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POPLEY MATTERS

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MAY 2009

Issue 87

Distribution of Over 4,000

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-05-09)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- May already and this is the month we have The Popley Festival on the 17th from 11am till 4pm with all the usual attractions and then some. I hope it will be a beautiful sunny day as that always improves the day for me and just about everyone else. It has taken a year to organise and the committee has worked so hard.

When the fire service asked me to put in the article on thatched roofed houses I asked “Why? We don’t have thatched roofs in Popley”. Ryan the Station Manager said he would still like

me to as residents may have friends and family that do live in a thatched cottage, and with some of the latest fires being from thatched premises perhaps we may pass on the message on page 12.

We have received notice of the relocation of the Post Office in Longfellow Parade and it is on page 2.

The official opening of the Children’s Centre “Pebbles” was really lovely and everyone had a wonderful afternoon. There was so much to do and see, it really was action packed. The farm animals seemed to be one of the favorites but read about it on pages 14 and a Mum’s view of open day on page 15.

The Forestry Commision are looking for volunteers to help in Basing Wood (Carpenters Down). There are two dates and you can read about it on page 7.

Please remember with the warm weather that with windows open, loud music carries much further and can be really annoying and disturbing.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, P.O. Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, e-mail: 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.

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Chloe's Column

Hello, This month I would like to remind everyone that it is the Popley Festival on 17th of May and there will be a fairground, live stage events, arena, car boot, charity stalls, food and a bar. This is at Popley Fields Community centre and should be as great, as it normally is. It is free entrance and just £1 for using the car park, which is good as not a lot of



things are free or cheap lately. However you do have to pay for the fairground and the food but it is not too expensive.

An issue for this month is that from what I have seen there is a lot of litter around Popley: crisp packets, cans of drink, sweet wrappers etc. These are all mostly recyclable. Even if they are not, they should be in a bin because litter doesn't exactly look pretty lying on the street does it?! I think there should be more bins around and less rubbish.



Last month we finally had some very sunny and quite hot weather. (To think just three months ago in February it was heavily snowing!) Hopefully the good weather continues so we can get our flip flops out!! Last month was also Easter which was great because we all had some time off and got to relax, have a lay in, spend time with family and friends and munch on chocolate.

This month would be a great time to do some gardening or spring cleaning or you could just enjoy the sun. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of May and the spring time.

popley festival

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down

Sunday 17th May 2009

11am—4pm



- Fairground
- Arena
- Live Stage
- Licensed Bar
- Barbecue
- Ethnic Food
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- Archery
- Donkey Rides

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Post Office® Longfellow Parade Branch Relocation

I am writing to let you know that, in order to maintain Post Office services to our customers in the area, we are planning to move this branch to Unit 3, Shakespeare Road, Basingstoke RG24 9DS, a distance of 0.2 miles from the existing branch.

The area that the current branch is located is being redeveloped, and we have been actively working in the area to find an alternative way of providing Post Office services to our customers in the local community. In preparing our plan, we have considered information specific to the local area. This includes access to public transport, the route and access to the new location, local population figures and other facilities available in the area. The relocation of this Post Office branch presents the best possible solution to enable us to maintain Post Office services in the local area.

The new branch will provide the same wide range of Post Office products and services and offer level access with a wide entrance, a low level counter and space for a wheelchair.

Full details of the new service, including range of facilities, opening hours, public transport, route and access, are provided at the end of this letter. If you have any questions you wish to raise about the new service, please feel free to contact our National Consultation Team at the address shown below, who will co-ordinate all responses on my behalf. You may wish to share this information with those people within your organisation who you feel would have an active interest in this matter. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence".

The branch will close at its current site on 2 May 2009 with the new branch opening at Unit 3, Shakespeare Road, Basingstoke RG24 9DS on 7 May 2009. During this short period of closure, customers requiring Post Office services may use any convenient Post Office branch. Details of two services are provided below for your convenience: • Oakridge branch, 2 Forsythia Walk, Oakridge, Basingstoke RG21 5RG, • Abbey Road branch, 599 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9ES. www.postoffice.co.uk

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Little Pearls



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

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We can take up to 56 children aged from birth to 5 years and we are working in conjunction with the NCMA and local child minders 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 bookings
For further information please contact 01256 464750

Julie's Gardening Tips

Start planting! The weather is warm enough for leaving plants outside now, but watch the forecasts to avoid any late frosts we might get.

I have now moved house back home to Popley, and I have loads of work to do in my new garden. I thought for the next few months I would write this article as a sort of diary of how I get my garden together. If you were looking for my normal contribution you can read past issues on the Popley Matters website where almost all the previous magazines are archived. To start with, I could probably fill a dustbin with the little bits and pieces of toys and rubbish left all over the garden. I have a front and back garden now. The front is all grass and the back mostly mud with a couple of clumps of stinging nettles and a mass of dock leaves between the few blades of grass.

First job was to dig out the nettles as it would certainly have been me that got stung by them and despite having the natural remedy of dock leaves close at hand, I would rather avoid it in the first place. The dog thought it was great having all that space to run around, but clearing all the rubbish out was my next priority as I had found a few pieces of broken glass. The tufts of grass made it difficult, but the rake was dragged across the garden a few times to collect all the bits I needed to clear out to make the garden safe for my grandchildren and the dog. Next was to work out where to put my greenhouse and where to have vegetable and flower beds, and a place to sit out and appreciate the work I have put in. Now comes the really hard work – digging the ground over. It doesn't look like this garden has been dug over in quite a few years, but the soil seems pretty good and there aren't any large stones that I have found as yet. I am currently concentrating on the patch where I want to put up the greenhouse. This needs to be done fairly fast or I will miss a lot of this season's growing time. As I rent my home, I have had to ask the landlord for permission to put up the greenhouse, and checked to make sure I don't need planning permission. While I wait for the landlord's response I should be able to get the base done. There are a lot of paving blocks around the garden which I aim to re-use as the hard standing for the greenhouse. I need good drainage even inside the greenhouse, so I will just be laying the blocks on sand or soil and weed barrier to see how it goes. The local cats are loving the soft soil, so I will need to find some way of deterring them from using my garden. I will try chopped up oranges first as they don't seem to like the smell. I have used this before with good success and it is all child, animal and environmentally friendly.

In the meantime, I will be planting vegetable seeds in pots to make sure I get something out of this season. Runner beans will be staked up with canes in large pots, peppers, tomatoes and other salad stuff will be sown in pots and grow-bags. I bought some 'berry' tomatoes from a supermarket last year which I saved seed from. They are as tiny as blackcurrants, so the plants will probably be small and quite suitable for pots or hanging baskets. These seeds have now been planted and are now germinating in seed trays. In a couple of weeks I will need to pot them into individual small pots to allow their roots to develop.

I am looking forward to Popley Festival on 17th May to buy some plants and meet old friends. Maybe I will see you there?



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Councillors Page:

Popley West: A tree survey was started on 6th April in Popley and will take about three months to complete. When the survey is completed we will report back in Popley Matters. Its main objective is to look at the health of the trees and if there is any pruning needed.

The traffic lights were due to be turned on and the roundabout at long last finished but a fault was found in one of the controllers. Lets hope it is not too long before the works will be finished and the traffic lights turned on?

We have had a walk about at Longbourn and Pemberley, the fly tipping is still a problem and dumping of large items in the bin sheds. The problem of the pebble path was highlighted and we have asked for it to be a tarmac path with a safety rail.

There was a walk about with the parish councillor for Popley Fields, SSJ where we looked at some of the road safety issues and problems of litter in Marnel Park and Merton Rise. Also, we will be approaching the developers to police the new track and area as the gate is being left open and more rubbish is left there. BDBC have arranged for the street cleaner to pick up the rubbish, however it is still the responsibility of David Wilson Homes at the moment.

The path on one side of Abbey Road is completed but the bus shelter has been left in an appalling state and we have demanded the potholes and surface are attended to as a matter of urgency. Cllr Paul Frankum

Popley East: We've had more than a few problems with our regeneration sites this past month.

Longfellow Parade: the good news is that the first flats and houses are now occupied, work is progressing well on the new shops, and we should be on track for the new shops to open in May. The bad news is that we continue to have problems with the derelict flats. Mansell cordoned off the Dryden Close car park. Unfortunately two cars were left behind which were trashed, and one of them set alight. Fortunately they have now been removed but problems with vandalism, arson and trespass continue to plague the site.

Faroe and Maldive: Sentinel have called a public consultation event at Marnel School from 3 to 7pm on 6th May, where they will present their proposals for revised plans to the Madeira Close shops. In the meantime, the flats in Maldive Road only have about 10 still occupied and we have been hearing about a lot of problems with theft, vandalism, and opportunist crime. The sooner the remaining residents are decanted out and the flats knocked down the better.

John Hunt and Marnel Park work has stopped on the later phases of John Hunt but it would appear Marnel Park is going ahead to completion. There is encouraging news from the property sector this quarter and, while it's early days yet with the recession, we may see a resumption of activity on the mothballed building sites sooner than expected. Andy McCormick, Popley East

Having Difficulty Repaying your Mortgage?

Many people are finding it increasingly difficult to pay their mortgage. The number of households in mortgage arrears and property repossessions is rising.



If you find yourself in this situation **don't ignore it**. Your mortgage debt is a priority and must be paid before all other debts. You could consider the following actions:

Review your financial situation

Ask yourself some questions

- Can I increase my income (e.g. rent out a room, take on extra working hours, am I receiving all the benefits I am entitled to)?
- Can I cut back on my spending ?
- Can I get a better deal on my mortgage?
- What other debts do I have - prioritise and ensure you are paying off your priority debts (mortgage, council tax, utilities) before the others?

Speak to your Lender

You should tell your lender immediately if you cannot pay your monthly repayments in full. By speaking to your lender they are aware that you are willing to pay what you can and they should give you more time to sort out your money problems. You could discuss the following options with them;

- Change or lengthen the term of your loan
- Accept reduced payments from you in the short term
- Put off part of your repayment allowing you to make 'interest only' repayments for a short period (Repayment Mortgages only)

Other Options

- Speak to other Mortgage lenders to see if there is a better interest rate or mortgage package that could be available to you
- Mortgage Rescue Scheme (MRS) - a Government Initiative to enable homeowners experiencing difficulties with paying their mortgage to remain in their own home. It is administered by the local housing authority and operates as part of the Council's housing option service. To be eligible for MRS a household must have a priority need for accommodation i.e. include dependent children, or a pregnant woman, or someone who is vulnerable because of old age, illness, disability or other special reasons. Eligible homeowners may be offered one of two options; selling off part of the house's equity to the Housing Association so that the mortgage repayments become affordable, or selling the property to the Housing Association at Market Value and renting it back to at 20% less than the Market rent
- Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme- a Government initiative – for homeowners who have suffered a loss of income that is expected to be temporary. Monthly repayments are reduced by deferring payment of interest on the mortgage by an agreed percentage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee the deferred payments in case the borrower defaults.

Need Help

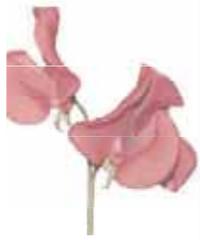
Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau in The Library, Town Centre can help you any queries you have on mortgage repayment issues, debt, benefits and employment problems. We operate a drop-in service 10am-3.30pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is 9.30am-11.30am) and Saturday mornings 10am-12pm. Telephone 01256 322814.

The CAB outreach service in Popley operates on a Monday afternoon from 1- 3.30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley

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Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

www.base2000.co.uk

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 Colin 01256410559



The lighter evenings are with us once more so there is even more 'out' in Scouting than usual around Base 2000. A short walk through Basing Woods offered signs of spring to the Cub Pack with blossom on the trees, primroses and tadpoles. The Pack was sad to see the pond choked with rubbish and did their best to improve matters without getting too wet in the process and they collected a sackful of rubbish from the woods and paths. They will return to the woods in May accompanied by 'Mr Tree Man' who has an amazing knowledge of the trees and wildlife in the forest. The Cubs had a very interesting guided tour of St Michael's Church in Basingstoke led by Rev Arthur from St Gabriel's Church just before Easter. Two Cubs were invested in the church which was a very significant occasion in their Scouting lives. The visit was part of Local Knowledge Badge and later they will follow the Town Centre History Trail and complete a quiz.

The Beaver section had a busy time at Easter Fun Day. They made bookmarks, planted bulbs, learnt how to greet others in a foreign language and played lots of games. They had a tricky time trying to find Grey Bear who'd got stranded on a desert island but you'll be pleased to know he made it back in time for the traditional Beaver gi-normous tea and a sing-song. All the Beavers left tired but happy clutching an Easter egg dropped in specially by the Easter Bunny.

As always, the Scout section enjoyed the 'sleepover' in Headquarters recently (not much sleep, predictably!). Summer camp this year will be at Ferny Crofts, the national Scout activity centre near the New Forest. The organisers have included several new activities this year which will increase the challenge of a week spent under canvas. Not quite sure about 'human demolition' on the programme - sounds a bit risky but I am sure all will be well with qualified leaders and instructors on hand to keep everyone safe and well.

The Group will run its customary BBQ at Popley Festival in May and Colin is already honing his 'master chef skills'! Once again we will feature 'best value' burgers and drinks.

New members welcome in all sections. Give the section leader a ring and simply turn up for a free 'taster' evening to see what's on offer. Subscriptions are £1.50 per week payable weekly or per term as preferred.



Contact Colin on 01256 410559 or e-mail bookings@base2000.co.uk to make enquiries concerning use/availability of Base 2000 for meetings, parties or fund-raising events. Special rates for charities and non-profit making organisations.



Boy and girls 6-8 years
Meetings: Tuesday 5:30-6:45pm
Eve Alexander 346510

Page 6



Boys and girls aged 8-10½
Tuesday 6:30-8:15pm
Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9pm
Colin Karslake 410559

Advice for people affected by unauthorised encampments

When travellers move their caravans onto a piece of land they do not own, without the permission of the landowner, this is called an unauthorized encampment. This is a civil matter of trespass between the landowner and the travellers, and it is the responsibility of the landowner to deal with the encampment.

If the land is privately owned by a company or individual, the landowner needs to take advice from their solicitor about obtaining a Possession Order through the County Court.

If the land is owned by a public body, for example a local authority, that organization may still apply for a Possession Order through the County Court, but must first show that they have taken the housing, health, welfare and education needs of the travellers into consideration before making the decision to take legal action. This generally involves a visit to the encampment by a Gypsy Liaison Officer.

If you are aware of an unauthorized traveller encampment, contact the landowner to inform them. If you do not know who the landowner is, try contacting your local council, they may be able to advise you.

You can contact the Gypsy and Traveller Service at Hampshire County Council by telephoning Jacqui McLachlan, Assistant Gypsy Liaison Officer, on 01962 845544

Anti-Social or Criminal Behaviour

A minority of travelers may be involved in behaviour which causes a nuisance or fear and intimidation to people living near to an encampment. Incidents of this nature may be reported to the usual authorities.

- Emergencies, including immediate danger to personal well-being or property, call 999 and ask for the police.
- Suspicious behaviour, and non-urgent matters for the police can be reported by calling 0845 045 4545.
- Anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and general nuisance can be reported by calling 101.

Half-Term Fun at Everest

The Everest Community College is the place to be during the May half term! Between 26 – 29 May, we will be offering a wide variety of sports and athletics opportunities. In addition streetdance and cheerleading will be scheduled into a fantastic programme that is offered to young people aged 8-16 years old.

As an extra bonus we also have ‘The Making’, the award-winning arts charity, providing “hands on” craft and design throughout the week.

Since half-term is also National Family Learning Week we have set aside Friday 29 May, and Saturday 30 May for family craft activities that will be led by ‘The Making’. This is a wonderful chance to enjoy making something creative as a family.

All half-term sessions will run between 10am-12pm, and 1-3pm and cost just £1 per child/session. We are also offering free lunchtime supervision for children who want to attend both morning and afternoon activities.

All sessions can be signed up for in advance. We are expecting a high interest in this programme so don't delay!

For further details please contact either Dawn or Marilyn at Everest Community College, on 01256-337573.



Health & Leisure Club

Outdoor Tennis Courts Available
from mid May



Available weekdays from 5pm – 8.30pm

Weekends 8am – 4.30pm

Please contact Community Reception

01256 337573

Members rates available

Dear Residents,

Hopefully many of you will already be aware of the Big Lottery funded projects taking place in **Basing Wood**, also known as Carpenter's Down. This 107 hectares woodland's main entrance is just behind the Popley Fields Community Centre.

The Forestry Commission and Basingstoke Borough Council have held a number of consultation events at the community centre about the projects and what they could mean for the woodland. Lots of ideas came back from the feedback but there were a few we kept hearing again and again. These included the creation of a nature reserve, an off road bike track, play equipment, natural play areas, a free running woodland course, cycle trails, way marked walks and places away from the main tracks where people could enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the woodland.

The Sense and Motion Project will launch at the Popley Festival on 17th May so be sure to pop by and see the plans and photos of progress to date. In the meantime why not join us on our **green volunteering** events. Green volunteering will cover a wide range of tasks including tree planting, habitat enhancement and recreation facility construction.

It's a great way to exercise outdoors, meet people with similar interests and help take care of the woodland.

People interested in helping out can come along to events at Basing Wood on:

Saturday 9th May at 10am – 3pm

Wednesday 10th June at 10am – 3pm

Places and equipment are limited so booking is essential. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Accompanied children over 12 are welcome. Sorry, dogs can't help on this event!

For more information on these events or the projects please call the Project Officers, Nayana and Emily, on 01962 795079 or email senseandmotion@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively you can look up our website at www.forestry.gov.uk/senseandmotion.

The projects are for the local people so we'd love to hear from you!

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for people in South East England

chances4change is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and co-ordinated by NHS South East Coast in partnership with NHS South Central, The South East Regional Public Health Group, Care Services Improvement Partnership, South East England Development Agency, SEEDA, RAISE and Portsmouth City Council



Dear Friends

I write this after a weekend of intense activity in the church that has left me feeling somewhat emotionally wrung out! On Saturday we hosted a magnificent wedding for one of our families with the reception, for the first time, being held in the church hall – and what a feast it was! It wasn't just the food though. It was also the sense of family, friendship and fun that pervaded the whole occasion. On Sunday we continued our Easter Celebrations with a Family Service followed in the evening by a service of Prayer for Healing. On Monday the funeral was held for Tinodaishe, the fifteen month old baby girl of one of our young couples.

Tino had always been something of a miracle baby. So often she astounded the doctors and nurses and those in the care profession with her tenacity, spirit and fight for life. In her very short time she touched so many lives, as did her parents with their love and steadfast faith. This was attested by a full church for the day of her funeral and what a celebration of her life it turned out to be! Tino's family are from Zimbabwe and, together with nurses and carers and many from the family of the church, the service provided a fitting tribute and farewell to a precious little girl. Once again a sense of family, fellowship and unity of purpose suffused the whole day.

Life and death in all its colours of joy and thanksgiving and sadness! For me it was a reminder of what my Christian faith is all about. For we are Easter people! The great sadness of the suffering and death of Jesus is replaced three days on by the joy and celebration of the Resurrection and our hope can rest secure in the knowledge that those sad partings are only temporary and that a greater joy awaits us in heaven.

Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life and life in all its abundance!' And he knew what he was talking about! He too experienced all that it is to be human; he celebrated at a wedding at Cana in Galilee and wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus and in between shared in all our joys and sorrows. Wherever you have been, wherever you are, Jesus knows and has been, and is, there! May you catch a glimpse of the resurrection hope of Easter and may it transform your life.

With every blessing
Arthur

DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER.

Well how fast is this year going? It was not long ago that the Willis Museum was closed for a full overhaul. Now it is due to be opened again. I hope many of you get the chance to go and see all the exhibits on show even just sit for a cuppa and a chat with all the staff. I am sure they will be only too willing to talk to you about it. Last month I had to take Her Indoors out for a treat, well it was our second daughter's wedding. We call her our second daughter because as a young nurse she was always around our house. We found out why. It was not to come and see us, but the doggy bags she would take back to the nurses home. The truth is we both love her very much and wish her every happiness in life with her new husband, poor thing. Where would you go to a wedding reception? Only one place the Milestones Museum. What a wonderful night and the staff in there could not have been more helpful to the Old Codger. They put on a wonderful evening. Mind you for me the pub was best, but no Guinness! I will have to talk to them about that. From Her Indoors and I, thanks to all of them. That was meant to be her last night out this year I only do this on special days.

Now I hope you found the story of the origin of "Sweet Fanny Adams" of interest to you, and you may want to go and see where she is buried one summer's day down at Alton. When I was very young a word that many people in the East End would use was "my Old Dutch". It was the way a man would talk about his wife, "my duchess". I have been sent an invitation to a reception at the Willis Museum and I am looking forward to the evening. Mind you I will have to take Her Indoors out for yet another night. I do spoil her. I hope the weather holds out for the Popley Festival, we need a good year, last year was not too bad and plenty turned out. Again in May we will see the benches unveiled on the open space on the Poets, so yet another day to look forward to. I hope we get a lot turn out for it, Pete Codling has worked hard on them. It started with an email to Andréa Weeks when I asked if the trunk of a tree that has been the centre of the estate from when it was built could be saved and turned into a bench. As time went on I met with Pete and we talked over some designs and chose the one you will see. It will remain in the centre of the estate. I will not tell you what it is, only to say I hope it was well worth all that has gone into this project and people will use them. I also hope our youth will keep an eye out on them to make sure they do not get damaged by the few. The benches are for all no matter where you live on Popley. It is just a place to stop and rest or think for a bit. We do not get many opportunities to have this sort of thing on any estate, it is for the people. Sentinel and the Council have put their time in to help so I hope you will be looking after them. *Till next month the Old Codger*



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Popley Festival 2009

This will be on Sunday 17th May 2009 at Popley Fields Community Centre 11.00am to 4.00pm. All the usual attractions, Charity stalls, large car boot, funfair, stage entertainments, arena entertainment, various food stalls and a licensed bar. Also don't forget to visit the Big Lottery Family Learning stall at the Festival to find out what else you could be doing if you live in Popley.

Aerotone Goes Bikini Blitz

Come and join the Aerotoners in shaping up for summer, new aerobic routine every 5 weeks for age 16 and over to get you into tip top holiday condition. Be ready to work it, tone it and lose it! Classes run every Thursday 7.45 to 8.45pm you will need to bring a mat or towel and a drink. All abilities welcome for fun workout in a relaxed environment. Current offer £4.00 per session, 5th one free. Call Louise for more info on 07896757125.

Free Computer Classes

Free computer classes will be starting again at Popley Fields Community Centre. They include: Beginners Guide to Computing (Wed 12:30-2:30pm) Internet and Email (Fri 12:30-2:30pm). A Basic Guide to Digital Photography (Fri 9:30-11:30am), and Beginner's Guide to Excel Spreadsheets (Thu 9:30-11:30am). For details either call the centre on 01256 414494 and speak to Debbie, or call Queen Mary's College 417517 to enrol.

MAD Academy

This high energy dance group for under 4's is continuing in popularity but there are always spaces available. Come along on Tuesday mornings from 10.15am-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.

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

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.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and under 12's 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.

Tel: 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com

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<http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/Adverts/Peters.pdf>



Thank you to all who attended our Bring and Buy plant sale in April. We raised a total of £73, not bad considering it rained all day! We are holding another sale on Saturday 25th May 12-4pm. So come and get your bargains! Our Gardening Club is looking for new volunteers, 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month 1-3pm Refreshments and tools provided just bring the manpower! All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.

What On: -

- MONDAY:** 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café
7.30pm-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 4.00pm-7.30pm Petite School of Dance
8.30am-3.00pm Marnel Early Years
- WEDNESDAY:** 9.30am-11.00am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
9.00am-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic
12pm-2pm Oasis Lunch club
7.15pm-9.00pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café
- FRIDAY:** 6.00pm-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00pm-9.15pm age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9.00am-12.30pm Petite School of Dance
- SUNDAY:** MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions and conferences. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.

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The SSJ Parish Clerk (Mrs Clover Morgan) has a new e mail address – ssjclerk@btinternet.com. - please can you use the new address for all e mail.

AGM. The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th May at 7.00pm at the SSJ Village Hall. The guest speaker will be Chief Inspector Cliff Williams, District Commander for Basingstoke and Deane.

Safer Route to Everest Community College. No progress to report since April, although Hampshire CC has indicated it will assist if possible.

Traffic Calming. 'SID' (speed indicator device) is now in position – starting on the northbound A340, where it has been so effective in the past. The Parish Council has awarded the maintenance contract to BDBC; 'SID' will be moving to different locations in SSJ Village at intervals through the year. Please make sure you stay out of the RED!

A340 Island Crossing Point. The plans for the improved crossing have been finalised and the work is scheduled to start soon - for completion in late May.

Bottle Bank. No leads from BDBC Environmental Services yet as to how we can provide a quiet bottle bank in the Village. We will keep pressure on BDBC to come up with a suitable solution.

Allotments. There is currently a waiting list for allotments in SSJ Village. The Parish Council is in discussion with the land agent acting for the horticultural land on Dark Lane (opposite the Village Green), to see if further plots can be generated.

New 62 Bed Care Home for Marnell Park? Castle Oak Developments came to the recent SSJPC planning meeting to outline proposals for a new Care Home next to the playing fields in Marnell Park. The proposals look good and received the support of the Parish Council.

Red Telephone Box – The Square, SSJ Village. English Heritage has declined to list the telephone box. The Parish Council has asked BDBC for advice. There are 3 options –

- a. BDBC opts to pay for its upkeep
- b. The Parish Council agrees to pay for the upkeep
- c. BT removes the box - at no cost to BDBC or the Parish Council.

Please let us have your views!

And remember:- New Parish Councillor for Speckled Wood Road, Merton Rise and Marnell Park is Jonathan Eales. Jonathan lives in Speckled Wood Road.

Road and Footpath Maintenance. You can report these direct to HCC / BDBC on 0845 6035633 or to www3.hants.gov.uk/roads

SSJPC website – www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk.

Our next meetings are:- The Annual General Meeting – 7.00pm Monday 11th May, Monthly Meeting - 7.30pm Monday 18th May, both in Sherborne St John Village Hall.

All are welcome!

Julian Crawley, Chairman



As part of our commitment to empowering our customers, every year we devolve 1% of Sentinel's turnover for a range of projects under our Community Chest banner.

Community Chest Grants provide Sentinel residents with an opportunity to direct funding to neighbourhood improvements or community projects that benefit everyone living in that area.

In the last year, we've funded five projects, including:

- Unused allotments being transformed into attractive green space.
- Silchester residents clearing an overgrown area for gatherings;
- A new summer-house in a sheltered housing scheme;
- Music coaching to improve confidence at a homeless hostel;
- New football equipment for a local youth team.

We're always keen to hear ideas from other residents, and as it's a new financial year, your local panel of Sentinel residents is looking for new projects to support.

So why not take the bull by the horns and put together a bid for a project in your area?

It's easy to get started, so for a form or advice, contact Richard Pilbeam on 0800 195 5515 or email Richard.pilbeam@sentinelha.org.uk



Thatch Fires.

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 90% of fires in thatched properties are caused by faults in the flue or chimney. In other words, over 90% of thatched property fires are preventable.
- The financial cost of a thatch fire is considerably higher than a property of conventional construction.

DO's:

- Keep chimneys in good condition. Re-point or re-line as necessary.
- Any re-thatch or major ridge job should have all material taken from around the chimney so that it can be checked and repaired if needed.
- Smoke alarms should be fitted, low voltage mains powered linked alarms are available. Most thatch fires start in the roof space and, due to the thickness of the roof, may not be apparent for many hours.
- All electrical wiring in the loft space should ideally be routed in appropriate fire retardant ducting.
- The chimney should be swept regularly especially when burning wood.
- Spark arrestors should be fitted and maintained/cleaned on a regular basis.

DON'Ts:

- Do not build, rebuild or design chimneys which pass close to or through thatch without appropriate expert advice.
- Do not pass metal and other heat conducting flues through thatch.
- Do not hold barbecues, bonfires or firework parties close to the house and be sensible with garden fires.
- Do not allow use of blow lamps in the roof space.
- Do not allow flame stripping of paint around eaves on thatched windows.
- Do not cut recessed lighting into the ceilings below the thatch. Light fittings within the roof space should be in a bulkhead fitting.
- External floodlights should not be located just under thatch overhangs.

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



Popley Festival is here!

Together with Popley Fields Community Association, Sentinel Housing Association and other agencies and community groups, we have been planning this year's Popley Festival. As last year, the Festival is at Popley Fields on Carpenter's Down. It's on Sunday 17th May.

We would like to invite you all to come to the Festival. It starts at 11.00 am and finishes at 4.00 pm. Entry to the event is free! If you come by car, there is just a £1.00 charge for parking.

The Festival will be a great day out for the whole family. There will be entertainment, music and displays in the stage and arena area. For example, you will be able to see professional free-runners show off their impressive skills and an exciting demonstration by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. Around the arena, there will be a variety of stalls to grab your attention. Come along to enjoy the rides and attractions of the Fun Fair that will be at the Festival. If you want something to eat, then you can choose from the wide variety of food that will be on sale. There will also be a licensed bar, a large car boot sale, donkey rides, archery and much, much more!

So please come along and enjoy a fantastic day!

We hope to see as many of you as possible at Popley Festival, but if you don't manage to see us, and would like to talk to us about any issues or concerns you have, please call us on 01256 845508 or email us at:
community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk





Letters to the Editor.



Dear Editor, In the cold winter months we looked forward to warm or hot summer days sitting out in the garden. Sadly it looks like we won't be doing that this year. Someone came into the garden and stole our garden furniture. Not that the table and chairs were new but they were comfortable and they were ours. We can't afford to replace them, so I hope the person that took them has a lovely summer in their garden on us! Please warn your readers to keep their gates locked, and be more vigilant especially in the warm sunny days.

Editor's reply:- Indeed a sad warning and one I am happy to pass on. I would also add that you need to be aware when you have your downstairs windows open and I have seen front and back doors propped open too. It makes it all too easy for thieves to walk in..

Dear Editor, I would like to ask if you could include in the Popley Matters magazine asking residents to take their wheelie bins in after they have been emptied. There are always a large number of empty bins left lying about on the grass areas for days, and in some cases they just remain there week after week. This week one night I had a wheelie bin pushed into my car severely damaging it to about £400 worth of body damage. If they were

not there it wouldn't happen. Philip, Popley1

Editor's reply:- As I am sure you are aware, I have been campaigning for many years that residents should be more responsible to other people and take their bins in. It would also help greatly if the bin men were to put them back where residents have left them in the first place, not clumped together on the roadsides.

Dear Editor The sun is warm and I want to enjoy the weather and sit in my garden that is now full of colour. But I can't because someone has their music blasting out and deafening people with their poor taste in thumping music. What about babies trying to sleep or nurses after a long night shift? Please spare a thought for your neighbours and turn it DOWN.

Editor's reply:- I totally agree that it only takes one or two people to spoil a lovely relaxing time in our gardens.

Please turn it down!

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**



Dear Residents,

I am PC Lucy Fawcett, and for the last couple of weeks I have been crewed up with the Popley East Beat Manager PC Dan Carter. I am normally based at the main Police Station on London Road in Basingstoke but I am on a 5 week attachment with the Safer Neighbourhood Team. The aim of the attachment is to get a better idea of what the Community want from the Police on a local level. I want to find out what you, as the residents,

believe our priorities should be and to work with you in order to best tackle and eliminate the issues in your areas. So far I have attended the Grand Opening of Pebbles Children's Centre on Shakespeare Road. The opening was well attended despite the rain! I have also attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting for the Marnel Park area and I met a few residents there. It was established that groups of youths were beginning to congregate in the area and a small amount of Criminal Damage had been caused. These issues have been dealt with by ways of more frequent high visibility patrols around the area, and the residents in the area assisting us in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Marnel Park. I have been out patrolling with the Community Wardens Vikky Lonie and David Mason and also Richard Owen who is the Accredited Community Safety Officer. I look forward to working closely with them and the other agencies within the Popley Community and using their knowledge of the area to assist in tackling crime in local areas. The Core Priorities for East Popley are Anti-Social Behaviour in Bourdillion Gardens and Edmonds Court; Criminal Damage in Maldive Road and Faroe Close; and Anti-Social Behaviour in Longfellow Parade. Again, by combining more frequent, high visibility patrols in the areas identified we aim to identify those responsible and deal with them robustly.

From this attachment I want to get my face seen around the Popley area and become familiar and approachable to the Popley Community. I aim to have a positive affect on at least one of the Core Priority areas whilst patrolling with PC Carter and PCSO Steve Smith.



Our Open Morning on Thursday, 9 April was a great success and was well attended by local families. Approximately 180 people braved the damp weather and enjoyed the free activities which were on offer and it was lovely to welcome so many families to the Centre and for Maria Miller MP to unveil the mosaic that families from Popley had all put their mark on. It was also great to have Steve and Natasha McGowan who chose the name and Sophie Carpenter who drew the logo with us on our special day. Many thanks to everyone who made the effort to come and take part.



New Events:



Chill and Chat Time



A Drop In for Parents with Under 5s
Every Friday Afternoon

STARTING FRIDAY, 24TH APRIL

1.00 – 2.30pm

Lots of toys and a lovely outdoor play area available with sandpit and ride on play equipment

“DADs” come along with your children
Aged 5 or under to
Pebbles Children’s Centre
on the

2nd Saturday of each month for a fun filled morning. 9.30-11.30am

SATURDAY 9TH MAY

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE

SATURDAY 11TH JULY

If you are interested in having your say about what happens at these sessions,
or want to find out more ring:
01256 357028



AT PEBBLES CHILDREN’S CENTRE

TUESDAY, 26TH MAY TO FRIDAY 29TH MAY

Fun activities all week:

Story time

Coach Trip to Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Sports Day

Family Feast

For further details contact us on 01256 357028

Again Pebbles Children’s Centre has put a little sparkle into my routine as a mum and given loads of fun to my two young children.

Thursday 9th April was Pebbles Children’s Centre’s Grand Opening and, despite the weather, no one’s spirits were dampened. Pebbles new wall mosaic, which had been made by the community, was unveiled by Mrs Maria Miller MP after speeches from Janice, Pebbles manager and Jane Frankum.

Afterwards we all piled into the building and a special marquee to join in activities laid on by Pebbles. There was T-shirt printing which was very popular and something both adults and children seem to enjoy. Also lots of quick, easy Easter crafts such as egg painting and card making. My kids were quite pleased with the pencil cases they found in the lucky dip and really enjoyed getting their hands stuck into some gooey, squidgy trays of stuff in the corner of the marquee. It was something they would never get the opportunity to do at home because of the mess and they loved it!

Outside, Mill Cottage Farm had brought along some animals and we were lucky enough to be there at feeding time to give the lambs their milk and pigs their pellets. The local police had brought along a car which the children could get into, play with the lights and pretend they were on an emergency to somewhere. A bubble machine wafted clouds of bubbles across the playground where dads and lads were playing ball games.

Tucked inside one of the Centre’s rooms I found a magnificent spread of finger food along with (much needed) tea and coffee. As I wandered about the Centre I discovered information about forthcoming events and local activities, saw representatives from Jobcentre Plus, Homestart and pictures of other events that Pebbles had organised. I chatted to people I know and got involved talking to new people. I lost the kids a couple of times as they both wanted to do different things in opposite directions but I knew they were in a safe environment so wasn’t too worried about it.

When I finally managed to talk my kids into leaving, we left with a bag full of things they had made, a professional photo of them both, lots of information and loads of smiles.

I asked the kids what had been their favourite thing and my oldest, who’s just turned 5yrs, replied “the animals, oh the face-painting, oh no...the policeman, erm...the bike riding, maybe the t-shirt printing...well actually everything was my favourite really, Mummy”

Thank you to all of Pebbles staff for making it such a wonderful day!