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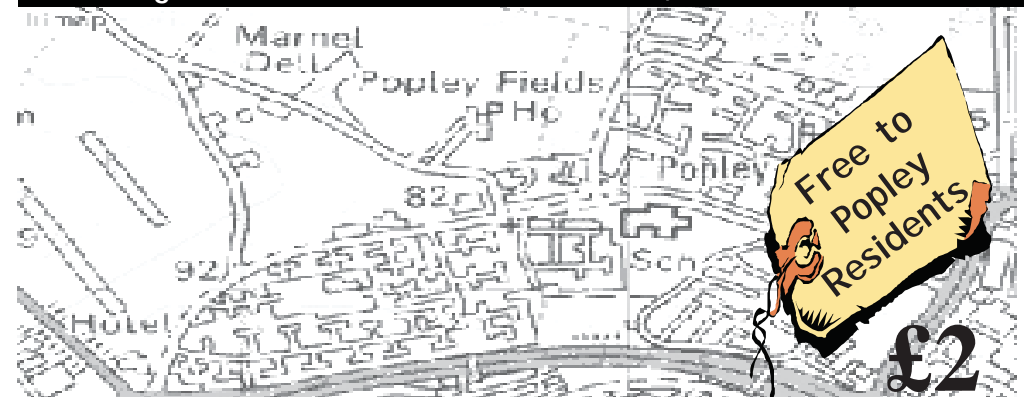
POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

August 2011

Distribution of 4,600

Issue 114



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-08-11)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- I am writing this Editor’s message as I sit by my dear husband Ken, in his bed at St Michael’s Hospice. Who knows what will have happened by the time this edition of Popley Matters has been assembled by Paul, then proofed and sent onwards to the printers and then finally delivered.

The care, that I and many others have received here deserve so many thank you’s from us all. It is a trying time for my family and we have found out who our true friends are. This is something that other families have been saying to happened to them. On page 4 there is information about the new second-hand furniture store that St Michael’s Hospice have established, located near Wade Road.

Page 1 is the report from the charity event ‘The Three Peaks Challenge’ that was written about two issues ago. Everest College students have also entered a competition, hoping to win the wonderful prize of a film to be made of the school. We wish you all good luck! Read about it on Page 32.

Terry Jones, the chairman of Popley Matters, has written about his visits to Minsk on Page 5. Perhaps we can persuade him to write a bit more about how the residents of Belarus live in their day to day lives.

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, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9EL.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

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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Everest Students Enter Film Competition

Recently two students from Everest made an application to a film competition. If successful, then a 3 minute film would be made at the school by the company showing why students think their school is so good at using modern technology to enhance student learning opportunities. This is a fantastic opportunity and below is the submission from two Year 9 students.



Our school is great because our students have access to modern technology. We have a room called The E:Pod, dedicated to giving us students the best opportunities to enhance our learning. This amazing room has Apple Macs, Nintendo DSs and HD cameras. We are able to use this equipment both inside and outside the classroom. For example, the DSs have specialised maths games on them; teachers use these games in lessons to improve our problem solving skills. Also, the cameras are a great tool for English and Drama classes; they boost our confidence, allowing us to analyse and improve our performance skills.

In addition to this wealth of technology, our school raises the bar for fundraising. This year we held a Fitness Challenge for the British Heart Foundation. We also did a variety of different events to raise money for Comic Relief, including 'Soak the Headteacher!' It is fund raising events such as these that allow us to bond with our teachers. We love that our teachers strive to be different; they push us to achieve and succeed but they also make learning fun. They really care about our future.

Our school should win for many reasons. Firstly, it would provide us with the opportunity to share our wealth of resources with the community; we could promote how access to modern technology makes us confident learners.

Secondly, if we received the help of the film crew, they would allow us to develop a new range of skills from the technology we already have. These skills could then be passed down to future students of the College. Thirdly, the film would allow us to share the achievements within our school with the wider community, for example, the fund raising we do as a College. Finally, we should win because our teachers deserve recognition for all of their hard work; we want to celebrate the support that they give us on a daily basis.

We should win because 400 words just isn't enough to express all of the great things that happen every day at Everest Community College. We have a story to share with the country.

Sam Vaughan and Hayden Johns
Julie S Rose
Headteacher

Three Peaks Challenge

On Friday 1st July myself, my brother Matt, good friend Dan and father Chris (driver), completed our Three Peaks Challenge, within 24 hours, that we had set ourselves in order to raise money for Basingstoke Children's Ward, G2, because of what they have done for our twins.

The boys were born in March 2009 and since then, have suffered many respiratory health problems and have been diagnosed with a condition called bronchomalacia. Due to this, and a few other health problems, they have spent many months in and out of the hospital in the last two years.

I originally came up with the idea of raising money for the Children's Ward as a way of saying thank you to the staff for all that they have done for my children, Noah and Freddie, myself and my wife, Gemma. I wanted it to be a challenge that would be difficult and require hard work and determination. When I talked about it to my family and friends, their reaction was great and at that point, my brother, friend and Dad offered to help join in the worthy cause.

We started our ascent at Ben Nevis at 5.30pm. The skies were clear and we were ready for our challenge to commence. This mountain was the biggest of the three and towards the start it was a tough, steep incline where it dawned upon us what lay ahead for the next 24 hours. It took us 4 hours 15 minutes, which was a great achievement. We soon got back on the road after a quick hot drink and dinner that my father had already prepared and a change of clothes.

We arrived at Scafell Pike at 4am after a long drive due to a couple of road closures. We quickly jumped out and got going. Surprisingly for the time of the day, there were lots of other people starting their walks. This mountain was relentlessly steep and rocky and took us 3 hours 15 minutes to complete. By now, we were starting to feel the tiredness kicking in but we were thrilled to be ahead of schedule.

After sorting out a few minor Sat Nav problems, we arrived at Snowdon at midday. Again, we were changed and ready to jump out of the car as soon as we arrived. At this stage our legs and knees were feeling it but we knew we had time on our side and just carried on with one foot in front of the other. It took us 4 hours to complete and our final time for the whole challenge was 22 hours and 28 minutes. At the final mark we had a glass of champagne waiting for us which was well deserved.

We all agreed that it was one of the best experiences of our lives, it was full of adrenalin, it was tough but it was well worth it, however, we never want to see another mountain again!

So far we have raised approx £2,650 which will go directly to the ward which beat our original target of £2,000. I'm very proud of what we have all achieved and without the support from our families and friends we wouldn't have managed it. A huge thank you goes to everyone who has sponsored us or who are still sponsoring us. www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/3peaksg2



News from Merton Junior School

Osmington Bay

At the end of June, 40 year 5/6 children and 6 teachers went to the Osmington Bay PGL camp. The children took part in a range of challenging activities from jumping off telegraph poles to building their own rafts and testing them out. Great fun was had by all!

Solar Challenge

Mr O'Hearn took year 6 children to take part in the Hampshire Solar Challenge recently. The children were challenged with creating and building a solar powered vehicle out of recycled products which they raced against other schools at the event. Although they didn't win the group really enjoyed themselves.

Grease Production

Year 5/6 are working hard on their end of year production of the classic 'Grease', complete with T Birds and Pink Ladies. All the children are taking part either as actors, singers or stage hands. They have been practising really hard to learn their lines and the songs. The performance for their parents will take place on Wednesday 20th July. It is going to be an amazing performance.

Ukulele

This term year 3/4 have been learning to play the ukulele through the Hampshire Listen2Me project. Each week the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in lessons involving singing and playing the instruments. They will be showing off their new skills to their parents on Wednesday 20th July. We will be continuing to take part in the project next year.

Hackwood Arts Festival

Eight children from across the school took part in the Arts Festival, making re-cycled paper products with artist Anita Bell. The children were first shown how pulp is made before then using the pulp to make their own sheets of paper. It was not easy as the paper mixture was difficult to release from the frame if it was too wet. Once they had established how to make one sheet, they then went on to use other materials to create colour and pattern. It was an enjoyable afternoon.



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Opening Times:
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at Onslow Close, just off Wade Road
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The new showroom will stock a large range of second hand furniture including sofas, dining tables, bed frames and book cases. A delivery service is available for a small charge.

Want to make a donation?

The Hospice is offering a free collection service and anyone with a potential donation should contact the furniture store on 01256 471191 or email smh.furniturestore@live.co.uk to book an inspection/collection.

Further information about the store can be found on the Hospice website www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk.

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MFC Popley Youth has taken a giant step towards achieving FA Charter Standard Status with the news that 8 of its coaches have been awarded their FA level 1 Coaching Badge. Chairman Lee Austen, Danny Oates, Chris Gordon, Dave Wright, Paul O'Shea, Russell Graves, Alec Matthews and Andy Williams gave up even more hours of their own time to complete the course at QMC and all 8 of them passed the final assessment in style.

The Club is forever in the debt of Cllr Jane Frankum, for without her none of this would have been possible. Cllr Mrs Frankum went out of her way to help the Club secure the funding for the course and it is thanks to her that the Club can now offer even greater standards of excellence to children from the local community.

In other news, at time of writing, the Club is about to stage its annual Tournament at Basingstoke Powerleague, up at Brighton Hill.

Sponsored by Sentinel and a charity event with the Samantha Dixon Brain Tumour Trust being the beneficiary, the event has attracted Clubs from all over the south of England and looks sure to be a huge success.

Cllr Mrs Frankum and the Committee of Popley Fields Community centre have been invited along as Guests Of Honour for the day,

The Club also has its own website now - the url is: www.mfcpopley.wordpress.com.

Designed and populated with content by Ian Davies, Club Secretary, the website promises to be a great resource to the Club.

Finally, the Club looks set to adopt the pitches at Everest Community College as their home ground for next season.

Everest Community Manager John Perrin has done a fantastic job in seeing the pitches are kept in excellent condition and, with the Club's commitment to playing a passing game, the surface there looks ideal.



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Social Club Members Shoot on Target

Members of the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Inter-Varsity Club (BNHIVC) discovered the delights of archery at the weekend at the Old Basing Archers Club. An active sports and social club, members took a morning taster session to learn the basics of how to shoot an Olympic style recurve bow. They were also demonstrations given of the different styles of bow from the traditional Longbow to the Modern Compound. Members also learned about the history of the Old Basing Archers Club which was founded in 1967 and provides facilities for members to receive tuition, improve their skills and compete in the sport of archery.

Basingstoke & North Hampshire IVC is a non-profit making sports and social club for professional and like minded people. As well as archery, the club organises many events including cinema trips, theatre, concerts, restaurants, walking, cycling, roller skating, climbing and much more. The club is a great way to make new friends and a hassle-free way to develop your social life in North Hampshire.

Shoot on target with the BNHIVC. To find out more visit: www.bnhivc.org , call 0844 587 1985, or email enquiry@bnhivc.org.



Summer Streetz is coming to Melrose Hall!!!! Every Thursday in August, Free activities for young people aged 11 to 17. For more information go to WWW.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/streetz.



WHATS ON:

- MONDAY:** 10.00am-12pm Friendly Café
7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 4.00-9.00pm AG Dance Academy
9.30am-2.30pm Pebbles Children's Centre
- WEDNESDAY:** 9.30-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
9.00-10.45am Quit Smoking Clinic
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
7.30-9.00pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** 10.00-12pm Friendly Café
- FRI DAY:** 10.00-11.30am Pebbles children's centre
6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00- 9.15pm age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9.00am-12.30pm AG Dance Academy
- 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. Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.



BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE TELEPHONE
BASINGSTOKE HANTS OFFICE: 01256 363156
RG24 9PE 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 363156)

- Monday evening - C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick boxing from 6:30- 8.00pm
Tuesday evening - Community Bingo doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm.
Finish around 9.45pm. (Light Refreshments available haltime)
- Wednesday evening - C.M.A Kick boxing from 7.00-8.30pm
Friday evening- Friday Club (children) 5.00-6.30pm
Sunday Afternoon- Christian Family Fellowship 4.00-6.30pm

THE HALL IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO HIRE FOR PARTIES ETC AT A VERY REASONABLE RATES. FOR DETAILS RING 01256-363156.

As you can see we have lots of activities going on already, we have also got a few ideas of things we can start up in the hall in the next few months (watch this space). Also I would like to thank everyone who supported us on Friday night at the Prize Bingo, once again a great night. The next Family Bingo Night will be the 11th November which will be the Christmas one Lots of great prizes. Put this date into your diaries. Once again thank you. Linda.

My Visits to Minsk

Minsk is the capital of Belarus, which is the most westerly republic of the former Soviet Union.

Belarus is bordered by Poland to the west, Lithuania to the north, the Ukraine to the south and Russia to the east and north east.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Belarus became an independent republic.

Russia is still widely spoken with Belarusian being encouraged and is now the official language. Most of the students I meet speak both languages.

My first visit to Minsk was in 1995 due to my interest in the history of the Second World War in general and the Russian campaign in particular. The Second World War is known as the 'Great Patriotic War' in all the countries of the former Soviet Union.

This war is deeply ingrained in the culture of Belarus. This is hardly surprising when you consider that one in four of the population of Belarus was killed, or died, during the Nazi occupation from late July 1941 to July 1944.

I now stay with Sergei, who speaks excellent English and his family. With Sergei's help I now travel around Minsk by trolley bus and Metro (their underground).

The Linguistic University invites me to meet teachers and students of English, make recordings of everything from Shakespearian sonnets to single words (this is for the sound of words), help post-graduate students with their projects and edit the latest textbook the Professor of English is constantly updating!

The Pedagogical University invites me to meet the teachers and students and I have also made recordings for this university in the past.

The Belarusian State University is another university I'm invited to again meet the teachers and students.

More recently, I also now visit Radio Belarus to participate in English language broadcasts and assist in English language broadcasts and assist in their translations from Russian into English.

People in Minsk speak English! I become involved in heated discussions with taxi drivers over which football team is better, Manchester United or Liverpool!

I'm currently preparing for my next trip in the middle of October!

Terry Jones, Chair of Popley Matters



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New rules mean it's now an offence to keep a vehicle off a public road without insurance. This applies even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway, garage or kept away from your home address.

From the end of June 2011, if your vehicle appears to be uninsured, you will receive a letter telling you that you are uninsured. The letter will ask you either to insure your vehicle or check your insurance company has correctly entered your insurance policy details on the Motor Insurers' Bureau database (MIB).

If you fail to insure your vehicle within a specified time, you face: a fixed penalty fine of £100, reduced to £50.00 if you pay early, having your vehicle clamped, seized and destroyed or being taken to court. The new rules apply to most vehicles. However, you won't have to insure your vehicle if:

- you have a valid Statutory Off Road Notice (SORN) or
- your vehicle has been kept off a public road since before 1 February 1998 or
- your vehicle has been scrapped, stolen or exported and you have notified the relevant authorities
- your vehicle is in between keepers
- your vehicle is held in stock by an authorised motor dealer.

For more information about what to do as a vehicle keeper, how to check the MIB database and how to apply for a SORN, go to the MIB website at www.stayinsured.askmid.com

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 – one Tuesday morning per month 10am-1pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley

CAB Outreach Buckskin – one Monday morning per month 10am-1pm at The Ridgeway Centre, off Buckskin Lane

CAB Outreach South Ham – one Wednesday morning per month 10am-1pm at Westside Community Centre, Paddock Road.

Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at www.adviceguide.org.uk



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We'll be there between 2pm & 4pm on:
16 August 2011 18 October 2011
20 September 2011 15 November 2011



Sentinel

www.sentinelha.org.uk
facebook.com/sentinelha

Councillors Page: As your County Councillor I have the chance to help our local clubs and groups with small grants. The application forms are on the Hampshire County Council site www.hants.gov.uk or you can obtain them from me.

Some of the grants I was able to enact were for the Get With programme at Everest Community College. Marnel Football Club also had a grant to professionally train three coaches. I also gave a grant to Melrose Hall for new tables. Amongst other grants.

The Boys Brigade needed a replacement Cook Tent for when they go on camps, and Everest Health and Fitness got a grant to set up a GP referral unit to help people achieve better health. Another good news story is that the formal 30mph traffic order is in place, just in time for the school summer holidays. Both Popley Way and Carpenters Down badly needed to see traffic slow down.

It never ceases to amaze me that people drive so fast on estate roads and that they would rather rush through estate roads than use the Ring Road especially after spending so much money on improving it to make it quicker to use it.

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: August is traditionally a "quiet" month in the Council's calendar but as usual we seem to get more planning applications around that time. Guess they hope that they can be rushed through. But ever watchful we have picked up the 450 in Kiln Farm fields and a conversion from a family home to two conversions in Selby Walk flats in Selby Walk. The last two were refused and one appealed and the inspector accepted our submission. The residents around that area are totally against for several reasons including parking. We are concerned that the flats are taking away another family home when we have so many families desperate for their own home. We have raised our objections so lets hope that the officer recommends refusal as we will fight this application. We have yet to hand in the petition against the 450 more houses crammed by the side of Jersey and Guernsey Closes as they have withdrawn the meeting that was to be held to discuss this and other housing numbers. Watch this space!

Popley East: This month I made my maiden speech in the council chamber. I used this opportunity to present a petition to the Council on behalf of residents in Lawrence Close calling for more car parking spaces. Currently there are 46 properties in Lawrence Close but only 26 car park spaces. Residents have informed me that they frequently have nowhere to park and the situation has sometimes led to neighbourly disputes. From my time spent on the doorstep over the election, I know that lack of parking spaces is an issue right across the ward and this is something that I intend to take up. However, the Tory-led council has recently cut £84,000 from the Parking and Access Scheme budget, which pays for parking improvement schemes such as those needed in the ward.

In other news, it is my understanding that David Wilson Homes wish to formally put in their planning application to the council to build 450 homes on the land at Kiln Farm next to Jersey and Guernsey Closes in September. Along with many local residents, I am opposed to these plans. I am not against development but Popley has had more than its fair share in recent years and it is time to say enough is enough. A reminder that if you want to object to these plans, please write to Giorgio Frammalicco, Head of Planning at the Council to stop the land at Kiln Farm, known as BAS104, from being allocated for development.

If you would like to contact me about an issue of concern or anything else that I might be able to help you with, please call me on 07834818489 or email me at Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk.

The Popley SPOTLIGHT Centre

The summer holidays are upon us! We have so much going on here at The Popley Spotlight Centre and in other areas across Basingstoke & Deane.

We are doing Theatre Schools (Dance, Street Dance, Drama & Singing) shows in a week across all five weeks, Gymnastic clubs, Dance Boot camps & more..! All from just £30 for the week! Places are limited so please book your place.

We are also doing individual activity sessions for just £2 each which includes Dance, Street Dance, Singing, Stay & Play, Sports and more..! These sessions do not need to be booked, please turn up on the day.

If you want to know more about our summer timetable please visit The Popley Spotlight Centre and pick up a programme, call us on 01256 325420 or visit our website.

Fingers crossed for some summer sunshine!! ☺

We are also very excited about the re-launch of our café and charity shop – to be renamed The Spotlight Charity Shop and Kath 's Corner Snack Bar. All proceeds go to charity and to supporting the local community.

Open daily from 10am.

www.popleyspotlightcentre.co.uk

peaceofmindcare@hotmail.co.uk

01256 325420

Shakespeare Road, Popley, Hants, RG24 9BP

Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Priorities from July until October



2011

1) Drug related issues in and around Abbey Road

2) ASB and drug issues in Priestley Road

3) ASB on school sites



To have a say on future priorities contact the
Popley Beat Team on:
0845 045 45 45



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All sections have been really busy and are now preparing to wind down for the end of term! We are going to be having a joint fun evening/ awards ceremony on our last night. The Beavers and Cubs joined with 3 other districts for a fun day at Popham airfield which involved climbing, circus skills, (a weird contraption pictured above that I do not know the name of, but looks fun!). It did rain but a good time was had by everyone who attended!

The Cubs have been out a lot this term with a joint visit to the fire station. They also have been to the police station and Pets at Home! A big thank you to all of these places for making us feel so welcome and providing the Cubs/Scouts with the information needed to complete their badges. The Cubs also attended the super hero themed District Cub Camp at Chalfont Heights. As you can see from the photo below we even had a surprise visit from the Incredible Hulk and Captain America *cough, cough*



The Scouts have been busy completing their Emergency Aid badges and are preparing for a trip to Basing House to complete a quiz to complete their Local Heritage badge. An update of this and all the other activities we have planned for the end of term will be in the next issue when we return in September!

If you are interested in joining in with us, whether you be a young person or an adult wishing to help deliver the programme (And occasionally dress up as a super hero!) please phone Martin (Scout Leader) on 07854860895



Boys & Girls 6-8

Tuesday 5pm-6.00pm

(All meetings held at St Gabriel Church Hall, Tewksbury Close during term times)

Facebook: facebook.com/1stpopley www.1stpopley.freeorg.com

Page 10



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½

6.00pm-7.30pm



Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15

7.30pm-9.00pm

AGE HAMPSHIRE IN BASINGSTOKE
Concern

INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday 21st September

10.30am - 1.00pm

St. Michael's Church Cottage

Age Concern will be joined by many organisations of interest to older people. Why not join us for a cuppa & a chat? Everyone is welcome. Lots of useful information available.

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

No parking on site.

Event organised by Age Concern.

Tel: 01256 423874

Reg. Charity No. 290874



Assisted by
Basingstoke
and Deane



Phillips' Legal Corner



Question: What are you risking if you and your partner choose to live together?

Answer:

'If you and your partner choose to live together it is important to know that you are potentially at risk if you don't make some arrangements over your shared property and assets,' warns Rob Parker, one of the family solicitors at Phillips 'because you have almost no rights compared to those who are married or in a civil partnership.'

Increasing numbers of couples are moving in together and believe they have 'common law' rights but at the moment the law does not recognise such rights and you do not have an automatic entitlement to maintenance, pension or claims on property if you split up. Worse still, if you stay together and your partner dies, the estate may not automatically pass to you and, unless there is a will, you may find yourself treated the same as a housemate or friend, however long you've been together.

However this may be about to change: judges at the Supreme Court are deliberating a case, *Kernott v Jones*, of an unmarried couple who separated years ago and one has made a claim for a larger share of the jointly-owned property. The outcome of the Supreme Court's decision will have great significance for separating couples as well as for unmarried couples setting up home together, including those who are looking to buy a house together and want to own it in different shares, or for someone who already owns a house and is arranging for a partner to move in.

'It's a minefield,' says Rob, 'trying to advise clients about what potential claim a former partner does or does not have against a house which was jointly owned or in one person's sole name, in the absence of any formal document recording their intentions.'

'The question in the mean time,' concludes Rob 'is how best to protect yourself. So if you don't want to be left out in the cold if you separate or your partner dies, then my advice is think about the practical consequences, seek legal advice and depending on your circumstances take out a cohabitation or separation agreement, or a declaration of trust and a will.'

Rob Parker, family solicitor at Phillips, direct line 01256 854676, email: rparker@phillips-law.co.uk

A study by the Office for National Statistics found that couples who live together are twice as likely to break up as married partners. The survey of hundreds of thousands of families found that four out of five married couples were still together after ten years, but in the same period two out of five cohabiting couples had parted. The study was based on more than 750,000 couples who filled in the census in 2001.

SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

June Meeting Between 50 -55 Parishioners attended the meeting. An all-time record I am told.

Matters rising from the meeting held on 23rd May.

Church path repairs will be carried out during August by HCC.

The council are disappointed that the HCC will only provide more chevrons on the A340 at Cranes Road. No further improvements will be made to Elm Bottom as well. The Clerk will contact HCC to remind them that they promised the work in the past.

WPC Edwards and PCSO Rickaby visited Cranesfield to give the children guidance on cycling safely on the road.

Open Forum.

Cllr Cooke (with the agreement of Janet Page) presented the reasons why the post office and shop were advertised for sale. In essence her business is becoming less profitable. Janet and her family have therefore been forced to extend their hours to substitute for paid employees in order to maintain sufficient profits to service the mortgage. As a result it is hard to balance very long hours with family life and commitments. Janet is reluctant to sell and leave the village but feels she has no choice. Ideally Janet would like to remain as postmistress in Sherborne St John if the business can be made more profitable and her and her family's hours can be reduced.

An in depth discussion took place on the future of the Village Shop/Post Office. It is very obvious that all the people attending did not want the village to be without the facility. Cllr Cooke proposed that a "Friends of the SSJ PO" sub-committee be formed from experienced village volunteers. It's mandate to identify tactical changes to improve profitability, to develop longer term plans and to liaise with Janet.

Lych Gate for the Cemetery.

As a grant from BDBC of 50% of the cost has been offered, council voted to proceed with the project.

Marnel Park/Merton Rise.

Cllrs Agnew, Abraham and Eales attended a meeting chaired by Curtin & Co for the developer, David Wilson Homes.

Curtin & Co were aware that a significant majority of people were not in favour of more development in this area. They asked for ideas to make the development more acceptable. Suggestions were made for community centres, efficient transport facilities and links as well as the types of houses.

Travellers.

Long discussion took place regarding the danger of traveller's occupying sites in the village. It was felt that we were not a good target for them and whatever locks and obstacles are placed, they would be broken and moved to gain access.

Syd Abraham
Parish Councillor



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CHARITY CYCLE RIDE 2011

12th of June????? It was more like the 12th of December. The rain lashed down and the wind howled. But, remarkably, 20 hardy souls turned out to ride and raise £200 for local charitable use. It doesn't take a genius to work out that many gave more than the basic entry fee of £6. Thank you all very much. Donald Jack, our eldest rider (79) who did the 30 mile route last year, decided that discretion was the better part of valour this year and restricted himself to the 20 mile route.

We have to thank Fyffes for supplying us with the bananas for the pit stop. There were far more than we could use. So, the excess went to a refuge where we they were truly appreciated.

A reporter and photographer from the Gazette turned up at the start just as one of the riders was placing her pet puppy in her pillion pannier to take it on the ride. The dog enjoyed it and so did the rider. They got their moment of fame!

As far as I can tell 12 riders did the 10 mile (time to come clean – it's actually 14 miles) and 20 mile routes. 3 did our traditional 30 mile route while 5 had a go at the new 33 mile route. All returned safely, some steaming gently while others shivered. There was the usual complaint about “hills” from a certain quarter. But, you have to realize that if you are going to ride the Downs there are definitely going to be Ups.

If you are interested in our other charity fundraising activities you might like to take a look at our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk/ where you will see that we have “Sensation”, a first class ABBA tribute group due to perform for us on 24 September at Queen Mary's College and the Hampshire Constabulary Band (no plodders this lot) who will again perform for us at the same venue on 5th November. Tickets to both events are available from John Lincoln tel. 01256 325280.

Many thanks for your support.

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Diaries From The Old Codger



WAS IT WORTH IT? Why do I say that? Well this is the first full summer since the build on the Poets was finished,. During the build they had to make new parking bays in Dryden. They cut one of the trees down to create two parking bays and they were about to cut down another when I went out to stop them doing so and they agreed to leave the tree where it was! Not long after they were told by our Council they must make one more parking bay and so one morning they fenced the area off and cut the other tree down leaving just one tree in this area. "Why?" Do you ask. What am I going on about it for? The birds. For the last thirty years I have had goldfinches, chaffinches, and green finches in the garden. They would all nest in these trees. I pointed this out to the builders on the regeneration. I would then feed right through the summer and into winter. This year they are gone. No longer do I hear their sweet calls in the day nor do I see their young coming into the garden to be fed by the adults and all for a PARKING BAY. So I would like to thank our caring local Council and Housing Association for driving our wildlife out of the area. It shows to me that no matter what the public, say they do not give a damn. I hope they are very happy in what they have done to this small part of Basingstoke by building house after house, cramming in as many as they can as long as they do not have buildings going up in their neat little villages. We will not stop them as they turn over even more areas into housing. Deer and many rare moths and butterflies use the meadows by Kiln Lane, yet they are not worried as long as it is not in their lovely little village. People take walks in the woodland that could now be earmarked for yet more houses. In the woods we have buzzards, deer, hares, rabbits and many rare insects but hey, who cares as long as they build over the Popley area and not in their lovely villages. So this is the OC this month but I know a lot more will be said in time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the editor and her family at this very difficult time. Thank you all for your commitment in getting this edition out in spite of your personal circumstances.

The Old Codger

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

www.base2000.co.uk

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

Group Scout Leader - Colin Karlake (01256) 410559

Beavers: Eve Alexander 01256 346510 07790 018 171

Cubs: Elaine Devenport 01256 323453

Scouts: Andy Welham Jones 07971 491 145



Not much time for writing this month.

Lot's going on and lot's more to do before we break for the summer!

Cub District Camp at Chalfont Heights was super . Go-karts, climbing and never a dull moment! 75 Cubs from across the District including 15 air cubs enjoyed themselves to the full.



Quad-District Fun Day at Popham was almost a washout but not enough to mar anyone's zest for fun and challenge as can be seen.

Scout section has been free-running and hiking in Basing Woods and building bivouacs. Summer Camp will be at Lyons Copse this year. Yet more adventure! Here we go again!

Sections close for the summer break at the end of July and reopen week commencing 5th September. New members welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers (aged 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 8) and Cubs (aged 8-10 $\frac{1}{2}$) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14) on Friday. Contact section leaders as above for times. Explorer section for those aged 14-18 - contact Group Scout Leader .



Enquiries for bookings at Base 2000 can be made to bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559. 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!

Over 55s Forum

The August Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th August 2011 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, time 10.00am to 1.00pm. Speakers are Donna Green (Hospital- Care of the Elderly) Ian Kennedy and (Hampshire Basics) plus a presentation from Alex Burn HCC and launch of the Over 55s booklet (BDBC). New members are always welcomed.

The Variety Show to celebrate the "International Day for Older People" on Saturday 1st October 2011 at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke. Time 2pm to 5pm refreshments included - price £5 per ticket. Tickets from Age Concern, Oakridge Hall For All, BDBC and myself 01256 412119 or 07792535116. Acts are Boyle O'Dowda Irish Dancers, Testbourne Community School Concert & Big Band, Park View Junior School Choir (Some songs sung in sign language for the deaf), Zara King (17 year old singer) and the Carnival Chorus. All local performers. Comper impressionist Christopher Gee (I have seen him and he is good). Should be a brilliant afternoon of entertainment. Gerald Mermit

Marnel and Merton Community Group

Inconsiderate parking, speeding through the development, dog behaviour and fouling are three of the key issues raised by residents.

The answers came top in a consultation of likes and dislikes launched by Marnel and Merton Community Group during The Big Lunch event in June. The answers will help the group form its Community Plan to improve and enhance the area for residents.

Following the success of The Big Lunch, Marnel and Merton Community Group will be hosting a Halloween themed event on Saturday, 22 October. More details will be announced nearer the time so remember to put the date in your diary!

For more information or to get involved find us on Facebook or email marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk

New Year About to Start at Linguatastic

It's the end of another academic year and several of the children who attend our pre-school groups are about to start big school. Although we shall miss them at these morning sessions, we are delighted that most of them will be keeping up with the second (or third) languages they have become so familiar with and join us at our after-school language clubs. Pre-schoolers and older children have had a busy term at Linguatastic, participating in the Old Basing Carnival, picnicking in Great Binfields Primary School's woodland and enjoying sports activities together and teaching other children and adults new words in other languages at the Olympics Day at Queen Mary's College. We have all had a lot of fun whilst learning and look forward to meeting again after the long summer break. We'd like to wish our friends who are starting school or moving away, all the very best and hope that all pupils have a lovely holiday. If you would like to find out more about the French, Spanish, German, Mandarin or Italian sessions we run, please visit: www.linguatastic.com or telephone 811100.



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Crime Prevention Advice

Thefts from vehicles

We would like to make you aware that there have recently been incidents of thefts from vehicles in your area.

Our aim is not to scare you, but to raise your awareness, and to ask you to be extra vigilant. Your vehicle is a shop window to a thief; it only takes a few seconds to steal property, even if an alarm is fitted.

Please help us to help you by ensuring your vehicle is secured and any item of value is removed when you are not present. The vast majority of these thefts are opportunist; offenders who take advantage of vulnerable vehicles – those that are left insecure or that have items on display.

To reduce the risk of being a victim of car crime, motorists are urged to take the following simple precautions:

- Make sure the doors of your vehicle are locked and the windows and sunroof shut, no matter how hot the weather.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a well used area, and if you have a garage try to use it. Make sure it is parked in a location where it is in clear view of other members of the public, not obscured from sight and therefore more vulnerable.
- Wherever possible, do not leave anything in your vehicle, including in the boot.
- Make sure you do not leave a jacket or coat behind when you leave the vehicle. It may be of very little value to you, but a thief may think it has been used to hide a laptop or handbag and break into your car to find out.
- If you have a removable music system, take it with you - don't forget to take your CDs as well.
- Make sure you do not leave documents in your vehicle which have your address on.
- If you have a satellite navigation system, take it with you – don't forget to remove the cradle and wipe the suction marks from your windscreen. Do not store your home address on your device – if you do, save it under a different location.

Report any suspicious activity to the police on 101 or anonymously via the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

For further advice please contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team on 101 or visit www.hampshire.police.uk and type in your postcode to find our local policing pages.

For non emergencies dial 101, in an emergency dial 999.

Speak to your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team when you see them out and about.



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Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Hello to all our Popley Residents, we hope this message finds you well. We would just like to take this opportunity to give you a brief update on what is occurring in and around Popley and the work your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team are doing to keep Popley safe.

The new Community priorities for Popley are:-

Drug dealing: Abbey road and adjoining areas.

This was voted a core priority by members of the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel due to the ongoing concern from residents about drug use in these areas. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team have conducted a number of stop searches and arrests relating to drug use and supply in and around the Abbey Road area. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team will continue to patrol the area but we are requesting any residents who have any information relating to drug related activity in the area contact us with this information.

Anti-Social Behaviour: Priestley Road.

This was voted a core priority by members of the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel due to an increase in reports of Anti-Social Behaviour on Priestley Road. The reports include Anti-Social Behaviour at the flats and apartments on Priestley Road where residents are reporting varied accounts of neighbour disputes. We would like to remind all of our residents to be courteous and respectful to neighbouring properties and their residents. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team are working with the various housing companies to solve long term neighbour disputes. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team have also seen an increase in cycle thefts and attempted cycle thefts. If you own a bicycle and reside in the flats or apartments please ensure they are securely locked and stored in the bike sheds provided.

Anti-Social Behaviour: School sites

This was voted a core priority by members of the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods

Panel due to the potential for Anti-Social Behaviour on School sites over the summer holiday period. Historically schools in Popley have suffered thousands of pounds worth of damage caused by youths loitering, playing and climbing on school property. Please can all parents ensure that their children do not go on school sites and buildings without permission in order to prevent their children being a possible suspect to any damage which may be caused. Entering school sites without permission is Civil Trespass and, as such ,Hampshire Constabulary and the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team will support the schools with any potential prosecution. If any youths are found on school sites without permission their details will be taken and a Trespass Warning letter will be issued. If a youth is found on more than one occasion on school sites, the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team will work with our partner agencies to consider an Acceptable Behaviour Contract agreement on this person.

Other News:

The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team would like to make residents aware of the following occurrences.

- *Theft of lead from the roofs of garages - Islands
- *Garage break ins - Timor Close, Malta Close

Please ensure that you keep an eye out for yours and your neighbours sheds and garages. If you own or rent a garage please ensure that no valuable belongings are left in the garages. Please try to ensure that you do not advertise bicycles or motorcycles as this may encourage breaks-ins the area.

Kind Regards

Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team

PC 20686 Dan Carter, PC 20596 Chris Brindley, PCSO 13284 Phil Rapley,

PCSO 14587 Sarah Danks

Popley East Safer Neighbourhoods Team

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