in Longfellow Parade will be demolished around May or June next year. For more information about part buy part rent options please contact our Homescape Team on 01256 338800.

We would like to thank the pupils and staff at Chineham Park Primary School for welcoming us to their morning assembly for a site safety talk. Well done to the children who entered our site safety competition and congratulations to those who won the prize of book vouchers.

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

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How's work for you these days?

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau can help you with many work problems. Maybe your employer wants to vary your contract – decrease or increase your hours, for example. Maybe you don't have a written contract and want to know whether bank holidays are included in your holiday allowance. Maybe you'd just like a written contract. At BCAB, we can tell you what your rights are in all these situations, and many others.



Since October 2004, it's the law that every company has to have a grievance procedure. Employees can then use this to raise problems with their employers that aren't being dealt with in the day-to-day running of things. There is a standard process to use which involves a written record and meetings. If problems can't be sorted out this way, and it's appropriate, BCAB can help you take things further.

Most workers have a right to 4.8 weeks paid holiday a year. However there is no legal right to take bank holidays on top of this; that would be stated in a contract of employment.

Employers are not allowed to withhold wages from employees. This includes paying employees late, or not paying them at all. Most workers over the age of 22 are entitled to the national minimum wage of £5.73; £4.77 for workers aged 18-21.

The law offers a lot of protection to employees, and we can help you find out what that is, and then enforce it. If you have difficulties at work that you think we might be able to help you with, please come and see us.

Basingstoke CAB opening hours:
Monday – 10-3.30 drop-in service
Tuesday – 10-3.30
Wednesday – 10-3.30
Thursday – 9.30 – 11.30
Friday – 10-3.30
Saturday 10-12

We can offer phone and face to face appointments to client as well.
Our telephone advice line is 01256 322814; dependent on staffing levels.
Our website is www.adviceguide.org.uk

Basingstoke CAB is trialling a drop-in service on a Monday afternoon from 1-3.30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley, Basingstoke. If you require advice on employment, debt, benefit, relationship or other matters, please come and see us.



Kala the Arts in association with Marnel Junior School, present... Katha – A project for Popley cluster schools. Story telling through South Asian Dance and Music.

It has been a busy half term for dancers at Marnel Junior School and Everest Community College, as we have been preparing for a community dance project, supported by 'The Big Lottery Fund'.

International dance teachers from Kala the Arts have been working hard with children, choreographing, learning and performing dances for fantastic performances on October 21st at Marnel Junior School and 14th November at Everest.

Katha is a big community project and invites pupils and parents from local schools to come together on 5th and 7th November from 6.30pm – 8.00pm at Marnel Junior School to experience and enjoy dance and music together.

If you are interested in joining us for the Family Workshops, please contact Miss Farley at: t.farley@marneljuniorschool.com or telephone 01256 328670. We look forward to hearing from you.





www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk



Road Safety.

- ❁ **Wet Roads & Icy Roads:** Be extra vigilant during the winter months. Beware of black ice, taking extra care in shaded areas as the sun won't have melted it. Try to use major roads rather than smaller, quieter roads which might not have been gritted. In wet and icy conditions brake gently to avoid skidding and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front - give yourself time to react. Don't forget: the braking distance is twice as far on wet roads and increases 10-fold on icy roads!
- ❁ **Low Sun & Glare:** Now the winter is approaching, the sun is lower in the sky and wet roads will reflect glare which can temporarily blind you to potential hazards.
- ❁ **Dark Mornings & Evenings:** Now the clocks have gone, back, evenings and mornings are drawing in. Be extra vigilant for pedestrians. As a pedestrian always use a pedestrian crossing where possible. Help others to see you by wearing fluorescent or reflective clothing in poor light conditions.
- ❁ **Motor Cyclists:** Look out for motor cyclists. They represent less than 1% of road traffic but account for 18% of deaths and serious injuries and are 40 times more likely to be killed than a car driver.

Top Tip:

Don't use water to defrost windows - warm water can crack the glass and cold water will just re-freeze. Ensure you leave plenty of time to fully defrost your car in the morning. A squirt of WD40 in the door locks will prevent them from freezing.

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



DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

Some time ago I was asked how the Isle of Dogs got its name. The Isle of Dogs was a piece of wasteland and only sheep and cattle grazed on it. It was on a bend of the Thames about three quarters of a mile long. There were marshes and meadows cut by ditches. Along the edge of it were reeds that were cut for thatching and mat weaving. Also along the edge were gallows, and corpses of pirates hung to show ships coming up the Thames not to steal or this is your next destination! I wonder if they are still there. Her Indoors needs a good neck massage. I'm wandering a bit. It is believed it was originally called the Isle of Ducks or Dykes because of the ditches. Then it was changed to Isle of Dogs because of a waterman that was murdered and thrown overboard. His dog was swimming around his body. Samuel Pepys wrote about it and many of his contemporaries did as well. There was also a play by Johnson and Nash in 1597. William Blake got much of his inspiration, again from the Dogs. Coming up to the 1800s Dickens was reported as having driven past it on "the smallest omnibus" he had been on. So yes, the East End was the most undesirable place to be. But, I wonder why all these great writers went there? The Isle of Dogs has kept its name but it is no longer an island.



Opium was the main reason these people went to the East End. Opium houses were common place. Even Conan Doyle talked of Watson finding Holmes in an opium den. The death rate back in the 1800s and start of the 1900s was high amongst young children, and as more ships arrived from around the world so did the diseases like cholera and diphtheria etc. A lot of people would not have their children christened until they reached the age of five because of the mortality rate. The Isle of Dogs was turned into mainly a shipping port and all kinds of industry built up in the area by the late 1800s. The smog around it never went away with factories pumping out fumes of all kinds. Bryant and May had the Matchstick Girls, as they became known, and their skins would be yellow because of the phosphorus they used in match making. Bryant and May did stop putting it in the matches in the end, but it took many years to do so. So this is how the East End grew. People came from all over the country to work and ship. Building was one of its biggest trades. Brunel built a ship that was the biggest of its kind. They tried three times to launch it. When they did get it into the water there was a huge backwash which swept a lot of spectators to their deaths. History in the East End of London is one of the best stories you can talk about because of the diversity of the place, and the people that lived and worked there over three hundred years. This is just a small part of its story.

Till next month, The Old Codger

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Family Prize Bingo Night

We will be holding a Xmas Family Bingo night on Friday 14th November. Doors open at 6.30pm and eyes down at 7.00pm. Licensed bar, food and raffle available. Bring the family for a good night out and win one of the many good prizes on offer.

Magic of Xmas

Please keep an eye out at the centre for further details on this event or speak to your local Community Wardens.

Family Fishing Trips funded by the Big Lottery Fund

There is still time for anyone who would like to go on one of these trips, whether you are a complete novice or a fully fledged fisherman. The idea of these trips is to encourage more family interaction for the residents of Popley. Please call Derek on the number below to register your interest.

Free Computer Classes – These have now started again. 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!

Mad Academy-Tuesday Morning

A high energy dance group for under 4s 9.15am to 11.15am

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.

New Testament Church of God coffee morning for the over 50's

This is held on Thursday morning 10.30am to 12.30pm. The ideal place to meet and make new friends.

Dynamics Baton Twirlers-Thursday Evening

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

Car Boot

Unfortunately due to lack of volunteers and poor turnout, the boot sale has been cancelled. This decision was not taken lightly by the Charities organising it, but we would like to thank all those people who put in hard work and supported us over the 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

ANYONE FOR KORFBALL?

Never heard of Korfball? The name may be Dutch for 'basketball' but Basingstoke's Korfball Club are hoping to put the sport on the map, and make it as well known as other words introduced into the English language such as Fajita, Karaoke and Sudoku!

Korfball is an exciting sport similar to netball, basketball and handball, played by mixed-sex teams with four men and four women on a team. It's the only sport that was designed specifically for mixed teams. The rules make it perhaps the ultimate sport of cooperation (barring a three-legged-race) and, most importantly, it's great fun. This makes Korfball a perfect choice for anyone who is looking to take up a new activity or wants to try something that they haven't played before.

The sport may still be relatively unknown in this country, but is growing fast with several new clubs being founded every year, and the England team competes in the World Championships and World Games. The Basingstoke Bulls Korfball Club was founded in 2006 and are always looking for new players to learn the game together. No previous playing experience is needed - in fact most British Korfballers start playing as adults. The coach of Basingstoke Bulls is Vlad Stolojan who was introduced to Korfball by a friend at university. He said "I was hooked on the sport straight away. It's easy to pick up the rules and you immediately feel involved in the game. Everyone I've met through Korfball has always been very friendly. A group of us decided 2 years ago to bring the sport to Basingstoke, and we had a fantastic response".

All adults aged 14+ are welcome to come and try Korfball free of charge at any of the club's Wednesday night training sessions. Full instruction is tailored for beginners. All training sessions are held at Everest Community College, Popley. We start at 8:00pm.

Interested? Contact Claire on 07927 688803, Gavin on 07867 526514, or e-mail info@basingstokekorfball.co.uk

Korfball facts...

- 8 players on a team, 4 men, 4 women.
- 4 players form a team attack, while the other 4 defend.
- Players can move freely within their attacking or defending half.
- Roles are reversed after every 2 goals.
- Players can only defend opponents of the same sex.
- The Korfs are higher than basketball or netball hoops, but slightly larger.
- A Korfball is lighter and easier to handle than a basketball, bruised fingers are rare!
- Pushing, pulling, and intentional collisions are not acceptable in Korfball.

Korfball quotes...

"When I moved to the area, I wanted to get involved with a social group and have fun as well as get fit, but I didn't have time to do both separately." - Christina

"I can only come to training now and then due to shifts, but it's great fun when I do." - Andrea

"Korfball requires a different mix of skills to other sports It's definitely a good fit for me." - Paddy

Players of all abilities are welcome to try their hand at Korfball, with sessions tailored for beginners.

Remember, the first session is FREE!

Dear Friends

There's an old joke that goes something like this: Three ministers are discussing how they got rid of mice in their churches. The Pentecostal minister says "We prayed against their presence, and then they all left." The Baptist minister says "We preached against their presence, and then they all left". And the Church of England minister says "We baptised them all, and we haven't seen them in church since."

If I'm honest it feels a bit like that at times in St Gabriel's! In September we celebrated my 100th baptism since I arrived at St Gabriel's in March 2004. We invited the parents of the children that had been baptised to a short, but lively, celebration service and afterwards a party with lots of jelly and ice-cream. Around forty adults and as many children turned up and everyone had a great time.

Many of the parents said that they'd always meant to keep the promises they'd made and bring their children to church but once they'd stopped coming it became harder and harder to start again – mostly through a sense of embarrassment at not coming and what people might say or think about them.

This isn't uncommon! How many times do we make promises to family, friends, and neighbours, or people we meet on holiday and get on well with? We promise to keep in touch with them. "I'll give you a call" we say, and we always mean to, but the daily pressures of life seem to pile in and time goes by so quick that before you know it, months have slipped by and we feel so embarrassed about not keeping in touch that we're afraid to pick up the phone or stick our heads around the door for fear of rejection. I know because I've been there, done that and got the T-shirt!

It's been my experience that this is most usually an irrational fear! People are always glad to hear from old friends or family that they haven't seen or spoken to for a while – some folk are just glad to hear from someone - anyone!

If you haven't been to church for a while and you've been meaning to come but just feel too shy or that it might be too embarrassing, then may I invite you, personally, to come along one Sunday morning to St Gabriel's - no questions asked, no judgements passed. Believe me when I say it would be a pleasure to see you and to remake old acquaintance.

Jesus told the parable of the shepherd who lost one of his hundred sheep and left the other ninety-nine to go in search of that one that was lost. He is still searching today for those that have wandered away, longing to find them and to bring them home to great rejoicing. In these uncertain times we could all do with the holding on to someone as changeless as the Son of God who promises a welcome to any who would come to him.

I continue to look forward to seeing many of you soon and catching up on all your news. With every blessing in Christ.

Your friend and Vicar
Arthur.

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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)



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HALL: 01256 308442

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Marnel Explorers Lunch club from 11.30am to 12.30pm

Tuesday evening :- **COMMUNITY BINGO :-**

Doors open at 7.00pm. Eyes down at 8.00pm. Finish around 9.45pm.

(Light refreshments available half time)

Thursday evening:- **PAPERCRAFT:-** 7.00pm. to 9.00pm

Friday evening:- **FRIDAY CLUB (Children)** 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

Sunday Afternoon:- **Christian Family Fellowship** 4.00pm to 6.30pm.

This Hall is available to hire for parties at very reasonable rates.

ALSO IN POPLEY “DON'T MISS” A FAMILY EVENING OUT.
FAMILY PRIZE BINGO EVENING on FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14th 2008

At the Popley Fields Community Hall, Carpenters Down.

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Organized by the Three Popley Community Associations.

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Promoting Access for All, Learning & Employment for All and Independence & Wellbeing for All

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum would like to invite any disabled person, anyone with an interest in disability or anyone working with a group involved with disabled people, to the launch of the Basingstoke and District Disability Forum.

**Wednesday November 12th from 9.00am-12.00 noon at
Hampshire Centre Court, Centre Drive Basingstoke
RG24 8AF**

Refreshments will be provided

Please come along and give us your thoughts and comments on disability issues in the local area. We need to know numbers so please RSVP below. Numbers are limited so please reply promptly. Please also let me have any access requirements you may have so that we can make appropriate arrangements eg signers etc.

Jane Halls

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The Orchard

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Who Dunit !!

All of our new Year 7 students enjoyed a Murder Mystery day at the University of Winchester recently. The day was organised by the University as part of their Aim higher programme which is designed to give students an introduction to university life through a range of activities. This was the first time that the University had invited a Year 7 group to take part. This was also one of the largest student groups ever to have visited the University so there were some very worried University officials as the coaches arrived on 12th September outside the main venue. As things turned out their fears were completely unfounded. The day was an outstanding success. Students learned about aspects of the law, how juries work, interrogation and questioning techniques, forensics and finger-printing and also the part played by the media in covering crimes such as murder. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the trial. Held in the main lecture hall, converted for the day into a law court, students acted as jurors, listening carefully to the evidence presented. The verdict, by an overwhelming majority, was guilty with the accused being sent down for a long period of time!

Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaires about Arts education at Everest Community College. The College is hoping to gain Artsmark status as a result of the high quality of teaching and learning about the Arts that is provided at the College. Artsmark is a national award, managed by Arts Council England, that recognises schools with a high level of provision in the Arts. By applying for this award, Everest Community College is showing a strong commitment to the Arts not just in College but in the wider community as well.

Parent Focus Group

The first meeting of the Everest Community College Parents' Focus Group took place in College on Thursday 9th October. Parents were welcomed by Assistant Headteacher, Angela Ashton who explained the important role that parents had in helping the College to make the best possible provision for our students. Since students spend less than 20% of their time actually at College, the support of parents and carers is vital in enabling their sons and daughters to make the most of their learning opportunities. Parents expressed interest in a number of ways in which they could become more proactive. They also put forward some very good ideas about what how the College could assist them in giving more focused support to their children. Sandra Ing was elected Chairperson of the Group. The next meeting will take place in November. Dates and times will be published on the College website. Feel free to come and join us. If you want to help your son or daughter get ahead, this is the Group for you.

What's on at Everest Community College in November.

Wednesday 12th : Student Action Planning day

Thursday 13th : GCSE Presentation Evening, starting at 7.00pm

Wednesday 19th : Year 8 trip to Winchester Cathedral

Tuesday 25th : Year 8 Girls HPV Immunisations