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POPLEY MATTERS

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December 2008

Issue 82



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:- Christmas festivities are only days away now, and then it's another year gone. I do love Christmas but it can be a sad time for so many people. If you know someone who lives on their own or seems a bit lonely, why not say hello. I love all the family get togethers and the Christmas dinner where we all get so full that all you want to do is sleep after. I have not looked at what's on the TV. Same old stuff I expect, some good and some so awful you wonder why

you pay your license fee?

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine and that it is at least trying to keep you informed at what is going on around Popley. We always welcome articles and letters from you. It would be great to have some local stories of Popley and how you came to live here.

Iris is improving and wants to say thank you to all the great people who have helped her and sent cards and kind messages. There is no gardening from Julie this month she is in Guildford Hospital as I write, and improving fast I expect she will be giving them a bit of gip especially as the op went so well that she did not need a tracheotomy so she is able to speak. Get well soon and out into your garden again.

We are looking for more volunteers to deliver the Popley Matters especially in parts of Marnel Park, Merton Rise, 426 to 611 Abbey Road, Melrose Walk, Jersey and Guernsey Closes. If you would like to help out and walk off some of that Christmas Cheer please contact Iris on 411113, or myself Jane on 819924.

Finally I hope you have a joyess Christmas break and see you all in the New Year.



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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More Volunteers Welcome

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PKG Plumbing	Man That's Handy	Page 23	Thank you for your continued support	

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Season's Greetings

Hi everyone, so sorry about last month as I didn't write anything for my column because I had tons of coursework to do and catch up on. I just really didn't have any time to write anything. But I was really gutted as I hate missing out and not telling everyone what's been going on, so blame school work! Sadly, I have decided, after a lot of thinking, that because I have so much coursework and exams coming up, that this is unfortunately going to be my last article. I am quite sad as I have really enjoyed writing Popley matters and I have really loved the fact that so many people read it each month, and every month I think I find another several people who read it that I thought never would, and that's a great feeling! So I would firstly like to say a very big thank you to Jane Frankum for giving me the opportunity to write my own article as I love to write and I have enjoyed it so much. Also it has been such a great experience for me, thanks a million Jane!!! I would also like to thank everyone who reads my article as I know there are so many people, which I never thought there would be, so thank you so much for reading and I hope you have enjoyed my articles, just as much as I have loved writing them. I am quite sad actually, that this is my last article, but I just have so much school work to do and I do hope that somebody might take my place if they wanted. So if anyone does, good luck and I hope you love writing it just as much as I do. I really want to say merry Christmas to everyone and I hope that you all have a really great Christmas whatever you do and wherever you go, and I hope Santa brings everyone lots of goodies!!! In addition I thought I would mention that our Christmas production at Everest this year should be really good. I also thought I would comment, and well embarrass my little sister, Monique, because she is going to be involved in the play as she is in the choir, so good luck Mon and everyone else involved because it will be great! So once again thank you so much for all reading my articles and saying nice, good things about them, and an especially big thanks to Jane Frankum for letting me be part of Popley Matters, and giving me this opportunity. So thank you ever so much, I have enjoyed writing every article and I will never forget them. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! Bye everyone!!!!



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FREE EVENT

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Join in the fun with face painting, balloon artist, magician, candy floss, Santa's Grotto, refreshments and activities.

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Indian Dance Performance

Years 10 and 11 Dance and Drama students have been learning traditional Indian dance in a series of workshops in College led by professional dancers from the Kala Arts company. Students from Marnel Primary School also attended the workshops. Students from both schools danced for parents and students at Marnel Primary along with two professional Indian dancers. They performed a traditional village dance which was celebratory in style and full of movement and energy. The theme of their costumes was red and green. On the evening of Friday 14th November the group performed again at Everest Community College as part of the Indian Dance Festival. Parents and students who attended the performance were treated to a delightful presentation of some of the finer points of Indian dance. Congratulations go to everyone who took part, with special thanks to Mrs Clark and Ms Poulton for the time and effort that they devoted to the project.

Year 7 Visit to Natural History Museum

On Friday 26th September, 122 Year 7 students and 11 members of staff visited the Natural History Museum in London. The focus of the visit was the Earth Science Galleries and in particular the exhibits on Volcanoes and Earthquakes. The aim was to extend student knowledge and understanding of these aspects of the physical world by allowing students to explore the fascinating displays and interactive attractions. The visit was a great success; students thoroughly enjoyed examining the exhibits and looking at clips of news footage from famous eruptions, but the highlight of the day was undoubtedly taking a ride on the Earthquake simulator.

THE ROTARY CLUB of BASINGSTOKE

Basingstoke Rotary Club Golf Day to help set up Basingstoke Young Carers club.

The latest Charity Golf Day held by The Rotary Club of Basingstoke a raised over £3,000 with the active participation of Sandford Springs Golf Club and the doubling of the amount raised by Barclays' Charity fund.

Most of the money is set aside to help in setting up a Young Carers Group in Basingstoke but other charities supported by the club will also benefit.

Members of the three Basingstoke Rotary Clubs are part of a Steering Committee being advised by The Children's Society in view of its expertise in setting up similar schemes in the County. Jenny Hine, their Senior Project Coordinator for Hampshire, updated the Club on 20 October along with Lois Hutchinson who will be directly involved with the Basingstoke project.

In the past the Richard Aldworth Young Carers club has been helped but the intention is to reach all schools in the area. It is possible that there could be as many as 1,000 young careers within the proposed catchment area.

To get the scheme off the ground Hampshire County Council is providing funds for the initial work needed to work with the teaching profession to help them identify young carers and providing them with advice on providing appropriate support.

For Further Information contact Terry Scrase - The Rotary Club of Basingstoke Tel 01256 463895 email: t.scrase3@btinternet.com Web: www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org

Sherborne St John Parish Council
The Red Telephone Box

The matter of the telephone box opposite the Post Office came up for discussion again at the last Parish Council meeting.

As many of you may know BT wish to remove this box. However it now has temporary listing from English Heritage. These listings last 6 months and our box has just under 5 months left. As long as the listing lasts BT will keep the box operational.

If English Heritage confirms the listing as permanent at the end of the 6 month period the telephone box will remain and BT are committed to keeping it operational.

If however the listing is removed then we obviously face a new situation with a very small choice of options.

Firstly we can try to persuade BT to reconsider their decision to remove the box.

The next option would be sponsorship/adoption of the box by a local authority, with attendant costs to be met by the authority.

Basingstoke and Deane have made it clear that they would not consider the adoption/sponsorship of any of these boxes because of the logistical difficulty of the management of these boxes across the area. They feel such action would be best left to individual parishes.

This would mean that should our box not keep its listing and the feeling in the village was that it should remain then the Parish Council would have to adopt it and be responsible for the cost of its maintenance and any insurance. This would obviously come out of Parish Council funds. There is the possibility of long-term assistance in meeting the costs but this is by no means certain. The cost of proper maintenance and insurance could be up to £200 pa.

Further, adoption does NOT mean that the telephone box will necessarily be operational. To persuade BT to do this would incur an even greater annual cost and we believe that there has been no more than a handful of calls in the last year.

As stated at the outset there is still almost 5 months left of the temporary listing so there is no need for any immediate panic. Even more importantly there is time for you all to let the Parish Council have your views on this matter.

Miller Zero

Miller Housing made a presentation at the meeting of their plans to build 5 houses in the middle of the latest stage of the development in Merton Rise. These houses will trial new methods of renewable energies, and insulations. Amongst the methods tested will be a ground source heat pump, communal wood pellet boiler and a wind turbine. This wind turbine would be 14 metres high and have a vertical-axis i.e. more like a helicopter's rotor blades than a windmill and we are assured has minimum noise impact!

A340

The extension of the 30 mph speed limit and the new gateway feature to the south of West End, i.e. towards Basingstoke, is to be relocated 200 yds further south on the A340. This should be in place by April 2009.

Also there are new plans for an island pedestrian crossing near the bus stop and Chapel. These have been communicated to the residents close to this and we really need their opinions, good or bad, on this proposal.

Please remember the Parish Council is there to act on your behalf and it is important that we have your views on village matters. Your councillors can all be contacted by phone or e-mail as follows

Julian Crawley	Tel. 01256 851003	julcrawley@aol.com
Chris Cooke	Tel. 01256 850837	chris@2cookes.co.uk
Linda Agnew	Tel. 01256 320911	Agnew936@btinternet.com
Paul Ashley	Tel. 01256 850620	Paul.Ashley@responsivedesigns.co.uk
Becky Jones	Tel. 01256 850693	bexsterjones@hotmail.com
Carole Stanley	Tel. 01256 851250	stanley_carole@yahoo.co.uk
Clover Morgan	Tel. 01256 851715	clove4@btinternet.com

And please don't forget the website www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk

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Councillors Page: I was delighted to be able to give nearly £2,000 out of the HCC members budget to Little Pearls at Chineham Park School. They desperately needed new flooring and carpet. There were some other essential works that needed doing too. I still have some monies in that budget left so if you belong to a group or club in Popley or Oakridge please let me know and I will see if I can help.

There is a new and much better system just started in Hampshire for gritting the roads. It will be traced by a computer where the trucks are and what is being done. There is a fuller explanation on page 8. I hope this helps to keep our roads safer this winter.

The school SATs results in the Popley schools were all good, so well done to all the pupils and staff for all their hard work.

I hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas.

If you have any problems or concerns you can reach me on 819924, email me at jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL.

Popley West: At last the bus shelters are being erected in time for the worst of the cold winter weather. It is good to see that the kerb is being done at a better level to enable residents to get on the buses more easily.

Please remember to recycle your Christmas boxes but do not put Christmas wrapping paper in the recycling bin as some of it has metallic content and the glue on the selotape is not suitable for recycling too.

We have had several more enquiries about the Council tax in Marnel Park and Merton Rise and why the extra tax is being charged for Sherborne St John we will be arranging a public meeting in the new year to see what the residents think. We would be interested to have your comments, we can be contacted at 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL, email cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or phone 01256 472496 or 819924

We wish you all the compliments of the season and hope you all have a safe and Happy Christmas.

Popley East: We've been having problems with the Longfellow regeneration project, culminating in a public meeting held at Chineham Park on 10th November more about that elsewhere.

We've also been working very hard on the Faroe and Maldive application which should go before planning on 10th December.

The School SATs results are back. Chineham Park had some results lost in the marking fiasco. Their children featured on TV with a bat watch with Maggie Philbin at Greywell Tunnel. Marnel had some extremely good SATs this year. The building is soon to be finished in time for the spring term - there has been inevitable disruption on site but things have gone relatively smoothly.

We've been very concerned to hear about the ongoing problems with anti-social behaviour at Carpenters Down shops, Barrington Close, plus the surrounding area. This time of year we have lots of problems with leaves on paths, and this year is no exception. The sudden cold snap in October (including the first October snow since 1974) meant we had a "proper" autumn with most of the leaves down by mid-November. This has meant a lot of leaves on paths. The street cleaners have been out cleaning but as usual have been overwhelmed.

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Basingstoke & North Hampshire IVC (Inter-Varsity Club) is part of a national body of social clubs. It was founded some years ago by two undergraduates, and has more than 45 clubs spread across the country.

Basingstoke & North Hampshire IVC has a strong membership, which does not limit itself to any ages, nor to any particular range of activities. If you want to do it and can arrange for others to join you, it's an event! There are many regular events, such as badminton, walking, theatre trips etc, together with more unusual one-off events ranging from house parties and pub-evenings to sailing trips and weekend breaks. The Committee organise a few special events, such as the Christmas Party and Cocktail Party, but most events are organised by individual members. The main contact details are Liz (Publicity) at 01256-886066 (publicity@bnhivc.org) or Ian (Chairman & Membership) at 07776188015 (enquiry@bnhivc.org).

So if your social life could do with a boost and a few more friends, then look no further than www.bnhivc.org where you'll find all the information you need in order to find out about the club. You can try the club out for a trial period of 3 months for only £10! The online diary page on our website shows all of the forthcoming events and where we meet. Register your interest on-line and we will send you a copy of our current event programme by email.

Activity Club

We have been running our Activity Club since March this year at the United Reformed Church, Basingstoke on the first Sunday of every month.

Up until now we have had two sessions for the different age groups. However, we feel for this club to run more successfully, and to make it easier for most parents, we are willing to combine the sessions into just one, and have the age group from 7 - 16 year olds. This makes it a little easier for those parents who have two or more children on the Autistic Spectrum at different ages.

We have enough rooms for the different age groups, so we feel this will work better.

Please do contact me PRIOR to attending so we know how many will be coming to the club.

The new layout for the club is as follows:-

First Sunday of every month (as before) but only ONE session for 7 - 16 year olds from 15.00 until 16.30. PARENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THEIR CHILD. Cost -£1.50 per family.

Hopefully this will work better for many, and make it easier to get the volunteers so this club can continue.

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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 Beaver colony were busy 'making things' in November. They assembled bird feeders, made kites and pizzas and prepared Hallowe'en apples. The annual visit to Paultons' Park for the early visit of Father Christmas in November was its usual 'wow' and everyone came home tired but happy, clutching their first Christmas present. The Colony is about to start rehearsing a Christmas Nativity play working jointly with Beavers from 1st Popley (Everest) Scout Group which is to be staged at St Gabriel's in December. The Cub section have been covering the requirements for Communicator badge in recent weeks and are looking forward to the District Cub Scout visit to the Haymarket to see 'A Christmas Carol' in December. The Scout Troop continues to expand and now has 18 members. Two scouts attended Pro-act Camp at Lyons Copse last month and gained specialist skills/activity badges as a result. Most of the Troop attended Basingstoke East District Scouts' Bonfire and BBQ at Old Basing HQ in November. The number of hot dogs and burgers consumed was unbelievable!! Some members of the Group and leaders attended the Mayor's Remembrance Day Service and Parade in Basingstoke War Memorial Park. Katie had the distinction of being selected to carry the District flag on that occasion in blustery conditions – well done, Katie.

The Group was sad to see that Centenary of Scouting tree planted alongside the building in 2007 has been totally broken off at the base. This is the second occasion the Group has tried to improve the visual aspects of the area surrounding Base 2000 and the loss of a second tree is very disheartening for the young people involved.

New recruits are always welcome but it may be that the Beaver section will need to reopen its waiting list until some older members move on to the Cub section at the age of 8. Give the appropriate section leader a ring or simply turn up for a free 'taster' evening to see what's on offer. All sections are open to both boys and girls. Subscriptions are £1.50 per week payable weekly or termly as preferred. Parents are urged to sign up for Gift Aid which enables the Group to claim back tax paid on subscriptions from the Revenue and Customs Department.

Base 2000 offers a venue for meetings, fund-raising events and sometimes parties for organisations other than Scouting subject to availability. Special rates for charities and non-profit making organisations. Enquiries/bookings to Pete Saunders or Jan Saunders on 01256 410514 or e-mail bookings@base2000.co.uk Jan and Pete have recently moved house and there was some delay in reconnecting the telephone. If in difficulty ring Mike Mullender on 01256 321596.



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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)



BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT DOG TRAINING CLUB

Oakridge Community Hall for All Monday Evenings

"DOGS ARE US"

Basingstoke and District Dog Training Club has recently moved to Oakridge's Community Hall for All having previously been based at the Vyne School for many years.

We offer a variety of classes starting with 8 week old puppies, through to highly skilled Competitive Obedience Training opportunities. We can also help you with any problems you may be encountering with your dog.

One unique feature of our Club is that **we are a non-profit making organisation run totally by volunteers**. We keep our costs as low and affordable as possible. None of our trainers are paid for the time they give to the Club. **We are also the only dog club in town registered with the Kennel Club.**

Every year we adopt a charity to which we donate funds.

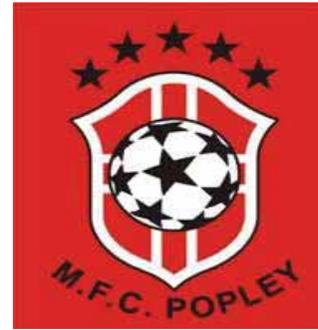
Puppy Classes cost £3 per session. Our Beginners Course costs £50 for 10 sessions. For all other classes we ask you to join our Club. Annual Joint Membership costs £15 and Individual Membership, £10, with classes costing only £3 per session. All our classes, apart from our Beginners Courses, are "Pay as You Go". Great Value we think you will agree.

So come and join us. We run on Monday nights from 6.45pm on to about 10.30pm (class dependent). If you have any queries or would like more information please contact our Club Secretary, Lilian Turner, on 01256 816388, email her at lilian.doghouse25@btinternet.com or write to Lilian at The Bungalow, 25 Sandys Close, Basingstoke RG22 6AR.



Magnolia Court

What a year this has been a real roller coaster, with the credit crunch we must all tighten our belts. However, we must not forget the true meaning of Christmas. I would like to thank everyone who has given their support to residents of Magnolia Court during the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year, from the Manager and Residents of Magnolia Court.



A big thank you from all at M.F.C

Popley

Last month we issued a club letter to individual companies & businesses, asking for help in funding the club for kit, footballs, bibs and cones etc. Within a couple of days, we had been contacted by the manager of the Apollo hotel wanting to fund the club, with a very appreciated £200.

The money has bought the club 30 Mitre training balls, which goes a long way to our aim of every player having a ball each at training. Thank you Robert Rutherford, Apollo Hotel.

Southampton Development

Jacob Austen, Fynnlie Judd and Kallum Brown were invited down to Marchwood to play for Saints against Abingdon Town and once again did us proud. Fynnlie ran his socks off and was very unlucky not to score. Jacob played at right back and had their left winger in his pocket, pushing him out wide and closing him down so he couldn't get any crosses in. And Kallum, well! He's mental, not only did he play brilliant in goal he even saved a shot on goal with his face. He didn't know much about it, but he got straight back up and carried on.



Tornados

The Tornados travelled to Andover to play 3rd in the league opposition, and with an impressive display from the whole team, with a 1-10 away win. A week later we were at home with a 14-0 demolition of Berg, 6 Goals coming from Fynnlie known as (the goal machine) Judd. But to top that, Gaiyain Barry scored an unbelievable 8 goals. We have gone top of the league with a game in hand. Well done boys and Ellie.

Keep an eye on Marnel nearer the Christmas period. You just might see Santa with his boots on having a kick about!

From all at M.F.C Popley, have a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

Keeping Hampshire on track in cold weather

A new system which tracks gritting vehicles is being used by the County Council's highways contractor this winter across Hampshire's road network. The data tracking software, 'DataTrak', shows where the gritters are, which direction they are heading in, at what speed and whether they are currently spreading salt.

As soon as cold weather is forecast, over 100 staff prepare to start the regular salting of Hampshire roads to keep them free from ice and snow. Using 'Icelert' - a system which uses strategically placed outposts across the county to accurately forecast cold weather – staff will know when and where to go to combat icy roads in time for the morning rush hour.

A priority schedule ensures that the busiest roads are routinely treated. The first routes which are treated comprise 26% of the road network which carry 85% of the total traffic. They include A roads, major bus routes, and roads to major emergency service bases and large schools. Second priority routes are salted when there are prolonged sub-zero conditions. In the winter, salting is carried out approximately one night in three, and more often during colder spells.

This new tracking system will allow better monitoring where the gritters are and check exactly when and where the salt routes are being run. Being able to monitor each gritter in this way means we know exactly what state each road is in and when, and can advise drivers accordingly.

Keeping the roads safe in winter is a priority for the County Council but I would urge everyone on the roads to be more cautious in frosty conditions and remember that there is no such thing as an absolutely safe road surface. Roads are more dangerous in icy weather even if they have been salted. Salt becomes less effective when the surface road temperature drops below -6°C, although this rarely happens in Hampshire. In bad weather conditions, we all need to change the way we drive to compensate - having to scrape off frost from cars before driving is a good indicator to take extra care.

Advice and information on driving safely in winter is available on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/highway-information.htm> and, in emergency weather situations, residents can check this website for updates on roads in their area affected by adverse weather.

Hampshire County Council uses wetted salt on its road network. This system uses brine which is sprayed onto dry salt as it is discharged from the vehicles. With this system the salt is a more effective de-icing agent as it goes into solution faster and remains on the road surface longer than dry salt because it is not blown around by the wind. Less wetted salt needs to be used to give the same results which is of benefit to the environment.

1st Popley Scout Group (Everest)

Based at St Gabriel Church Group no. 14104982 National Scout Registration Number 44226



The Cubs joined the Scouts at fishing, the weather was kind to them and they all enjoyed their selves very much, every child caught a fish but someone in particular caught loads, mentioning no names a Samantha! The adult helpers said that the Cubs where a lot quieter and listen more than the Scouts, well they don't know them that well yet. We will go fishing again in the spring. The Scouts loved the flying unlike some who felt quite queasy. Yes that was me. Looking down on the cars on the motorway was fun, they were like tiny models they were pushing along with their fingers. Seeing big houses with swimming pools and how the land was set out in straight lines was amazing. They can't wait to go again.



The Beavers Cubs and Scouts had a fantastic party on the 14th October. They all made a big banner that stretched the length of the room and decorations that were hung around the hall, there was lots of food brought in by the parents, and a big cake made by our Beaver Leader Jennie. The man from the Gazette came down and took some pictures hope you saw then in the Gazette. A parent and leader brought down their old Cub and Scout uniforms and hats they use to wear and some hand books they had then, what a difference to the uniform they wear now.

Meetings are held at St Gabriel's Church Hall, Tewkesbury Close.
Tuesday evenings, (term time only).



Boys and Girls 6-8 yrs
5pm – 6.15pm



Boys and Girls 8-10 1/2 yrs
6.30pm – 8pm



Boys and Girls 10 1/2-14 1/2 yrs
6.30pm – 9pm

For more information please contact:

Brigitte Cleall 01256 412307, John Talks 01256 414168
(cubs) Sarah Wallington 01256 325819

Or just pop along to your age group meeting.
First week is free then £9.00 a month in advance payments

Section Helpers needed:
Beaver, and Scout Assistant

Over 55s Forum

Our next Forum meeting will be held on 10th December 2008 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. Registration 9.30am- meeting starts at 10.00am. We have our AGM at 10.15am— Brian Martin (Blind Gentleman) at 10.45am — 30 minutes tea/coffee break. HCC Extra Care Home (Brighton Hill) at 11.45 and our own Carnival Chorus singing group at 12.15pm.

Our membership stands at 567 which is great news.

Our Carnival Chorus are now rehearsing and are going round singing to the local care homes, such as Basingfield, Westdeane. The Grange at Sherborne and Abbey Court and others.

The first Forum of 2009 will be held on 11th February 2009 when we have guest speakers from the Hampshire Magistrate Court (2 sessions) and Neighbourcare.

May I close by wishing you and your committee a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, from the Executive Committee and all the Members of the B & D "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum. *Gerald. Merritt (Secretary)*

Take control of your driving future

Older motorists have a wealth of experience, confidence and tolerance. However sight, reaction times, judgement of speed and distance won't be as sharp as it once was. Fragility increases with age, so injuries tend to be more serious and recovery takes longer. The chance of surviving an accident is much lower.

The County Council's **Older Driver Skills Scheme** aims to find ways of helping older people drive safely for as long as they are fit to do so, rather than taking measures to prevent them from driving at all.

It's ideal for people who've been driving for years and want to update their skills or gain confidence; those recovering from illness or injury; those advised on health grounds; people returning to driving or finding it difficult to adapt to a new car.

What does it involve?

It's not a test – there's no pass/fail. Instead it's an informal, confidential appraisal aiming to offer help and advice, which will enable that person to continue driving with improved safety. General ability is assessed but particular concerns can be investigated. Each person is given a comprehensive de-brief and any concerns or remedial action discussed, a written report follows.

A current driving licence is required and eyesight is checked. The appraisal costs £25 and is delivered from the person's home, using their own car.

Road safety officers manage the award winning scheme with appraisals delivered by Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Approved Driving Instructors (ADI's).

For further information or to arrange an appraisal please contact Hampshire's Road Safety Team on 01962 874600 or email road.safety@hants.gov.uk

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<http://sesolutions.vpweb.co.uk> or email sesolutions@hotmail.co.uk.

LONGFELLOW PARADE: a public meeting was held at Chineham Park School on Monday 10th November, with Sentinel Housing, Mansell PLC, plus cllrs Andy McCormick and Jane Frankum.

A large number of issues were raised:

- people getting injured on paths;
- street lighting (or lack thereof);
- mud on roads;
- road safety;
- parking;
- lorries turning up too early for deliveries;
- lorry engine noise;
- lorries blocking people in parking spaces/garages;
- bin collections at 6.30am;
- lack of consultation on plans;
- unfinished work, especially in and around Shelley Close;
- parking spaces in Shelley Close with vehicles colliding when parking,;
- utility companies starting to dig trenches, then leaving for weeks at a time; and
- vandalism and anti-social behaviour in Longfellow Parade itself .

Work will not finish until 2010. We have at least another year of construction, so it is imperative we get the security, parking and access issues right.

A follow-up drop-in session is planned for Tuesday 9th December.

As it rained very hard on 10th November I will expect more people to come out and have their say.

FAROE AND MALDIVE FLATS: a lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes to make sure the planning application will be heard at the **Development Control meeting, Civic Offices, Wednesday 10th December 6.30pm.**

The hearing has already been delayed 3 months, and any further delays could raise questions over the availability of funding (the Housing Corporation will cease to exist on 1st December. Its successor will still hand out regeneration funds for schemes with planning permission but that could soon change later in the new year. The flats are emptying out and their demolition is now an absolute must. If permission is granted, the Maldive Road flats will come down in the new year and Faroe Close will come down in 2010. We will be meeting with Sentinel's Chief Executive on 5th December to discuss the plans and push for improvements to the parking to be added at a later date. We will then hold a **public meeting at Popley Fields on 8th December.** We will confirm this with a leaflet drop nearer the time.

THE CARPENTERS DOWN SHOPS and many of the roads around them have been suffering from anti-social behaviour for at least the past two months. The police are well aware of the situation, arrests have been made, and we hope there will be follow-up action in the form of ABCs and ASBOs.

Cllr Andy McCormick, Popley East



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Important Customer Notice

Kindly inform us of any food allergies prior to ordering your meal
Some of our food may contain ingredients produced from GM Soya and/or Maize
Menu's Available at <http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/Adverts/Peters.pdf>

Benefits – Are you claiming enough? Is it the right one for you?



Some 6 million people missed out on claiming benefits last year, totalling a huge £10 million. If you think you might be one of them, Basingstoke CAB can help you.

Whether you're already receiving benefits or about to make a new claim, Basingstoke CAB can help you work out whether you're getting the right benefit and the right amount. We can do a **full benefits check** for you, including allowances for disabilities and children.

If you're over 60, you could be claiming **pension credit**. As many as 1.8 million pensioners failed to claim this benefit last year. And if you're in work, and/or you have children, have you claimed **tax credits**? You can do this online at hmrc.gov.uk. We are no longer allowed to complete tax credits forms at the bureau, but we can help you do it over the phone from the bureau.

If you are considering claiming incapacity benefit, this has now changed. From 27 October 2008, the new benefit is called **Employment and Support Allowance**. Everyone applying for it will go through an initial 13-week assessment phase. During this phase, applicants may be asked to attend a work-focused interview, complete a questionnaire on their capability for work and attend a medical interview. They will also receive a basic allowance while going through this phase.

Once an assessment has been made, those not eligible for ESA will be considered for Jobseeker's Allowance. If an applicant is eligible, they will be put into either a "work-related activity" group, or into the "support" group. Those in the "work-related activity" group will be asked to do work-focused interviews, and face losing some or all of their benefit if they don't attend these meetings.

If you'd like help claiming benefits or even finding out if you're on the right ones, please do come to Basingstoke CAB. Don't forget our weekly drop-in service in Popley, on a Monday afternoon from 1-3.30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley.

Your community - your say

More than 200 local residents living around Sentinel Housing Association's £15m regeneration project at Longfellow Parade enjoyed fun and games at a Halloween fun day recently.

The event, laid on by Sentinel and contractors Mansell PLC, provided an opportunity for local people to say what improvements they want to the green space off Wordsworth Close. Sentinel has provided nearly £17,000 of investment for an upgrade of the park, along with other contributions for local improvements. Residents also enjoyed a free hog roast, and there was plenty of family entertainment, including facepainting, an inflatable ride, and treasure hunt.

You may also have noticed that Sentinel is progressing with three new shops and 10 new homes in Shakespeare Road. The main shop will be for the One Stop store and Post Office in Longfellow Parade, which will be moving to the new site next Spring.

Meanwhile, there's been a worrying escalation of vandalism and violence at the Longfellow site. Mansell recently placed lights on the hoardings to help residents during the dark evenings, but vandals have repeatedly cut the cables. More seriously, Sentinel and the police are eager to trace three youths found trespassing on the site by a neighbour. He challenged them and was badly beaten up for his trouble. If you suspect anyone you know then please contact the police.

Additionally, three other youths found trespassing on the site have been photographed and identified by Sentinel and the police. Aside from facing possible criminal charges, if they are living in Sentinel homes, the whole family may face eviction. So please remain vigilant.

As part of Sentinel's multi-million pound commitment to Popley, the Longfellow project team is setting up a local resident group. This would involve attending development site meetings, security briefings, and would allow neighbours to bring other concerns to the attention of the organisations involved. If you're interested and live in Popley 1, please contact Andrea Weeks on 01252 788737.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone in Popley a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year



Xmas & New Year.



Fairy Lights And Candles:

- ⚠️ Fairy lights make your home look festive and bright, but it is important to remember to use them safely.
- ⚠️ Fairy lights and Christmas tree lights don't get used very often, so you should ensure they're in good working order before using them:
 - Check that the fuse in the plug is the right size.
 - Replace any blown bulbs
- ⚠️ Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, such as paper or fabrics (be especially careful with other Christmas tree decorations).
- ⚠️ Always unplug fairy lights when you leave the house or go to bed.
- ⚠️ Candles can be dangerous. If you do use them in your home, always put them out when you leave the room, and keep them away from flammable materials such as greeting cards and decorations.
- ⚠️ Never place candles on a Christmas tree.
- ⚠️ Candles and nightlights are often used in celebrations for Christmas. They should never be put in or by a Christmas tree, plants, flowers or other foliage. You should also be careful that ribbons and other decorations aren't near any candle flames.

Don't Drink and Drive: Have a soft drink and stay alive!

- ⚠️ You can't calculate your alcohol limit.
- ⚠️ It takes less than you might think to become a drink driver.
- ⚠️ Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.

At Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service we hope that you do not have to invite us round during your festivities and hope you have a safe, enjoyable, fire and incident free celebration.

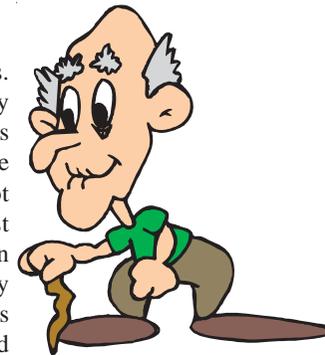
Useful contact points and further information:

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

Well it is creeping up on us fast that word Christmas. Her Indoors has been on her usual forays into town and every time comes home saying "I only got this for such and such." Yes but you still spend, spend, spend. This year I will get all the grandchildren their usual Christmas Eve presents, but I am not sure if I can face seeing people in the town. In the news last month they talked about our senior citizens at home on their own all the time and not getting out, they should have included many disabled people as well. Yes with help I can go out but it is difficult because Her Indoors needs to get around the shops and I slow her down. Well she is like a bull in the town. Nothing gets in her way. One minute she is there, the next gone. I know it is not fair on her as she has to do her shopping at weekends because she is out all week at work. If I go to town I am forever saying sorry to people for getting in their way. As usual Her Indoors goes mad at me, but I can't help it. I still think of the time the woman said that people like myself should not be out around Christmas time and that must be five or six years ago.



Before I go on, did any of you see our editor flying around on Halloween? I know Her Indoors was out with the mother. in-law. They all had new broomsticks this year!

Well I know you have asked me about many subjects as I see you on my rounds on the estates or other places if I go off it now and then. One lovely old dear, very sweet, asked if I was The Old Codger but I just gave her a smile. She wanted to know what part of the East End my family came from. It turned out she lived in the next street to my father and went to the same school. I told her about my mother's school by St Luke's Square, Canning Town that took a direct hit from a bomb in the war, killing many children and teachers, along with family members taking shelter in it. She knew the school well and went to the same church as my mum. She asked would I ever go back. I said I did up till I was about 20 but it was changing so much they were pulling down all the old prefabs that were erected after the war and building rabbit warrens in their place. Many areas have become no go areas and, as we see now, gangs fighting each other and young kids getting killed. So bit by bit they have changed their minds yet again and tower blocks are coming down fast, long rows of flats three and four floor stories high are now being pulled down. The idea was that they were built with long balconies so the next door neighbours could sit out side as they did back before the war chatting to each other. This failed because gangs moved in and people would not open their doors. Do we ever learn by these mistakes? No, we don't. They are still trying to build them but in different ways they are giving open space around them hoping kids will play outside. The sad thing is, especially in the inner cities, it is becoming too dangerous to let your children play and have fun. Boy, I don't think she will chat to me again. Mind you, she agreed with all I said plus a few of her own choice words. Please all have a safe Christmas, put the car keys away, let the staff at the hospital not have to tell relatives sad news after a drink driving accident comes through the doors in an emergency. PLEASE, PLEASE if you know that someone is at home on their own over Christmas or if its cold out, just knock to make sure they are safe and warm, as this can be a lonely time of year for some of them.

I know many of you do not have time but if ice is on their paths or snow, just clear it for them. It will only take five minutes and it is better than a fall and time in hospital. MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL.

The Old Codger. OH And her in doors.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Magic of Christmas

Keep your diary free on 16th December from 5.30pm-7.30pm for this popular annual event. This year's fun is for all families with children aged 11 and under. There will be much to do at Popley Fields Centre with a visit to Father Christmas, face painting, magician, balloon artist and various crafts and as well as refreshments, mince pies and candy floss. Festive Christmas Carols will provide the backdrop to what we are sure will be a fun evening. No children over 11 or those not accompanied by an adult will be allowed to take part in any of the activities.

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 novice or a fully fledged fisherman. The idea of these trips is to encourage more family interaction for the residents of Popley. Please contact Derek at Popley Fields to register your interest and check availability.

Free Computer Classes

For a full list of classes and information about the popular courses run here at Popley Fields please contact Queen Mary's College on 01256 417517. Classes are free to anyone who does not have 5 GCSE's grades A*-C. All classes are ideal for beginners.

MAD Academy

This high energy dance group for under 4s is continuing in popularity but there are always spaces available. Come along on Tuesday mornings from 9.15am-11.15am and speak to Cathy.

Silverwings Line Dancing

There is a beginners Line Dancing class held here on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm-7.30pm in our Large Hall. A more advanced class meets on the same evening from 8.00pm-10.00pm. Come along and give it a try.

Blood Donors

The National Blood Service will be with us on Friday 21st November and really needs your support. It doesn't take too much time to make a donation and you really could save a life. We have ample parking and there's always a cuppa and a biscuit as a reward.

New Testament Church of God – Coffee Morning for over 50s

This popular get together is held here on Thursday mornings from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Come along with your old friends and make some new ones.

Car Boot Sale

We are still getting enquiries about the Boot Sale but unfortunately due to lack of volunteers and poor turnout they have been cancelled. This decision was not taken lightly by the Charities organising it and again we would like to thank all those involved over the years.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and under 12s children's parties all at very reasonable rates. Call 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.

The Everest Community College and the Local Community

The Everest Community College has now been open for 1 year and there are many people that are unaware of what we offer to the local community. We are striving to bring a host of learning, sports and fun activities to the people living in the surrounding areas, and work closely with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to ensure that we cater for all ages and groups.

Below are just some of the things we are involved in providing:

✓ Learning for the family (Family Learning). Courses that have, are or due to run include:

- ▣ IT
- ▣ Self Defence
- ▣ Strictly Dancing
- ▣ Dad and Lads woodwork
- ▣ Healthy Eating

✓ Adult Education courses that have, or are due to run include:

- ▣ Reiki
- ▣ Guitar
- ▣ Chocolate Making.
- ▣ Healthy Eating
- ▣ Positive Thinking

✓ Fully equipped Gymnasium and Dance Studio.

▣ The Everest Health and Leisure Club, situated on the same site as the college, boasts a state of the art air conditioned gym with memberships starting from only £25 per month. We run 10 classes a week in our sprung floor dance studio and members also benefit from gym circuits and running clubs. We open Mon - Fri from 7:00am – 10:00pm and weekends from 8:00am – 6:00pm.

▣ Our facilities also include a full size floodlit Astro turf pitch, an international sized sports hall, and floodlit 5-a-side, tennis and netball courts. All these are available for hire.

The Everest Community College also provides many out of College activities for our own and our cluster schools' students. In the summer holidays we hosted the Get With scheme which was run for 4 weeks and provided free activities, events and day trips for 11-16yr olds. This will run again next summer so ensure you look out for it and get involved.

We also provide various before and after College clubs that offer a variety of arts, sports, crafts and educational activities for our students.

Out in the Community we run free mobility classes for the elderly at Abbey and Magnolia Court and are forging relationships with local medical centres to also provide fitness classes to those that are unable to access our facilities.

It has been a busy and successful first year for the College and we will continue to build on the programme of events, classes and activities that we run.

For any information regarding the Gymnasium or Community based classes or activities call 01256 337573.

Dear Friends,

Crumbs! Has another year really passed by already? I guess by the time you're reading this I will have rummaged around in the loft to find the boxes with the Christmas decorations and lights. Having struggled out of the loft and down the stairs I will then unpack the lights and set about testing them. How is it that they work when you put them away but don't when you take them out twelve months later – that's always a mystery to me!

I love Christmas lights, and I love the way many families plaster the exterior of their homes with them – although it has to be said, some do go a tad over the top! What's also special is candlelight. Last year at St Gabriel's we had our candlelit carol service. There is something quite special about singing those traditional Christmas songs in a church lit only by candles; it really does make it feel like Christmas. We're repeating that this year on Sunday the 21st at 6.00pm so why not come and join us.

In the run up to Christmas we will be observing the season of Advent. Advent runs for the twenty eight days before Christmas and covers four Sundays so Advent Sunday will be on November 30th. On each of those Sundays we will light one of the candles in our Advent wreath to signify the growing light of Jesus Christ coming into the world. The fifth and final candle we will light on Christmas morning as we celebrate his birth.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventur* which means 'coming' but it isn't about the impending arrival of Jesus Christ as a baby in a manger but His return in all his splendour and majesty when, as Jesus himself said "*you will see God's Son coming on the clouds of heaven in all his glory and with his angels.*" Advent then, is a time of preparation for that event. It is a time for taking a good look at ourselves and the attitudes of our hearts and minds and lives that cause hurt to those around us and to God and to repent of them. To repent means to have a change of heart and to change direction – that is to turn away from that which we know to be wrong. It can take a mighty effort to accomplish that, but, once we do we feel cleansed and renewed, refreshed and ready.

Amid all your Christmas preparations and as you're putting up the Christmas lights I hope that you will take time to consider the baby in a manger who came as '*the light of the world*' and will one day return in majesty and power to draw us all before God. May the light and peace of Christ be with you and yours this Christmas season and in the year ahead.

With warm Christian greetings
Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's.

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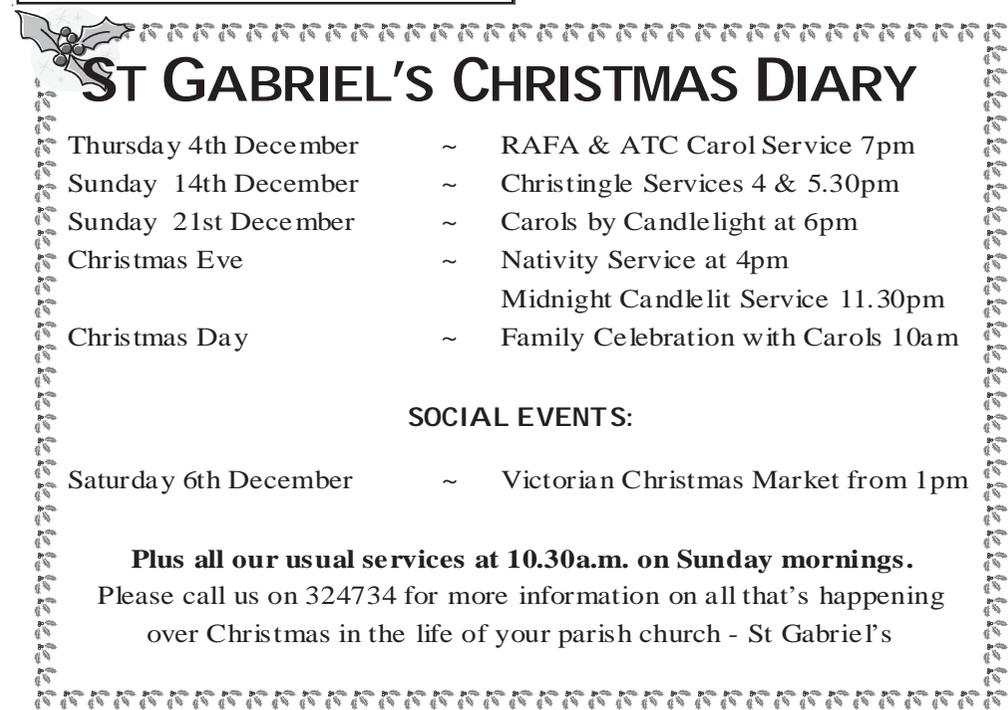
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ST GABRIEL'S CHRISTMAS DIARY

Thursday 4th December	~	RAFA & ATC Carol Service 7pm
Sunday 14th December	~	Christingle Services 4 & 5.30pm
Sunday 21st December	~	Carols by Candlelight at 6pm
Christmas Eve	~	Nativity Service at 4pm Midnight Candlelit Service 11.30pm
Christmas Day	~	Family Celebration with Carols 10am

SOCIAL EVENTS:

Saturday 6th December	~	Victorian Christmas Market from 1pm
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Plus all our usual services at 10.30a.m. on Sunday mornings.
Please call us on 324734 for more information on all that's happening over Christmas in the life of your parish church - St Gabriel's



BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE
BASINGSTOKE
HANTS
RG24 9PE

TELEPHONE
OFFICE: 01256 363156
HALL: 01256 308442

Very best wishes of the Christmas Season to all committees in Popley and to Basingstoke Communities Services. Let's not forget, of course, Jane and Paul Frankum and their fantastic team at Popley Matters, who work tirelessly month in and month out in order to keep you up to date with news of Popley.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the readers, from Bermuda Community Committee.



Pebbles is continuing to grow – We now have anti-natal classes on the 2nd & 4th Monday each month from 9.30 – 11.30am and a post-natal drop in every Tuesday and Friday 1 – 3pm.

Our new 'Family Support Outreach Worker' Brenda Watson started work at Pebbles on 31st October and is gradually getting to know the set up and the families attending. Brenda will be

gathering information on the activities that already exist for under 5s in Popley and surrounding areas so if you run a group and you would like new participants to attend then let her know so she can signpost the families she meets.

Our English language course for speakers of other languages (ESOL) is going really well and with a waiting list already growing we will be continuing these sessions for anyone who needs them. We are also about to start a Nepalese group on a Friday morning.

On Thursday 18th December we are holding a Christmas craft session at the centre from 9.30-11.30am. Come along and have some festive fun with your little ones. Ring the Centre to book your place.

The centre will be closed from Monday 22nd December and re-open on the 5th January 2009.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and hope to see many more families benefiting from Pebbles Children's Centre in 2009.

Janice Ampofo (Centre Manager)
01256 357028

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I hope you are well and enjoying the festive period. Some of you may be aware that I have been on an attachment in the rural villages for the past 5 months assisting officers there with various operations and commitments. During this time I have been keeping up with events that have been occurring in Popley as well as monitoring the new builds and developments on current areas.

Popley has come a long way in 5 months and some parts are almost unrecognisable. I am truly impressed with the Bramley Fields area for both the presentation of the area and the speed it has been put up. The re-development sites in the Poets have also come along nicely and I am hoping the residents are not getting too much trouble caused by the construction.

Thankfully I was able to return to Popley for both Halloween and Bonfire night to assist with any Anti-Sociable behaviour our residents may be suffering from. With that said, Christmas is now just around the corner and one of the many roles of a Police Community Support Officer is to help residents in educating them with crime prevention advice especially around these busy times. Therefore I would ask that you please read the advice below to ensure your holiday period stays as safe as possible. Christmas can be a very hard and stressful time and I for one would not like the added stress of a holiday burglary and I am sure you would agree.

- When shopping for Christmas presents, please ensure that no visible presents wrapped or open are left in your car. This also includes bags with brand names on them. Always remove presents from your car as quickly as possible and if it is essential put the presents locked away in your boot.*
- Please try to ensure that when you are transporting your presents to your house that no one is watching you take them in. Burglars still operate around Christmas and by showing them what you have just bought may tempt them.*
- Please ensure that if you have any presents out around a Christmas tree for instance that your curtains are closed shut. Do not make possible burglars aware of what's in your house.*
- Unless in a secure place do not discuss with friends what you have bought over the Christmas period. If people over hear they are aware of what is in your house.*

DO

- Ensure that your doors and windows are securely shut. If you have a standard door use the dead lock and chain. If you have a UPVC door please ensure the handle is raised and locked.*
- If your home is fitted with an alarm please ensure you set it whenever you are out or even when you are asleep.*
- Check that your buildings contents insurance covers Christmas presents left under a tree. Some insurers do not cover presents that are wrapped and left under a tree.*

Consider purchasing additional security measures like Smart Water property marking and sensor alarms.

If you feel that your home is not secure or would like advice on how to improve your homes security over the holiday period I will happily attend your home and give you advice on how your home could be made more secure.

On an additional note please can you ensure that you know where members of you family, especially young children and teenagers, are over Christmas. At Christmas time there is a lot of alcohol going around which we all know could lead to anti-sociable behaviour or illness.

I hope you enjoy Christmas and the time off many of you will be receiving. I am hoping this Christmas will be very quiet and hopefully crime free.

If you need to speak with me at all please contact me on the below details.

Kind Regards

Phil Rapley

Police Community Support Officer 13284

Popley East SNT

(T) 0845 045 45 45

Internal Extension 626126



philip.rapley@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/basingstoke/town/Popley.htm