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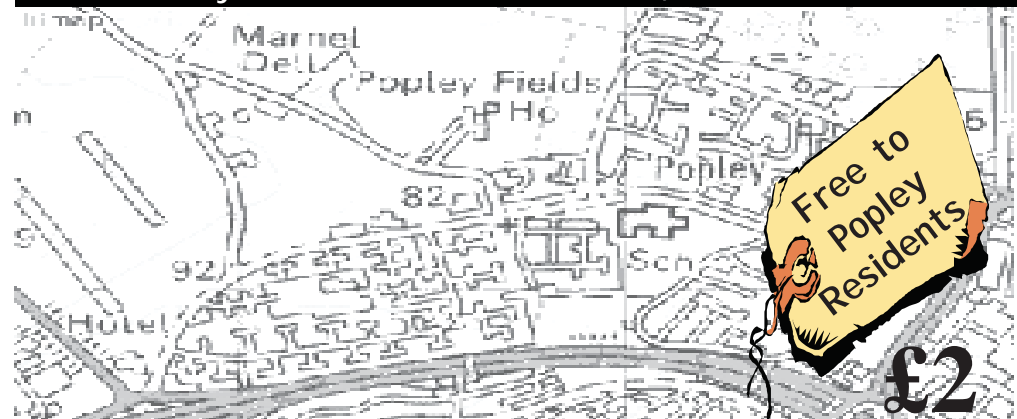
POPLEY MATTERS

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January 2011

Distribution of 4,500

Issue 107



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- As the New Year begins I wonder what it will hold for us all? We finish the year with cold, icy and snowy weather, and begin the new one the same. There is advice on grit bins on page 21, also on page 15 there is information about snow clearance. A bit of gentle advice from me, please do not use cat litter to clear the snow. It is clay based and though it soaks up the snow and ice, when the thaw comes it changes to white chalk with the chemicals in it to get rid of cat wee smells. The combination then breaks down and you walk the chalky mess into the house and it is almost impossible to remove the stains it leaves on your carpets. If there is a part thaw, it then freezes and goes like a sheet of ice, and becomes even more dangerous. Please think of your neighbours and keep a look out for them it only takes a few minutes to say "hello".

On page 2 there is the number to call the Samaritans. It is a sad fact that it is the time of year when people are at their lowest and loneliest. Sometimes just having someone to talk to can make such a difference! Also, on page 29 their details to buy articles on Ebay which helps to raise funds. If you are part of a charity or group perhaps you would like to write to us, and we will try to put it in Popley Matters and share the story of your group or charity.

We are having some difficulty in delivering some of your Popley Matters especially in Elivate and Melrose Walk. If you want to do a little more walking to get rid of some of your Christmas inches it would be a good way to do it, and meet new people too?

If you want to write an article, advertise or be a volunteer for Popley Matters, contact Jane Frankum on 819924 or Iris King 411113 via email editor@popleymatters.org.uk, or write to Popley Matters Group, PO Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, 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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Beckie's Column

I loved Christmas, did you get anything nice? I did. Did you all get to spend a day together and have fun. Of course, there is no school so that makes it even better!! Did you do anything interesting over the holidays? I'm stuck with revision: we have more exams coming up. So good luck to everyone taking them!

New Year's resolutions:- Have you made any this New Year? I attempt them every year but have only ever completed a couple!! This year my resolution is to complete my other resolutions. I'm determined to!

Did anyone go to the Christingle this year? I always go. I love it. I think I've actually memorised what all the parts mean now. I also think I said that last year! I wonder what happened to all the sweets that used to be on them? It's all dried fruit instead now. Ah, well. There is always a nice atmosphere at the Christingle; everyone gets on really well. In fact, everywhere people are really nice, don't you think? Must be the Christmas spirit...

Talking about Christmas spirit, thank you to everyone that came and bought our products at Young Enterprise. We earned more than I was expecting. It was brilliant fun selling them to you all, even if it was a little bit cold!

I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays and Happy New Year to you all.

See you soon,
Beckie

Hello all,

This is my first article for Popley Matters, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you, although some of you may have already seen and spoken with me.

I am PC Chris Brindley, I joined the beat team in August 2010 to work with Dan Carter, Sarah Danks and Phil Rapley in Popley. I have been a PC in Basingstoke for over 7 years where I have had a number of roles. I am enjoying the new challenge of helping make Popley a safer and even nicer place to live. I would also like to add that CSPO team of David Mason and Paul Bowman are a crucial part of the team. We are all working together sharing our combined local knowledge to achieve our common goal a even better Popley.

At the moment the team's three priorities are to deal with anti-social behaviour issues at the shops on Carpenters Down, Maldive Road and to the rear of Romsey Close. The team are working hard to deal with these issues.

As we moved into the Christmas period I thought it would be a good idea of me to give everyone some extra Christmas and New Year crime prevention advice. Sadly this time of year criminals target homes as they know that people will have new and expensive gifts. However, a few simple tips can hopefully prevent you becoming a victim of crime. In the Christmas and New Year period follow the LIGHTS ON advice:

Leaving a couple of lights on in your home will help to make it look occupied.

Invest in some timer switches. These will turn lamps and radios on and off for you.

Gadgets are available which fit into bayonet light fittings which will turn your main lights on and off.

Help keep your energy bills down by using energy saving light bulbs.

Thieves are more likely to target homes which appear unoccupied.

Secure your home by locking all windows and doors before you go out.

Only tell the people who you trust if your home will be empty for a period of time.

Now you have made your home more secure, share this information with your friends and family

And one final piece of advice, after Christmas dispose of the boxes of expensive presents properly. Again don't just leave them outside the front of your property as this will advertise to criminals you have expensive new items which may prove irresistible to criminals.

That's all from me. If you have any issues please do not hesitate in contacting the team and we will endeavour to find a solution.

PC 20596 Christopher BRINDLEY
Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Popley East Beat Officer ext: 0845 045 45 45
christoper.brindley@hampshire.pnn.police.uk



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MFC Popley Youth continues to thrive, having grown since its inception in 2005 from five players in one team at its first ever training session.

The Club now has teams at: Under Sevens, Under Eights, Under Nines, Under Tens, Under 11s, Under 12s and Under 14s.

But the Club is not content with that and wants to add even more players as its expands.

The Club is particularly keen to get more girls involved with playing football at the Club and the parents/guardians of any girl who wishes to get involved, along with those of any boy, should phone Club Secretary Ian Davies on 07884 185 693

to arrange to join the appropriate age group for training.

The Club is also very ambitious in terms of the direction it wishes to move in. The Club is striving to ever improve the high standards it sets for itself as it seeks FA Charter Standard Status - which will bring many additional benefits to the Club's players.

As revealed in the previous newsletter, the Club is investing grant money in sending eight of its already talented coaches on FA coaching badge courses to even further their expertise.

The Club also has a new Child Welfare Officer, Clare Thurgood Davies, who recently completed the Hampshire FA's Safeguarding Children Workshop at Queen Mary's College.

MFC Popley Youth takes Child Welfare very seriously and all of the adults who get involved and interact with the children are first CRB checked by the FA's CRB unit.

Out on the pitch, the weather has taken its toll lately, with many matches called off due to unsafe pitch conditions, but then that is a normal part of grassroots football at this time of year.

On that subject, MFC Popley Youth is still seeking a new home for its older teams who play on full-size pitches from U11s upwards.

The Club currently hires pitches at Everest, which is an excellent venue but currently limited in the number of full-size pitches it can offer.

The Club also hires the Council pitches at Sherborne Road, which are superb and with good support facilities (changing rooms), but are quite costly for the Club to hire and are in Oakridge, not Popley itself.

The Club urgently needs its own local venue and representations have been made to the Council regarding the site at Popley Fields which, although landfill, is perfectly adequate and compares well in fact, to existing grassroots football sites in the area.

The Council is looking at this and other possible sites for MFC Popley going forwards.

Local support for this is crucial - additional football pitches would benefit the whole area, and could be used by the wider community and not just the Club.

Anyone who wants to support the campaign for Popley to have its own football pitches for both its local Club and local use generally should feel free to contact Club Secretary Ian Davies on 07884 185 693 to get involved.

Finally, a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all readers of Popley Matters from everyone at MFC Popley Youth!




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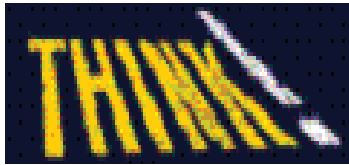
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Road Safety.

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

Top Tip:

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

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



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HALL: 01256 308442

We have excellent Popley Explorers Pre-school here Monday to Friday 8.30am - 3.00pm. Also available- Breakfast and Lunch Club (for further details contact Elaine on 01256-308442)

- Monday evening- CMA Keep Fit & Kick Boxing from 6.30pm - 8.00pm
- Tuesday evening- Community Bingo doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm. Finish around 9.45pm. (Light Refreshments available half time)
- Wednesday evening- CMA Kick Boxing from 7.00pm - 8.30pm
- Thursday evening- Ladies keep fit from 6.30 -7.30pm
- Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 5 - 6.15pm
- Sunday Afternoon- Christian Family Fellowship 4.00 - 6.30pm

This hall is also available to hire for parties etc at very **REASONABLE RATES.**

We would like to thank everyone for their support on the Prize Bingo Night, once again a great night. Hope to see you all at the next one.

Also there is no Tea and Chat until the New Year. I will let you know when it is starting again in the next Popley Matters. Thank you.

Dear Friends

Okay, let's all say a big welcome to 2011! Christmas and New Year celebrations are done and dusted for another year and its time to take down the tinsel and lights – my bank account is a few pounds lighter and I'm a few pounds heavier so it's time to sit down and seriously consider my New Year's resolutions. Actually, a few years ago I made the one and only resolution that I've managed to keep and that's NOT to make any more New Year's resolutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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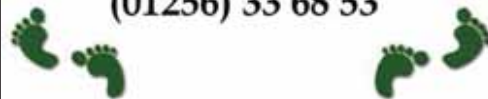
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Cold weather payments are different from Winter Fuel Payments which are made every winter to people aged over state pension age, regardless of the temperature.

People on Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

You will be entitled to a cold weather payment if you get Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance for at least one day during the period of cold weather and:

- you have a child under five in your family, or
- you have a child for whom you get Child Tax Credit with an extra amount for their disability, or
- you get an extra amount for disability or for being over state pension age and you don't live in a care home.

People on Pension Credit

You are entitled to a cold weather payment if you get Pension Credit and don't live in a care home.

People on income-related Employment and Support Allowance

You are entitled to a cold weather payment if you get income-related Employment and Support Allowance and:

- you have a child under five in your family, or
- you have a child for whom you get Child Tax Credit with an extra amount for their disability, or
- you get an extra amount for disability or for being over state pension age and you don't live in a care home, or
- you get a support component or work-related activity component and you don't live in a care home.

How to get a cold weather payment

If you are entitled to cold weather payments, you will automatically be sent a payment for each period of cold weather. This is £25.00. You do not have to make a claim for a cold weather payment, but if you think you should receive one and you are not paid, you can make a written claim to your local benefit office. If they refuse to make a payment and you still think you are entitled, you can ask for the decision to be looked at again or you can appeal to an independent tribunal. You should do this within one month of the decision.

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Sentinel

www.sentinelha.org.uk

Councillors Page: I have requested a further fourteen salt bins for the Popley area. These are to be used for public paths and roads. I had some phone calls about salt bins for people to use to put on their own private driveways. As I pointed out to them gently, tax payers should not be expected to pay for the clearance of snow on private property. Could you imagine the cost if tax payers were expected to pay for the snow and ice to be cleared from some of the long driveways in some of the large houses? The petition was handed in with the application for a lollipop person for the crossing in Carpenters Down and Popley Way. Julie Rose Head of Everest has filled in the forms and we wait to hear their answer. I have suggested that the developers that are doing the junction might be asked to at least part fund this.

To contact me. Phone 819924 mobile 07974098131 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

Popley West: It seems never-ending with the repairs to the roads and the road works to improve safer journeys in Popley. It could be six months or so till they are finished but if one life is saved then all this frustration would have been worth it.

Parking issues still dominate most residents' concerns and it becomes more urgent with the icy conditions and early darkness. Cars parked on or very near junctions are an extra hazard and can cause accidents when other drivers and pedestrians can't see the roads properly. Of course they also run a higher risk of damage to your own car.

There are twenty-one places where you can recycle your real Christmas trees the nearest two are:- Popley Fields Open Space and Upper Sherborne Road Playing Field. The facility will be from 3rd-30th January.

If you have any problems or concerns you think your Councillor can help with, I can be contacted by email at paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk or phone 819924

Popley East: The Barbican pub has been formally handed over to Sentinel for redevelopment after the head lease surrendered the lease. The move was finalised at a Cabinet meeting in the Council on 2nd December. Earlier this year we conducted a survey amongst 500 households closest to the pub to see if people wanted to save it or see it demolished. We had a very big response, with 75% of respondents wanting to demolish the pub. That still leaves a lot of people (25%) who wanted to keep the pub. We have now lost both pubs in East Popley in the space of 7 years. We would very much like a new pub within easy reach, but it has become painfully obvious that pubs in housing estates are not a good business prospect, with two pubs in Winklebury and Buckskin also boarded up. Instead, if we ever get a pub built, it is likely to be a pub/restaurant on the A33, which will benefit from the passer-by trade on the busiest road out of Basingstoke as well as employees in Chineham Business Park. In the meantime, we will be looking out for Sentinel filing a planning application in the new year for newer, better shops in Madeira Close on the site of the Barbican. I toured the site with Cllr Mary Brian on 1st December and spoke to the site manager and various people from Sentinel. Work on the scheme is progressing well and we should have the first houses occupied in February. Finally, I'd like to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



New Year....New you!!!!

Slimming World is returning to Popley at Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
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TUESDAY: 4.00-9.00pm Petite School of Dance
9.30am-2.30pm Peebles Childrens Centre

WEDNESDAY: 10.00-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
9.00-11.00 Quit Smoking Clinic
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
7.30pm Slimming World

THURSDAY: 10.00-12pm Friendly Café

FRI DAY: 6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00- 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.

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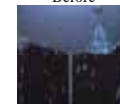
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Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

Group Scout Leader - Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510

Cubs Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts Andy Welham Jones 01256 410629



The Beavers were 'extra' busy in the run up to Christmas. The weather was great at Paultons Park and Father Christmas was very kind and generous as always - everyone received a lovely present. The water ride was open and everyone decided this was better than the Cobra, Two conspicuous people decided SEVEN times was a good number rides to have! The Group Scout Leaders had a wonderful time with the Beavers. We were given points for not losing Beavers but we never did find out what point we got for **losing** the Group Scout Leader **twice**. He eventually found us again and the fun carried on.



A delicious aroma of baking pervaded the building in the weeks before Christmas weeks as the cubs complete the Chef badge by making cakes and then getting all 'goeey' with icing and cream! Meantime the scout section set forth to decorate the main hall for Christmas.



In December everyone visited to Mary Rose Exhibition at the Willis Museum and made masks. To finish off the year we went to see a performance of Christmas Glee on Ice in which Aimee was taking part. Well done Aimee.



Sectional meetings restart week commencing 11th January. New members welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 6-8) and Cubs (aged 8-10½) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10½-14) on Friday. Contact section leaders as above for times. Explorer section for those aged 14-18 - contact Group Scout Leader

Booking enquiries for Base 2000 to bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. One-off occasions, children's parties, meetings welcome - consideration given to anyone wishing to hold a regular activity in one or other of the halls. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends.



... and the adventure goes on - why not join in?

A Very Happy New Year to Everyone!

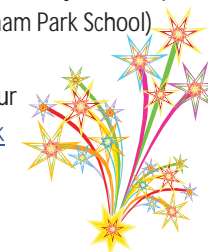
A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us through our first term - it has been brilliant! We are thoroughly looking forward to seeing you all again and seeing some brand new faces!

We will be open again from Saturday 8th January and continuing with our winter programme.

We are particularly excited about some new things on our programme - including **FREE Internet Cafe** (Monday 2-7pm & Wednesday 2-6.30pm - or pop in at anytime to use the internet!), **Violin for Beginners** (Tuesday 6-7pm) and **Keyboard for Beginners** (Wednesday 6-7pm). There will also be lots of other classes including **Gymnastics**, **Family Fun Sessions**, **Cheerleading**, **Friends Club**, **Special Needs Dance and Drama** and **Special Needs Youth Clubs**. If you are interested in any of these please call us on 01256 325420 or visit The Popley Spotlight Centre (formerly Chineham Park School) on Shakespeare Road.

If you haven't already done so, why not check out our new website with our full programme of affordable activities? www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk

All the best, The **SPOTLIGHT** Team



PEACE FOR ALL

The stars, sun and moon are for all of
us to see
This Earth is ours, not for the few
Why start wars? I just can't understand
It's not just to be free.

Our children are innocent
Until we corrupt their minds
Then their fate is sealed
Be it bombs, bullets or mines

Nation fights nation
Friends fight friends
Brother fights brother
Is it greed When will it end.

So start teaching our children peace
Give them a world of love not war
Then war will end
And the killings will cease.

We are all the same
Black and white
We all talk to our Gods
Does He tell us to fight

GEORGE



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE TEAM AT PHILLIPS!**



AND DON'T FORGET THOSE 2011 NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS.....!

- √ Lose weight, exercise more and eat less chocolate
- √ **Dust off that Will and update it**
- √ Drink more.....water!
- √ **Make a Lasting Power of Attorney**
- √ Resolve to sort out your finances

'New Year resolutions – we all make them and before the year is out we've often broken them or forgotten what seemed important at the beginning of the year' says Ben Holden, solicitor at Phillips specialising in Wills, Probate and elderly client matters. 'Most of us are determined to lose weight, start a good exercise regime, pay off debts or resolve conflicts. But life has a funny way of throwing unexpected things at us, so perhaps the best resolution we can make is to put our affairs in order. Although making a Will might not be on the top of your list, it is nevertheless very important to protect your family and your assets. If you haven't got a Will, make one soon. If you have one and you've had any life changing events such as marriage, property, children, divorce or bereavement, review your Will. It doesn't have to be complicated and it can save a lot of worry later.

If you have an elderly relative, discuss a Lasting Power of Attorney with them whilst they are still mentally competent. This is a legal document that will enable your relative to appoint a family member or trusted friend to deal with their affairs.

So if you need some friendly help and advice, call me or Sheila Glyn-Owen at Phillips on 01256 460830 and we'll be pleased to help you keep your New Year resolutions. Pop in for a chat or we can visit you, if you're in the Basingstoke area.'

www.phillips-law.co.uk

Cornerstone Nursery News - January 2011

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way - 01256 840300

In December we had lots of fun activities planned for all the children to take part in. We had our Christmas play on Thursday 16th which was held at St Gabriel's church and we had our Christmas party on Thursday 23rd where the children had a visit from Santa and lots of fun games.

The children have enjoyed a variety of craft activities involving lots of glitter and sparkly materials. The older children have enjoyed learning about how we freeze water to make ice and how it can melt. They did this by leaving out ice cube tray over night and then bringing them into the nursery and leaving them by the radiator.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestly Road - 01256 818118

December was a busy month indeed with the whole nursery buzzing with excitement!! Cornerstone have had a huge amount of fun and exciting activities going on from Santa's Grotto, Fantastic Christmas performances which the children worked very hard to do and parents enjoyed immensely, childrens parties and a special Christmas Craft Afternoon Workshop for parents to get involved in with their children, making all sorts of fantastic Christmas creations to take home from cakes to Christingles!

We stayed open throughout the snowy weather and the children had great fun experiencing the snow outside in their winter clothes and welly boots! We're looking forward to a happy and fun New Year for 2011.

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

We have been interested in making tunnels out of the big boxes that we have. The bigger children have been exploring with the new wind up torches in the garden when it is dark and also in the nursery. They were shining the torches at the reflective stickers we have placed around the room. We made some snowballs and had a snowball throwing competition to see who could throw the furthest snowball and we made a very happy looking snowman!!

The babies have been doing lots of art and crafts about Peppa Pig. They have really enjoyed listening to all the Peppa Pig books and singing along to the Peppa Pig CD. All the children have been learning new songs about Christmas time.

All settings currently have spaces in all age groups but spaces are limited so please contact the managers at your preferred setting.



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We believe in child lead learning where the children decide what activities they do including messy play, outdoor play, singing, dancing, story time, walks (weather permitting) and lots more.

We have a summer trip each year and several celebration parties.

Popley Explorers is run by an excellent group of staff with years of experience between them lead by our Group Manager, Sharon and Elaine, our Group Deputy Manager. The staff team are supported by a strong parent committee who are dedicated to helping with the smooth running of the group and fund raising.

You are very welcome to arrange a visit to come and see our facilities and meet the staff, everyone is welcome.

Contact: Ask for either Sharon or Elaine on 01256 363156

Travel Tokens RIP?

The Current Basingstoke and Deane's Scheme

In Basingstoke and Deane we have a combined package offered to 32,000 applicants for concessionary travel. Of these 19,000 prefer to take tokens, even though their financial value to an individual is less than that of the bus pass. This token scheme has operated for many years and pre-dates the national schemes introduction. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has asked Hampshire County Council to 'passport' back the funding currently spent within the Basingstoke District to provide services above the statutory minimum, a sum of circa £750,000. However HCC have decided to retain local authorities' top-up funds and deliver a blanket service across Hampshire. This will result in local Basingstoke and Deane taxpayers' funds subsidising other localities in Hampshire that did not provide 'top-up' funds above the statutory minimum whilst the Basingstoke and District scheme reduces.

The New Hampshire Wide Services and What it Means for Basingstoke

The scheme in Hampshire will follow the national scheme for those aged over 60 which allows free bus travel from 9:30am to 11pm, Monday to Friday, and at any time at the weekend and on Bank Holidays. The current Basingstoke and Deane scheme operates a free bus pass any time of the day meaning that the new scheme will disallow travel before 9.30am.

For those, who meet the criteria for a disabled person's pass (over five years old), there are a number of enhancements to the national scheme in Hampshire. These include free bus travel all day (before 9:30am until close of service) every day, with the option of a companion pass, where they are unable to travel alone owing to their disability, as well as travel on contracted Car-share and Taxi-share services and half fare travel on defined community transport schemes, which does not include ShopMobility services and trains. It could be argued that the changes to have half fare for people opting to use Dial-a-Ride is discriminating against people with disabilities due to a disabled person using Basingstoke Dial-a-Ride being funded for ½ fare and continues to pay ½ fare whilst an able bodied person is funded for twice that amount and pays nothing.

Those who meet the criteria for a disabled person's pass will also have the option, as an alternative to the pass, to have vouchers (to the value of £32 per annum) for use on defined community transport schemes such as Dial-a-Ride as well as voluntary car schemes and taxis. The current Basingstoke and Deane tokens value is £53 with a top up of £22 to £75 if you are registered disabled. The Hampshire scheme would drop this token value to £32 a reduction of 57% for disabled users.

A majority of older people eligible to receive concessionary fares have significant disabilities and frailties making it impossible for them to travel on buses. However, most have not been formally certified as disabled due to the bureaucratic process of disability registration and stigma associated to disabilities and the associated perceived loss in independence. For these disabled older people the drop in benefit is 100% i.e. from £53 to zero due to them being unable to travel on a bus or being unable to access the voucher scheme.

This reduction in travel vouchers works in the opposite direction to a general principal of increasing individual independence in society and increases inequalities in the treatment of the disabled.

Travel Vouchers will no longer be eligible for use on trains or with ShopMobility

Implications for Community Groups and Charities

Many community organisations and charities are dependent on tokens to continue delivering their community transport services, such as Basingstoke NeighbourCare, Oakley Community Care and ShopMobility. The reduction in tokens may for some leave their charity or community group unable to continue delivering their services due to the financial deficit in the reduction of token value. *Basingstoke and District Disability Forum 01256 423816*

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Marnel Park Resident Group

We are delighted to be writing to tell you that a Marnel Park Resident Group has been established. It is very early days and we would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about the advantages of having a resident group.

The group has been set up with the support of Basingstoke and Deane Council, Testway Housing and Sentinel, however is very much our group run by and for people living in Marnel Park. Everyone who was interested in being involved attended an initial meeting at Popley Fields Community Centre in November and a second meeting on 1st December. We learned a bit about the benefits of having a resident group for the area which include:

- Providing an opportunity to develop a Community Plan for Marnel Park describing what we want our community to look like;
- Having a stronger voice with the Council and other agencies to help us resolve issues of concern on Marnel Park (for example inconsiderate parking, dog fouling our green spaces, cleanliness of the estate);
- To be able to play an active part in the forthcoming planning application process for the proposed development of 550 new houses in the two fields around the far edges of the estate; and
- Organising fun events for children and adults on the estate (for example summer street party or concert on the green).

The group is now planning the first steering group meeting and wants to ensure that everyone who lives in Marnel Park who is interested in the Resident Group generally or in being part of the steering committee has an opportunity to join our first formal meeting which is to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th January 2011 at Everest Community College.

We would be really pleased if you were able to come along and start to be involved in the future of your community here at Marnel Park.

If you have any questions please email marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk

We look forward to meeting you on January 13th.

Simon Fairbanks and Sarah Banfield

Joint Chairs of Marnel Park Resident Group

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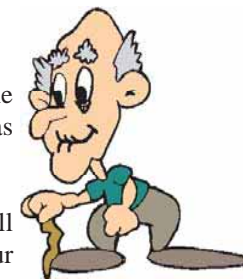
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Diaries from the Old Codger



A 2011 Happy New Year to you all, and I hope what you wish for in the
New Year comes true. I had one of my wishes before the New Year as
you read in last months Popley Matters and I hope you liked the read.

Now to start off the New Year. I hope that every Mum and Dad will
listen to what I have to say in this month's column. Its about taking your
children to school from Popley Poets to Marnel. I will start off by saying
that our County Council member worked hard and long to get safer crossings in Popley in order
for you ALL to cross safe. So why have I seen Mums and Dads cross the road at the corner of
Shakespeare Road rather than walk the fifty feet or so to the safe crossing? Why do I see mums
and dad stand on the corner of Shakespeare Road and send their child skipping off on their own
across Popley Way? Why do mums and dads insist on walking straight across the road or run to
avoid a car they did not see because they are to busy chatting to the person next to them, and if
you toot your car horn at them you get a load of mouth back!! What a great start to children's
lives on the road of schooling. If a child were to get knocked down the Mums and Dads would
be up in arms. Kids learn from you and if its OK for Mum and Dad to cross the road on the
corner its OK for me. You as adults should be teaching children the wrongs and rights in life.
"Do what I say not what I do" springs to mind. Children will only do what you do, if you swear
around them and so will they. They will run in the road if you are not around, only because
you do it. So please, please if you take your child to school use the right crossings, that's what
they are there for.

As you all know we write our columns near the middle of the month before it goes in the
following month to give our Editor time to sort it out and off to the printers. I would like to
congratulate them this month because of the trying time they have had over the last six months.
Well done to you both, Jane and Paul. The Old Codger and Her Indoors are thinking of you all.
My son is back with us again for Christmas and New Year with his girlfriend, Sharon. They
have come over from Australia, he has been two or three times this year due to work. They were
short trips, so it is nice to have them for a bit longer and at Christmas time, what a bonus. Mind
you Her Indoors has got to get off her backside and do a bit of cooking. I would not say it to her
but she is a great cook and her Christmas dinners are the best anyone could wish for.

I wish not only for myself this year but also for the people of the world to come together and
just talk to each other and not use the gun or bombs to make their statements. They can never
win, no matter how long you fight. We are all on this earth a short time and we should make the
most of it by all working in harmony.

We all want to see our children grow up in good clean communities and see them enjoy what we
had as kids ourselves, to be free to enjoy life with as much love we can give them all.

Her Indoors and I have had some great times when our children were growing up. Now they
have children of their own they are passing that same love on to them. If not, they will answer to
Gramps and Granny! Don't you think how quick young children know how to wrap you round
their little fingers? They only have to say Gramps can I have and a cute grin on their face, I just
give in. Take care till next month.

The Old Codger

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Menu's Available

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

Road Salt (grit) Bins

Hampshire County Council provides grit bins filled with salt and/or grit for use in the community - on public roads and pavements.

They are not provided for private use.

Once delivered and filled, responsibility for the bins and for the use of salt on public paths and roads lies with the parish council or community group which requested the bin.

Additional to the traditional yellow grit bins in the community, a number of new blue bins have been placed across Hampshire. These are much larger with a capacity of 750kg – resulting in a significant increased amount for community use.

What is the salt in them for?

The salt / grit in the community bins is for use ONLY in the community – on public paths, pavements and roads and NOT for private use on driveways or garden paths.

Can I request one?

If you think it would be beneficial to the community to have a new salt bin, you can talk to your parish council or community group who can submit a request to the County Council.

Who can use it?

Anyone can use the salt / grit to put on the roads or pavements. This can be particularly useful for example, to 'join up' salting from the main road carried out by County Council salting vehicles - to smaller access roads or on the pavements to the local school.

Who decides where the bins go?

Requests for salt bins are submitted to Hampshire County Council by parish councils and community groups and need to meet certain criteria:

- The bin must not obstruct sight lines;
- There must be sufficient space for the bin and for the bin to be refilled;
- The bins will be placed in areas of significant pedestrian and traffic use; and
- The bins will be placed in places near to where there is a significant slope.

How do they get refilled?

The Parish Council or community group can call the number on the bins – 0845 603 5633 to let us know if a bin needs refilling. In times of severe weather, the priority of the winter maintenance teams will be to salt the main roads and may not be able to refill salt bins as quickly as at other times.

Bins will not be refilled where people have taken the contents for their own personal use, and Hampshire County Council reserves the right to remove bins where the contents are being continually taken for private use.

Editors Note:-Fourteen more salt bins have been requested for Popley. If you know of a site that fits the criteria please contact Cllr Jane Frankum on 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL



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WHY WAIT?



Up to 1 months free Gym Membership and no admin fee (saving £15), when you join in January.

Available on all membership types:
Peak, Off- Peak* and Classes Only

Facilities

Fully equipped Gym
Classes
Badminton and Table Tennis

*Restrictions apply

Everest Health & Leisure Club, Everest Community College,
Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP
Tel: 01256 337573
www.everest.hants.sch.uk

Clearing Snow and Ice Yourself
New Guidance Published

Last winter many people helped keep pavements and public spaces around their homes clear of snow. However, many people were put off doing so because of fears of being sued. Read on for advice on your rights and responsibilities when clearing snow and ice from public areas.

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

If an accident did happen, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you

- are careful; and
- use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway dearily more dangerous than before

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice

- start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it;
- don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury;
- be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property;
- if shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels;
- make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on;
- spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming
- table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it;
- pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients;
- use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight; and
- if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

Please tick any activities, groups or courses that you may be interested in

Literacy Gain a recognised qualification		Baby PEEP A group that helps teaches you how to make the most of learning through everyday life at home	
Numeracy Gain a recognised qualification		PEEP group for older babies	
Using computers		PEEP group for toddlers	
English as an additional language Beginners and intermediate level		Song & Sign Using Makaton signs and symbols	
First aid		Managing behaviour	
Dads Club		Baby massage With qualified instructors	
Healthy eating & cooking		Parents Forum Join in a friendly group and have your say about what goes on at Pebbles	

Please write here any suggestions for groups, activities or courses you would like to see offered at Pebbles Children's Centre

Contact Details

If you have already completed a Sure Start registration form then please use this section to update us with any changed contact details

Name of parent / carer _____

Name of Child _____ DOB _____

Name of Child _____ DOB _____

Name of Child _____ DOB _____

Name of Child _____ DOB _____

Home phone number _____ Mobile _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email address _____

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this section!

We hope you have had a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all!

Colouring Competition

You will see over the page we have a special pull out section where your under 5 can enter a colouring competition by returning the completed page to Pebbles Children's Centre (address below)

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you, as a parent, what you would like to see being offered at Pebbles so please fill out the back section to help us help you!

What's new?

If you have not seen our new spring term timetable then please let us know and we will get one sent to you. We have an exciting new activity called Crafty Rhyme Time where you and your child can bring stories and rhymes to life with craft, messy play, puppets and more...each week there will be a different story or rhyme theme. Come along every Thursday 1-2pm to Popley Fields Community Centre. Cost £1 per family per week.

A Support group for parents with disabled children or those with additional needs has been started by your local Sure Start Children's Centres in conjunction with KIDS nursery and Popley Spotlight Centre. Parents/carers can meet at Pebbles every Tuesday 1-2.30pm and your child will be looked after by qualified KIDS nursery staff.

Pebbles Children's Centre
Shakespeare Road
Popley. Basingstoke.
RG24 9BP

Call us on 01256 357 028
Email pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk
Visit: www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc

If you are already registered at Pebbles and have supplied your email address but are not receiving emails then don't forget to check your junk mail folder!!

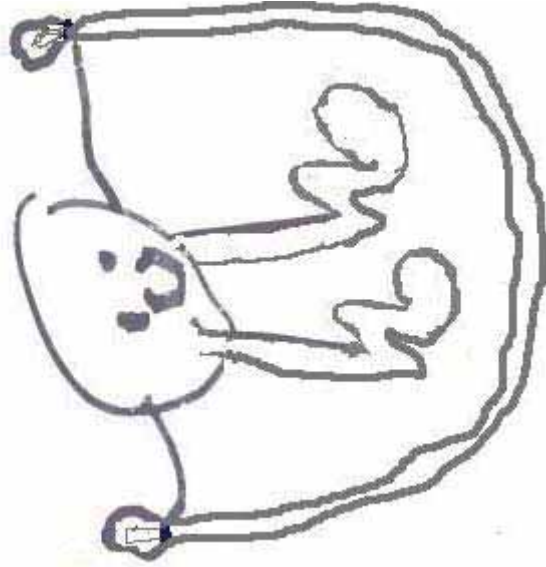
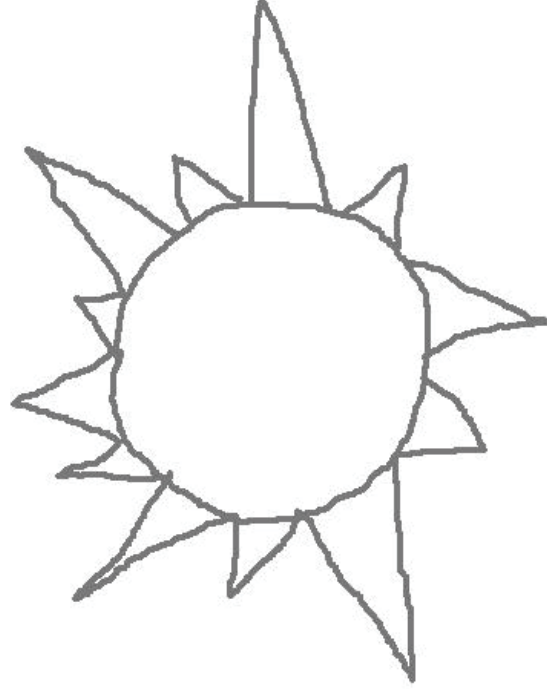
Visit our Facebook page by searching for Pebbles Sure Start Children's Centre. Be sure to click on the 'Like' button so we appear in your news feed.

Colouring competition

If you are 5 years old or under colour me in and return to Pebbles Children's Centre (address overleaf) to be entered in to this competition for a chance to have your picture in the next addition of Popley Matters and to win a £10 voucher for Toys R Us! There will be a prize for each age group 0-2years and 2-5 years

Name: Age: Contact number:

See if you can add to the picture to make it more colourful – can you draw a flower or maybe a butterfly?



Parents: If you have not completed a yellow registration form for Pebbles Children's Centre why not complete one whilst you are handing in this entry? You will then be kept up to date with everything that is happening at the Centre.