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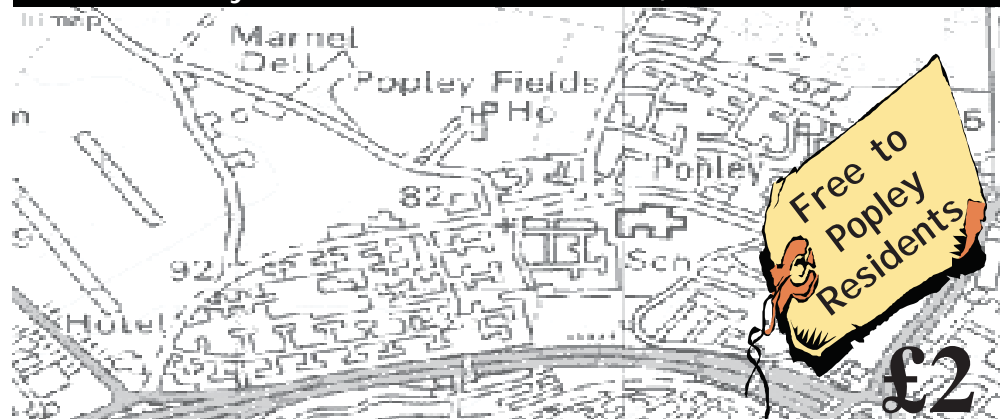
# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

February 2011

Distribution of 4,500

Issue 108



## FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** February brings Valentine's Day on the 14th and I wonder how many people really celebrate it. As lovely as it is, I think that cards are getting too expensive. I am going to write my husband Ken of nearly 45 years a letter to tell him how special he is and how much I love him, as I think it will have more meaning.

I have received some comments about the Matters being delivered late, especially over the winter months. Your community magazine is delivered by a great team of volunteers and like

many others there were difficulties getting through the snow and then the dreaded flu. We are always looking for volunteers so if you have an hour to spend once a month please contact Iris on 411113.

On page 4 our hospital is looking for volunteers, and on page 13 are the details of The Director of Nursing Awards. After Ken's continuing treatment and stays in the hospital. I have no doubt whom I will be nominating. I think it's a lovely way of showing our support and thank you's to all the staff.

The RSPCA (Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) are appealing for foster homes. Details are on page 4.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Hello!! How are you? Enjoying the New Year? We're back at school now. Can you believe it we're almost half way through the school year? It's gone really fast! Although, all the revision we are still doing seems to be going on forever!!

I received great presents this year: one of them was a driving lesson on a private road! It's for people who are under 17. It was so much fun! I think I did OK: I was petrified at the beginning though! The instructor was really nice, and easy to understand. It was a dual control car, so if I went too wrong he could take over. (Which never happened!) I also got a maze ball (it's a maze that you have to roll a ball through and get to the end of the track without falling off). Half of my class could tell you it is really frustrating! None of us have completed it yet!!

Have you heard about all the flooding in Australia and Brazil? It's horrible, so many people are homeless because of it and so many lives have been lost. Mother Nature can be nasty sometimes.

On a lighter note, has anyone been watching Dancing On Ice? Who's your favourite? Laura Hamilton is on it this year; she's the patron of Reach and is a children's TV presenter. Because she isn't so very well known, she needs our support... and votes! We're voting for her!

And finally, Chris, you didn't believe I would mention you in this column, did you? Well, there you go!

Until next time, bye!

Beckie

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## Recycling Bins Moved

The recycling banks have been removed from the site at Maldive Road shops due to the redevelopment work taking place.

They have been moved to the Popley Fields Community Centre (Carpenter's Down, Popley) until the development is completed.

We have placed notices at the old site to inform residents of this change.

If there are any other queries about this, please pass them to Kevin Ennis or myself.

Kind regards,

Nathan

Principal Waste & Recycling Officer Environmental Care Team

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

01256 845363

nathan.sunley-smith@basingstoke.gov.uk

<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/recycle>

# Popley - a Place Young People Should be Proud of

I came across a study in the Basingstoke Gazette recently which found that most young people in our town say they want to leave. Some 69% of 11-19 year old surveyed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council said they wanted to move away and 61% said they could "actually see themselves do it".

As an 18 year-old A-Level student, bursting to leave home and go to university, I have to say that I felt exactly the same. However, at the age of 24, and older and wiser you might say, I am able to look at Basingstoke (or Amazingstoke as it is more popularly known), the area that I have grown up in, and appreciate what a great place it is to live in today that is full of opportunities for young people. They say that home is where the heart is and I guess that it in my case it took a few years of living away for me to realise it.

In Popley the transformation from when I was growing up and how it is now couldn't be starker. It has been the beneficiary of huge amounts of investment and regeneration. Gone are the days when groups of teenagers (myself included) used to hang around outside the Barbican or the Pen and Parchment. £15 million has been ploughed into Popley Poets. John Hunt of Everest, the dilapidated old school building which by the time of its demise, resembled a battered World War II bomb shelter, has been replaced with a brand new school, Everest Community College which, has top of the range facilities. Popley now has PCSOs, Community Wardens, community centres, youth clubs and SureStart centres, and is a place to be proud of.

However, 55% of young people surveyed in the study mentioned above still said they hang out in a park against just 8% who go to a community centre. The question is, therefore, how we can make sure that young people in Popley make the most of the new facilities at their fingertips?

First of all, these facilities must meet the needs of the young people themselves. Consultation with young people is crucial, we should be asking young people what it is that they want. Secondly, what is on offer should be innovative so as to capture the attention of young people. Thirdly, it must be marketed in a manner that appeals to young people and, finally, young people should be given a degree of ownership over their facilities.

We are seeing this happen- the Summer Streetz programme that began in 2010 offering free evening activities to 11- 17 year old such as DJ workshops and graffiti art, is a good example – what we need to see is more of it.

If young people have a good experience of growing up in the town, the prouder they will feel of it and the more they will want to stay. *Shelly Phelps*

# SAMARITANS

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AS is invariably the case with grassroots football, the weather has had an impact on Popley's local youth football club in the past month and a number of games have had to be postponed until February and the spring.

However, there has been some action and Alec Matthews, the new Manager of MFC Popley U7s, got off to the best possible start with two cracking games last Sunday in which his side scored more than they conceded on both occasions (U7s and U8s are non-competitive hence there

are FA restrictions on reporting actual score lines and results).

Lee Austen's U8s continue to show promise ahead of their first competitive season in 2011/12 and Russell Graves's U9s continue to make progress.

At U10s, Justin Taylor's Dynamos are still in great form, winning their latest matches 4-2 over Barton Rovers and 5-0 over AFC Newbury.

The Dynamos have a very strong squad with superb goalkeeper, Josh Poynter, brilliant sweeper, Kieran Carr, the exceptional defensive midfield hard man Kallum Cousins, the vastly-talented and two-footed Callum McKeaveney, and the simply brilliant D'Andre Brown just five of their many stars.

Danny Oates's Raiders have also been in good form, beating Barton Rovers Rebels 6-1 on the road recently.

Captain Cole Oates, their playmaker, continues to be hugely influential and imposes himself on every game .

At U11s, Paul O'Shea's squad are working hard and doing the Club proud while, at U12s, with Dave Wright taking an increasingly prominent role, the boys are doing well.

And at U14s, Manager Danny Oates's boys are giving good accounts of themselves.

Off the pitch, planning is already under way for a big summer Tournament, probably the last Saturday before the schools break up for the summer holidays.

And the Club is continuing its drive towards reaching FA Charter Standard status in 2011 with various initiatives planned.



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## Volunteering at

### Basingstoke and North Hampshire Foundation Trust

We have many volunteering opportunities available within Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital. As well as specific volunteering roles we are often able to match people to the areas they wish to volunteer in or have specific skills. Areas include:

- Helping on a hospital ward from postnatal to elderly care
- Hospital Chapel ( Sunday mornings)
- Health information point (HiP)
- Cancer services

The hospital currently has 81 registered volunteers (November 2010).

All volunteers have a task description/code of conduct for the area they cover which outlines what a volunteer can do and what they cannot. Full support and training is given. Registration as a volunteer is subject to two references, an enhanced CRB disclosure, and Occupational Health clearance. Due to the registration process involved we ask that volunteers are able to offer a regular time commitment, for at least six months. Our Volunteers Manager is Caroline Whitear, who works part time, and available in the hospital between 9am - 4pm on Tuesday and 9am - 12pm on Wednesday - Telephone: 01256 314938 (Tuesday and Wednesday) email to [caroline.whitear@hchc.nhs.uk](mailto:caroline.whitear@hchc.nhs.uk) or [volunteers@bnhft.nhs.uk](mailto:volunteers@bnhft.nhs.uk)

Alongside our own volunteers the hospital is also supported by other volunteers including Hospital Radio Basingstoke, volunteer patient drivers, British Red Cross who run cosmetic camouflage clinics and the PAT dog who visits patients on G floor. Our Volunteers' Manager also maintains contact with these organisations and Basingstoke Voluntary Services.

### Basingstoke and Andover RSPCA

(Registered charity no. 258321)

This is a plea to any of your readers whom may have some spare space in their home to help foster animals, (mainly cats or dogs) that come into the care of the local branch. The Basingstoke and Andover RSPCA urgently need foster homes for these animals until they can be found their "forever home". All food, bedding etc that the animal will need will be provided by the RSPCA.

If you'd be interested in fostering an animal, or would like to talk about this rewarding opportunity further, please call Mandy James (Animal Re-homing Coordinator) on 01256 353209 or visit <http://www.rspca-basingstokeandandover.org.uk/>

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Wednesday evening - C.M.A Kick boxing from 7.00 - 8.30pm

Thursday evening - Ladies keep fit from 6.30 - 7.30pm

Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 5 - 6.15pm

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### **Loddon Quilters Group.**

My name is Joan Bond and I am a member of Loddon Quilters Group, meeting monthly at Sherfield Village Hall. [www.loddonquilters.org](http://www.loddonquilters.org). We are holding our first ever quilt show this spring and would love you to put our entry in the appropriate section of your magazine ....

Loddon Quilters Show. April 7th 2011. Village Hall, Sherfield –on-Loddon Hook, Hampshire, RG27 0EZ. Quilts and More. 10:30am-4:30 pm . Raffle and Refreshments available.

Entry by donation for Air Ambulance and Alzheimer’s Charities.  
[www.loddonquilters.org](http://www.loddonquilters.org) [lqloodonquilters@gmail.com](mailto:lqloodonquilters@gmail.com)  
Contact Priscilla – 01256 881839 or Barbara - 01256 768674

Dear Friends,

Are you an optimist or a pessimist? What I mean is this – when you have a glass of something nice and drink half of it, do you then say your glass is half full or half empty? I’m definitely in the ‘half full’ category! Why am I asking you this? Well let me ask you another question – how do you feel about living on a building site? Almost wherever you are in Popley right now there is some form of building or road works going on. If you’re the ‘half empty’ type then you may be thinking “what a pain! What, with the constant rain and wind, the mud everywhere, lorries thundering up and down the road, and all the noise.” Quite depressing for this time of the year really!

On the other hand ... It’s quite exciting to somehow be part of the transforming of Popley, to be living in the middle of what will emerge to be something of significance. Of course we’re going to have to live with the disruption for some time to come, but all change inevitably involves disruption to the normal routine of life. I believe that at the end of it all it will be worth it. Popley will have grown from a population of around 10,000 to one of around 15,000 – from almost 3,000 homes to 5,000. These new developments are a sign of growth and prosperity for the whole area and I for one am excited at the prospect for the future!

It hardly seems credible that at the end of February I will have been at St Gabriel’s for seven years. The time has passed so quickly and yet when I pause to look back I can see there have been so many changes. The church has grown in so many ways; in its life and witness to the love of Christ for Popley, in the congregation on a Sunday, in the use of its buildings and grounds, in the events it has staged. St Paul wrote “If any one is in Christ they are a new creation – the old has gone, the new has come!” I see the transforming power of God at work everyday as I live and move among the people and places of Popley – His work may not be as obvious as temporary traffic lights, road works and mud on the road but all the signs are nevertheless there and the prospect of seeing more is an exciting one.

If you’d like to know more about his transforming power for your life please join us any Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m.

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You do not have to fill in any forms or get permission. You just start using your changed name instead of your old one. However, you may find that some organisations want to see written evidence of your name change. This could be a letter from a doctor, priest or solicitor, or an announcement in the press. You may prefer to make a statutory declaration or change your name by deed poll. Basingstoke CAB can help adults with this, but not children. However, you cannot change details on your birth certificate, except in limited circumstances.

Changing details on a birth certificate can be complicated. If you wish to do this you should consult an experienced adviser, for example, at a Citizens Advice Bureau.

### Need further information or Help?

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau, (located within Basingstoke Discovery Centre) can help you with queries you have on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10am-3.30pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday) and Saturday mornings 10am-12pm.

The Advice Line telephone number is 01256 322814

Or you can drop in to our outreach services at these times:

CAB Outreach Popley – Tuesday morning 10am-12.30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley  
 CAB Outreach Buckskin – Thursday morning 9am-1pm at The Ridgeway Centre, off Buckskin Lane

CAB Outreach South Ham – Wednesday morning 9am-1pm at Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road.

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

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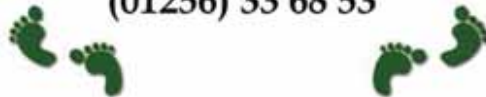
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# Sentinel

## New Year New Homes

Sentinel has handed over the keys to the first new homes on it's Popley Islands development. It's just under five years since Sentinel teamed up with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and local residents, who voted overwhelmingly for the outdated maisonettes in Faroe Close and Maldive Road to be redeveloped.

Over the last three years neighbours have helped design plans for the area to transform this corner of Popley into a thriving new community. The first 18 homes, all for affordable rent, are next to the Madeira Close shops in the newly named Tortuga Walk. Built to the latest government Eco-Standards, the new homes are much more energy efficient than the 1960s built maisonettes they are designed to replace.

Sentinel's £40m investment is supported by a £14m grant from the Homes and Communities Agency and will provide over 200 new affordable homes, newly equipped play areas and two new shops. The second phase of new homes is expected to be complete by May this year.



**Councillors Page:** We are now seeing the biggest cuts to local government. The council was already prepared to make efficiencies, whoever won the last election, but not cuts like this. Hampshire seems to have chosen to cut deeper and faster than I feel is really needed. There is little doubt that local government cuts of this size, imposed this quickly and front loaded in the first year will hit many of the important frontline services, families and communities that Basingstoke relies on. Youth clubs could close. The mobile library service that visits many of our sheltered homes is set to be reduced from nineteen to six across the county. As more people than ever need help with social care, fewer could find their council able to help

Ken Thornber Leader of HCC stated in Council and in the press that the situation of the recession was due to the greed of the bankers. It was also compounded by the world recession and we, like many other countries spending more than we were receiving. But to put so many people out of work all at once means that businesses will not sell so they in turn lay people off. Those unemployed go on benefit and where is the workforce to pay the taxes to meet the benefits? Nurses, Social Workers, hospital staff. Police and Fire-Fighters will be amongst those to lose their jobs. How will mortgages be paid? It is such a harsh time for all. One elderly lady told me that she is sure people will pull together like they used to, and knowing the community spirit we have in Popley, I think she is right.

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

**Popley West:** From 1 April, Hampshire County Council takes over the bus pass scheme. For those aged over 60 they will be entitled to free bus travel from 9.30am to 11pm, Monday to Friday, and at any time at the weekend. Those over five years, who meet the criteria for a disabled pass, will be eligible for free bus travel all day (before 9.30am until close of service) together with a Companion Pass where they are unable to travel alone due to their disability, as well as half fare travel on defined community transport schemes. Those who meet the criteria for a Disabled Persons' Pass have the option, as an alternative to the pass, to have vouchers (to the value of £32) for use on defined community transport schemes, voluntary car schemes and taxis. Of course, should district councils wish, they can fund any additions to the scheme within the realms of their well being powers and, indeed, this is something that we (Labour Councillors) are calling for. If HCC were to give the portion of the grant from the government to Basingstoke Council we believe that we could continue with the much better scheme that Basingstoke has been giving for years now. Thank you to those residents that got back to us on salt bins. Your suggestions have been forwarded with a request for salt bins in their area. However as the new development is not yet adopted it is up to the developer to provide them. This was disappointing to hear.

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

**Popley East:** I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. There really is only one issue under discussion at the moment: CUTS CUTS CUTS. Cuts to travel tokens, cuts to services, job cuts, and it looks like our waste collection may be run by Hart Council to save money (they have a poor track record for resource management but that hasn't stopped our Tory council from going ahead with it).

Balloons over Basingstoke has been cut. Jane and I opposed the cut, but there was a stitch-up over summer when the council allowed the organisers to walk away. Instead, the council wants to put all its efforts into a Basingstoke Festival incorporating Basingstoke Live.

Education budgets are expected to be cut. This could mean staff redundancies and the loss of extended school services. I attended a cluster meeting for Popley and Winklebury schools and there is an element of uncertainty over future course plans: the teachers are putting a brave face on it but a great deal of uncertainty has been caused by the new government.

Then there are benefits cuts, tax credit cuts, the Education Maintenance Allowance for 16-18 year olds is facing the axe. In fact, if you put all the cuts together, some hard working families could see their income drop by 10% in the next 2 years. The only thing that hasn't been cut is VAT. The VAT increase will make a pensioner couple £275 a year worse off and a couple with children £450 a year worse off.



Slimming World has returned to Popley at Melrose Hall, Abbey Road Wednesdays at 7.30pm Come along to not only lose weight, but to make new friends Please contact Hazel on 07796 158098 or [hazel.nickless@ntlworld.com](mailto:hazel.nickless@ntlworld.com) for more details, or just turn up.

#### WHATS ON:

- MONDAY:** 10.00am-12pm Friendly Café  
7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 4.00-9.00pm Petite School of Dance  
9.30am-2.30pm Pebbles Childrens Centre
- WEDNESDAY:** 10.00-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler Group  
9.00-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic  
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club  
7.30-9.00pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** 10.00-12pm Friendly Café
- FRIDAY:** 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.

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](mailto:Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk).

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

# SAMARITANS

## of Basingstoke

Our branch of Samaritans has been active in Basingstoke for the last forty years, thirty of which has seen us based at 5 Essex Road, RG21 7TA. Our Listening volunteers have been comprehensively trained to offer support to people who are in despair and distress and our Support volunteers help in the administration and fund raising for the branch. Samaritans, as a nationwide organisation, has an unparalleled reputation for providing **completely confidential, non-judgemental, 24/7** support. There are now 200 branches in the UK and Ireland but it all began in 1953 with one idea, one telephone and one man, the late Chad Varah.

Basingstoke is one of eighteen Centres serving the South area. Contacts are made by telephone, e-mail, text, correspondence and face to face visitors to a branch. By working together, these branches ensure that there is **always** somebody there to answer a call for help. Last year Basingstoke took eleven and a half thousand calls where dialogue was exchanged and answered the phone as many times again because it takes courage to speak and that welcoming voice might just be the one to make a difference. Nearly a thousand e-mails were sent and a hundred people came to our door. There are many support organisations which contribute to the needs of society but it is the fact that there is someone at the end of the phone in the middle of the night which makes Samaritans unique. In this age of ever increasing communication technology there are, in fact, far more lonely and isolated people than ever before. We **do not** give advice, we **listen**, and by doing this we help callers to come to their **own** conclusions and solutions. It is a privilege to have such trust placed in us.

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We work to achieve this Vision by making it our Mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicide feelings and suicidal behaviour.

Our branch runs efficiently thanks to the volunteers who willingly and enthusiastically commit their time in order to fulfil the requirements of regular duties but we need to raise funds to maintain our service. We must maintain our building, pay telephone bills, meet recruitment, retention and training costs and replace our communication equipment.

If you need **help** call us: 01256 462333 or 08457 909090. You can email us: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or you can write to us: Chris, P.O. Box 9090, Stirling, FK8

If you would like to find out more about becoming a **volunteer** call 07787 982720 or email [sandrayo@ymail.com](mailto:sandrayo@ymail.com) or see our website <http://www.samaritans.org/basingstoke/>

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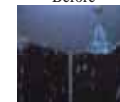
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## MERTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

One month into the year already and a busy start for our Spring Term. Lower School have had an exciting day out at the British Museum to see the Egyptian Exhibition which supports their current topic. Upper School have been busy creating their own diaries and are now enjoying a new topic of entitled 'Lurgies, Germs and Nasty Bits.'

Many children over the holiday received brilliant news. They were told that their poetry entry has been accepted into a Hampshire book to be published later this year. This is the first time Merton Juniors has entered this competition and we are very proud of all our winners. HUGE congratulations to all the children who entered.

### Thank you.

Although it seems a while ago now I would like to say thank you to the local residents and parents who supported our school and came to our Christmas Fayre. We raised a fabulous amount of money which will be put towards our new Epod room.

### Wanted.

We have a rabbit that comes into school every day called Horace. He prefers to be indoors and spends much of his time hopping around our library. Horace really needs an indoor hutch. If you have a hutch which is no longer in use but in good condition and would be prepared to donate it, please contact us. We will be able to collect.

If you would like information about Merton Juniors please pop in and visit us or contact us by phone. You will be very welcome.

Miss H. Palmer B.Ed (Hons) NPQH  
Head Teacher

Merton Junior School, Romsey Close, Basingstoke, RG24 9HB.  
Telephone: 01256 326573  
Email: [adminoffice@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk)

## Sherborne St John Parish Council

**December Meeting.** Another empty Hall for the December Meeting – so, are you still happy with the work of the Parish Council? Let us know, we are always pleased to get constructive feedback – [ssjclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:ssjclerk@btinternet.com)

**Bus Pass Scheme & Public Transport Survey** - There has been no confirmation of arrangements for the 2011 bus pass scheme; the HCC website states only that there will be a decision by 1<sup>st</sup> April. It is expected that HCC will provide bus passes only. The SSJ Parish Council Transport Survey will be circulated in March.

**Tree Belt on A340 / Rookwood Lane (Park Prewett)** – The Parish Council has received a letter from BDBC stating that the tree belt is now protected by a Tree Preservation Order. The Parish Council will write to BDBC thanking them for their action, and requesting that the length of belt be extended - at both ends

**Local Policing.** PCSO Geoff Furmor-Dunman introduced PC Graham Calver, our new community policeman (whilst WPC Edwards is on secondment). PC Calver is based at Basingstoke. Geoff F-D reported two issues - there have been 6 instances locally of people asking for money for petrol (etc) from passers-by; teenagers in Carpenters Down Woods continue to cause problems. The speed data recorder placed on Elm Road during May 2010 revealed that 85% of traffic was travelling at 35mph or less; the top speed recorded was 60mph. The recorder registered a total of 1,200 cars on weekdays, and 700 at weekends.

**Road Problems** – please note the website address for reporting road problems is [www.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems](http://www.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems). You can report problems direct to HCC – please do!

**Elm Bottom** - the drainage needs improvement; HCC say they will be dealing with this soon....

Chute Teenage Ball Play Area – the bad weather delayed the start of the site works; which will hopefully be in progress by the time this magazine is published!

**Homes Consultation** – the Parish Council made its submission to BDBC regarding the proposals for new houses 2011-2015. Did you? You can read the Parish Council's letter on the website - [www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk)

**Greening Campaign** – I'm sorry to say, it was a fairly poor turn out at the event in November. Great advice, free estimates, and that feel-good factor! Do get involved.

**More Severe Winter Weather!** – Not quite so bad as last year? Still a good reason for setting up local self-help groups. If you would you like to take responsibility for a team in your road, please contact the Clerk.

**Springfield House – Dark Lane Allotments.** The Parish Council is talking to the agents to see if all / part of the allotment land can be secured for the Parish.

**Litter Picking - Sheelagh Cooper** is our stalwart and much-respected litter picker. Unfortunately Sheelagh was off sick recently, so thank you **Eric Carter** for showing us what community spirit looks like - by collecting the litter from the bins that fill up the fastest. Please help to make Sheelagh's job easier – **Please Take Your Litter Home!**

**Next Meeting – 7.30pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February : SSJ Village Hall**

Julian Crawley  
Chairman



## Phillips' Legal Corner



### Question:

I need a solicitor – how on earth do I go about selecting one?

### Answer:

'Visiting a solicitor for the first time may seem a daunting experience but it need not be' says Sheila Glyn-Owen, solicitor heading up the Wills and Probate team at Phillips. 'The first step is to select one that's right for you. Recommendation from a friend or colleague is a good starting point, provided the firm specialises in the service that you need. There are useful websites too that offer a search facility for accredited firms, such as [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk). Take a look at your chosen firm's website, it can tell you a lot about their services and their approach. Look for the Lexcel kitemark, a mark of quality conferred by the Law Society and which certifies the law firm has met certain standards of quality.

Once you have selected a firm give them a call and they will be happy to direct you to the relevant member of staff who will advise you of any fixed fee interviews, the hourly rates and have a short preliminary discussion about your concerns.

### Preparing for your first meeting

Solicitors are highly trained professionals and are there to help you achieve what you want. The more preparation you can do before the meeting, the more you'll get out of it. Your solicitor will be able to advise you on your options, what the consequences of inaction are, and of any deadlines that must be met.

Make a list of your questions and the main points you want to make. Get together relevant paperwork and put it in some kind of order, such as date order, so you can refer to it quickly. This will make it easier for your solicitor to understand your circumstances and give you proper advice.

You may like to take someone with you for moral support and to help you remember what's said. Have any notes in front of you and don't be afraid to ask if anything is said that you don't understand. Your solicitor should be your most powerful ally, whether for business or personal matters, so you must trust them and show them all your relevant information. After your meeting your solicitor will send you a letter summarising your discussion, their advice and how much any future action may cost.

One last thing' says Sheila, 'bear in mind that it can be more expensive not to hire a lawyer than the cost of actually doing so. For example I see lots of unhappy relatives of deceased people who hadn't got a Will or had prepared a do-it-yourself Will as a cheap option, but whose wishes are unenforceable, resulting in great distress for their loved ones left behind.'

You can call Sheila Glyn-Owen on 01256 854637 or email Sheila on [sglyn-owen@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:sglyn-owen@phillips-law.co.uk)  
Find out more about our range of services at [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

## North Popley Accessibility Improvements

Phase two of the North Popley Accessibility Improvements is scheduled to commence at the beginning of April 2011. The first phase saw the addition of a series of pedestrian crossing points and refuge islands at several key locations on Popley Way and Carpenter's Down, which will now be complemented by a further series of works designed to reinforce what has been achieved to date. It will include additional crossing locations, the removal of several unused or unnecessary bus lay-bys and the addition of widened and upgraded footways along the length of both roads.

The intention of the overall scheme is to make it easier and safer to move around Popley. The speed limit will be permanently reduced to 30mph, road crossing made safer and upgraded routes provided for cyclists and pedestrians. The second phase will undertake the majority of the works in the scheme that are due to take place on the highway, which it is hoped will contribute to more people travelling without using the car for local journeys.

Phase three will subsequently commence in the autumn or winter of 2011 and will feature improvements to the North Popley residential estate, involving upgrades to the interior pathways and improvements to the urban environment more generally. Further details will be released nearer the time when more is known about time scales for this.

## Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Day

Marie Curie Cancer Care provides nursing for seriously ill people in the comfort of their own homes. Each year the main fund raising event is the Daffodil Day. Last year the generous shoppers at Chineham shopping Centre gave an incredible £855.24. Thank you so very much.

This year there will be collections in Festival Place and Chineham shopping Centre on the 5th March.

Sadly the late David Cockerill of Popley will not be able to assist us. His good cheer will be sadly missed.

Can you spare an hour to help on the day? If so please telephone 02380263123

# Blooming Good Offer

Sign up for this year's garden waste collection service before 1 March and have one additional sack collected at no extra cost while doing your bit to recycle more and waste less, is the message from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

For £28, residents who sign up to the scheme can have twice as much of their green garden waste collected in large hard wearing sacks every other Saturday for a total of 19 collections during the peak growing season.

The fortnightly 2011 collection service starts in March, just as gardens across the borough spring to life and keep their owners busy gardening, mowing lawns and trimming hedges, and continues until December.

Everything collected in the green garden waste bags is composted locally to produce bags of Pro-Grow, high quality organic soil conditioner to help gardens grow.

Last year nearly 4,000 people in the borough joined the scheme, sending an impressive 1,000 tonnes of garden waste for composting.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change Cllr Elaine Still said: "The green garden waste collection service is not only environmentally friendly - turning your old grass cuttings and hedge clippings into Pro-Grow - it is also a convenient and easy way to recycle your garden waste.

"This is a great offer and I hope it will encourage more residents to sign up to the green garden waste collection service to make sure this waste is recycled and not put in their grey bins."

Residents signing up to the scheme after 1 March 2010 will be charged £10 for each additional sack. There is no limit to the number of sacks a resident can have.

For more information or to sign up visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/greenwaste](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/greenwaste) or call 01256 844844.



*Basingstoke  
and Deane*

**AGE** HAMPSHIRE IN BASINGSTOKE  
*Concern*

## INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday 23rd March

10.30am - 1.00pm

St. Michael's Church Cottage

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Pop in to find out about ..... services, benefits, support, legal matters and leisure opportunities for older people & lots more.

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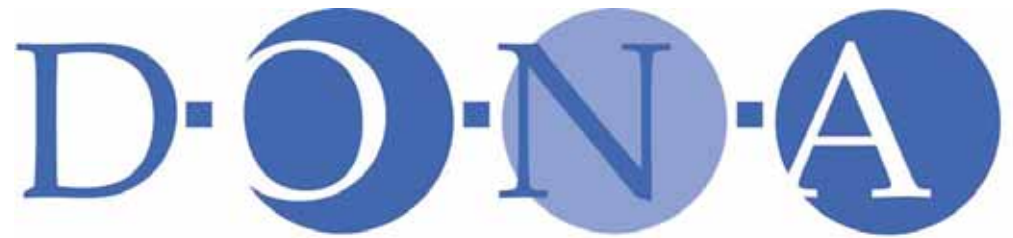
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Director of Nursing Awards

Director of Nursing Awards 2011

Director of Nursing, Donna Green, has this week announced the launch of the sixth annual Director of Nursing awards for Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Donna Green explained, "The purpose of these awards is to recognise and celebrate the hard work, achievements and real contribution nurses and midwives make to the care of our patients. We were really delighted last year with the continued success of these awards and are looking to build upon this again this year. We are really looking forward to hearing from everyone with their nominees for this year as these awards are coveted by our nursing and midwifery teams. I would personally like to encourage everyone to be involved by nominating individuals or teams who, in their eyes, really deserves this acknowledgement. It is often the small things that truly make a difference to our patients and their family and we would really like to hear about them."

There are two categories for nominations in any clinical area are:

- Individual nurse/ midwife
- Nursing or midwifery team

Nominations are welcome from members of the public or patients and can be made anytime from now until the end of May 2011. Nominating is easy - you can nominate online at the hospital website [www.northhampshire.nhs.uk](http://www.northhampshire.nhs.uk) or complete a nomination form available by calling Karen O'Hanlon on 01256 313435 or email [karen.ohanlon@bnhft.nhs.uk](mailto:karen.ohanlon@bnhft.nhs.uk).

In addition there are two special awards - The Rotary Club of Basingstoke Deane sponsor a rose bowl to award to the overall winner of their choice and the Ann Daniels memorial award sponsored by the Daniels family. All nominations will be reviewed by a panel, which includes patient representatives. The award ceremony will be held on Thursday 7 July 2011, 6.30pm at the Sherfield School.

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## The Old Codger



Well I start this month with my sad news, just before Christmas my dear Mum passed away. She had increasing dementia over the past 2/3 years so a happy release, but still sad. Then our little Yorkie CJ was taken ill. She was my best friend and confidante; she knew all my woes, worries and fears. We had her for just over thirteen years and she passed away on Boxing Day. The house was so empty without her as I walked around finding her toys. Every Christmas we get out a couple of fluffy Christmas teddies and a few times we both went to stroke these, thinking of her. I was brought up believing that God walked around the earth naming all the animals. A furry four-legged creature followed him on this journey and when God had completed his task the little animal said "You have named all the creatures except me." God turned to him and said "You have been faithful to me on this journey, so I have saved your name until last. I am going to name you after me, thus the name Dog came into being, This was CJ the most faithful dog a person can wish for. She helped me over the years since I have been ill, and she will be missed not only by our family but all who knew her.

I As a young man, I would go with all the family to the local Working Men's Club. All our community would use it and it was well supported. We do not have that community connection nowadays. There was never any trouble. It was a local working men's club and the locals would vet any person wanting to join it. If there were any infringements by the person or their guest they then would be banned from the use of its facilities, and so word got around that you can not get up to mischief. If it were the youngsters, the parents of that child would be responsible and so we could not only run a great club but also kids had their fun knowing that they were safe. This is how the Working Men's Clubs were run in the local community. At the moment with closing down of nearly all the local pubs this can only lead to more youngsters standing around on the streets. I say youngsters meaning 18 plus. The youngsters nowadays have nothing that doesn't cost an arm and a leg and this will be the continuation. No place to go to enjoy growing up in the environment of family life, to all go out and enjoy the evening as one unit. The police are run ragged chasing down kids on many estates. Look at the Tory, Labour or Liberal. They all run well and are thriving in the communities. A lesson to be learned perhaps?

Till next month take care the The Old Codger



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

## National Childbirth Trust NEARLY NEW SALE

The National Childbirth Trust are holding a Nearly New Sale on Sunday 13th March at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road from 11.30am until 2.00pm. NCT members can get in from 11.15am with a valid membership card. Entry is by donation (suggested £1 minimum). You will find everything you need for parents and children, from pregnancy to 8 years old. All the items are arranged into categories - we sell toys, books, clothes and equipment and there are literally thousands of items for sale. We have over 400 people through our doors at these sales so please do not bring pushchairs into the hall. We accept payment by cash, or by cheques with a valid cheque guarantee card (please check your card carefully as some banks no longer issue cheque guarantee cards). We are hoping to be able to offer limited facilities for payment by credit/debit card this time as well.

If you have items to sell, or if you want to volunteer to help, please check the website <http://nct.org.uk/in-your-area/basingstoke/NNS> - details will be posted in early February.

the **community**  
furnitureproject



The Community Furniture Project is a local charity, promoting the re-use of furniture, household goods, electrical items and toys at low cost to people in Basingstoke, Newbury and the surrounding towns and villages. It has recently expanded, doubling its size, enabling much more furniture to

be recycled and re-used in the community.

The Project has also launched a new scheme: Community Re>paint, a project co-ordinated nationally by Dulux, BIFFA and SWAP. Re>paint offers everyone somewhere to donate their usable leftover paint where it can then be redistributed to those who need it.

You can support the Community Furniture Project by:

- donating furniture and electrical goods
- buying low cost furniture
- volunteering and training with them

The Community Furniture Project (Basingstoke) is based at 6 Joule Road, Basingstoke, RG21 6XH. For more information, including opening times, making donations and purchases, please visit the Community Furniture Project website or call 01256 320700.

## Popley Spotlight Centre

We have some exciting new affordable activities taking place at the Popley Spotlight Centre in the Old Chineham Park Primary School building on Shakespeare Road.

Come and visit our charity shop and café which are open Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm daily and Saturdays 10am - 1pm, where you can meet new people and be welcomed by our friendly volunteers. All proceeds go to help local people in the Basingstoke & Deane Area and also supports a Children's Home in Uganda.

### AFFORDABLE ACTIVITIES FOR UNDER 5s

AFFORDABLE Activities for under 5s including Gym Tots with trained Gymnastic coaches on Monday mornings between 10-12pm, Funky Feet - dance classes for under 5s on Mondays 11-11.45am and Tuesdays 2-2.45pm, Parent & Toddler group with special needs provision on Wednesday mornings between 10am-12pm, Music Madness - songs and musical instruments for under 5s including story time and drink and biscuit on Thursday mornings 10-10.45am. Why not come along and make friends!!!! Please visit our website [www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk](http://www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk) for more information or call the centre on 01256 325420.

### ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITIES/ADHD/ASD

We have secured funding through Aiming High and Hampshire County Council to run a number of clubs and activities for Children and young people with special needs, disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and ADHD including Gym Tots on Mondays 10am-12pm, Gymnastics on Tuesdays 6-7pm for 8-16 year olds, Drop in and Play (parent supervision required) on Mondays from 3.30-6.30pm, Wednesdays 3.30-5.30pm and Thursday 3.30-5.30pm -come along and play on the Wiis, Xbox, Table Tennis, computers, toys and games and make friends....Dance classes for 4-7 year olds with special needs on Tuesdays 4-4.45pm and 8-16s with special needs on Tuesday 4-4.45pm and Drama and Games on Wednesdays 4-5pm for 4-7s with special needs and 5-6pm for 8-16s with special needs. We are also running a Youth Club for 12-16 year olds with ADHD and Autistic Spectrum Disorder on Mondays 7-9pm and Every other Friday night for young people aged 12-18 years with any long term illness or disability starting on Friday 21st January 2011 working alongside Mencap Basingstoke. Please visit our website [www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk](http://www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk) for more information or call the centre on 01256 325420. All activities are run by trained staff at working with children with special needs and children with disabilities and All staff have up to date CRB checks.

### FRIENDS CLUB FOR ADULTS - TUESDAYS 10.30am-2.30pm

We are also running activities for adults including our Friends Club on Tuesdays between 10.30am-2.30pm for adults who would like to come and meet new people and have a bit of fun. Why not come along and sing songs, do art & craft, chat in the cafe, play board games, play bingo. We have trained staff who work with adults with special needs and disabilities. Everyone is welcome.... Please visit our website [www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk](http://www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk) for more information or call the centre on 01256 325420.

### FRIENDS CLUB FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES - TUESDAYS 7-9PM

Come and make friends and have fun and games including music, bingo, Wiis, xboxs, playstations, art & Craft, computers, table tennis, pool table, table football.

### DANCE & FITNESS FOR ADULTS

Come and meet new people, have fun and get fit with our dance and fitness classes for adults. We run Street Dance for beginners on Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm and Dance Fitness on Wednesdays 7-8pm. All classes are at an affordable rate. Please visit our website [www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk](http://www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk) for more information or call the centre on 01256 325420.

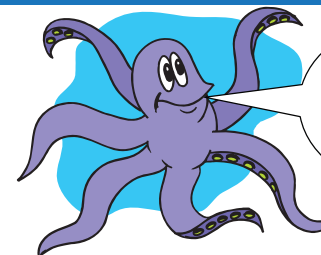
### THEATRE SCHOOL IN HALF TERM - 21st-25th February 2011

We are running a Theatre School for 4-16 year olds during February half term at very low cost running 9.45am-3.15pm Monday to Friday. Please visit our website [www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk](http://www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk) for more information or call the centre on 01256 325420.

Peace of Mind Care  
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Tel: 01256 325420

[www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk](http://www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk)

## Basingstoke Children's Centres



COME ON  
LET'S  
HAVE  
SOME FUN

**FREE**

For families with children under 8 who have additional, special or complex needs.

Siblings welcome

### Coach Trip to

## An Amazing Underwater World Picnic Party

Come with us and enjoy this exciting theatre experience - a treat for all the family!

Where: The Lights, Andover

When: Wednesday 23 February 2011

What time: Leave from Basingstoke Leisure Park at 10.30am.  
Return at 3.30pm

Additional information: Bring a packed lunch with you. No glass bottles please



Arranged transport will include three point safety belts

Booking is essential as places are limited. Please call **01256 357028** to reserve your seats

Children must travel in car seats appropriate to their age

Wheelchair users welcome



Places must be booked by Wednesday 16 February.

For further information and to book your place ring Pebbles Children's Centre on 01256 357028

For information and regular updates visit:

Website: [www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-centres](http://www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-centres)



[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)



## Happy New Year!

Pebbles Children's Centre would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year . If one of your resolutions is to get out more and do more with your under 5's, then Pebbles Children's Centre is waiting for you!!

We have lots to offer you from Numeracy and Literacy courses to Baby Massage and Cooking With Your Child. Call Pebbles on 01256 357028 email pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk or visit [www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc) for a full Spring term timetable.

### Colouring Competition

Thank you to all those who have already sent in their little one's finished coloured in pictures from the last issue of Popley Matters – if you haven't done so yet then there is still time to get them to us! Closing date is 14th February 2011 and the lucky winner from each age category will win a £10 Toys R Us voucher and have their photo published in the next issue of Popley Matters!

### Time for me!

A weekly group for parents and carers with children aged 0-8 years with special, additional or complex needs.

The group will have time for you and you'll hear from a variety of experts in the field.

Crèche available in KIDS nursery– please book your place in advance through Pebbles Children's Centre.

### February Half Term

Activities include MAD Academy, Messy Play, Crafty Rhyme time and more!! Call or email the centre to find out more.

For families with children under 8 who have a disability Basingstoke Children's Centres have organised a coach trip to An Amazing Underwater World Picnic Party in Andover This will be on **23rd February 2011**. Booking is essential so call Pebbles to put your name down.

### Dates for your Diaries

**14 February** Closing date for colouring competition entries.

**21 – 25 February Half Term** – separate timetable now available

**23 February** Coach trip to An Amazing Underwater World Picnic Party (for children under 8 who have physical or non-physical disabilities)

**28 February** Courses and groups resume

For full details, contact Pebbles Children's Centre on 01256 357028 email [pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk) or visit [www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc)

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



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## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

[www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk)

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

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



## Get a Smoke Alarm.

### Push the button, not your luck!

#### Positioning/Siting:

- ✓ The minimum recommended number of smoke alarms in the home is one per floor.
- ✓ Smoke alarms shouldn't be situated in or near bathrooms and kitchens as the steam and cooking fumes sets them off.
- ✓ Where possible, they should always be mounted on the ceiling not the walls as they don't work so effectively on the walls.
- ✓ Smoke alarms should be fitted at least 12 inches from walls, corners or light fittings.

#### Testing and Maintenance:

- ✓ You should test your alarm once a week by pressing and holding the test button until the alarm beeps for approx 2-3 seconds.
- ✓ Once every six months when vacuuming, use the nozzle to clean in and around the detector to remove dust and insects.
- ✓ If the smoke alarm beeps intermittently, this means that there is either a fault or the battery needs replacing (refer to manufacturer's manual).
- ✓ You should change the battery every year. Pick a date that's easy to remember, i.e. an anniversary or birthday

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)



Weekly meetings are back in swing and the Beavers have embarked on their latest craft project - making their own draught board. Most of the colony attended the District Beaver Scouts' Annual Party in Sarum Hall at the end of January. It's a very special year for Beaver Scouts this year as they celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beaver Scouting.



Six cubs from the Pack took part in the annual Cub Scout Chess competition at Base 2000 in January. They didn't manage to repeat the success of previous years but they enjoyed meeting up with other 'chums' from across the District. Next month they will take part in the Five-a-Side Football competition and have the opportunity to take part in Activity Badge Day to try out some of the more unusual activity badges.



Some of the older Scouts have recently become Explorer Scouts and have opted to take part in the Young Leader Scheme which not only aids their own personal development but also offers help with members in the younger sections. They have several 'missions' to complete before they can qualify to receive the coveted Young Leader buckle. Two new members are to be invested shortly.

New members welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5½- 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

Base 2000 is providing temporary accommodation for 'after-school' clubs from Fun House for several weeks as they seek to recover from a building flood.. A new twelve week Prince's Trust course for 1-25 year age group commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> January. Enquiries for bookings at Base 2000 should be made to [bookings@base2000.co.uk](mailto:bookings@base2000.co.uk) or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. One-off occasions, children's parties, meetings welcome and consideration will be 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 - come and join us!