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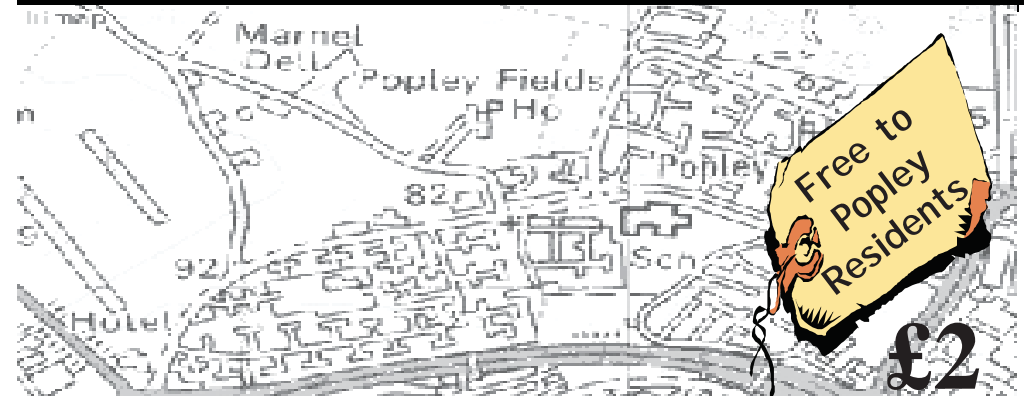
# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

October 2011

Distribution of 4,600

Issue 116



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (18-10-11)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** Firstly thank you to all the kind people that have sent their condolences and cards. We are missing Ken very much but he was so determined that we as a family continue with our work in and for Popley.

Page 1 is the report from the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel that consists of Residents, Police and Councillors. We need more residents to get involved so that it is the residents themselves that will determine what the three priorities for the next three months should be. Contact details are on that page.

Bonfire Night is very close and I expect we will have the usual firework displays that are supervised. The concern is the safety of the ones in back gardens, and what seems weeks of people letting off fireworks. Please be careful and read page 18 with safety hints from our Fire Service. If you are also thinking about lighting Chinese Lanterns, can I point out that some burn for twenty minutes and therefore you don't know where they may land spilling the hot candle wax. They are a potential hazard. I saw a photo of a young child badly burned on his face.

There is a small report on the prospects for building on Kiln Farm on page 28. I suspect there maybe a lot more to be said and done within the next few weeks.

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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# Beckie's Column

Everyone's back into the school routine now. We Ambassadors are doing our duties now at break and lunch and we are starting to come up with things to help out the other Years.

Our studies are more important now as it's our last year. We only have about 28 weeks left at school! It's going to go really fast! We have colleges to apply for and more subjects to choose there. I thought it would be a really easy choice as there are only a few subjects I really like but now there are loads I want to carry on with in college. Hard choices! There's a lot more homework as well; I seem to be spending a lot of time in my room completing it all.

It's getting colder now, isn't it? Autumn time. Loads of coloured leaves falling from the trees (ready to go in my art book!) and Halloween coming soon. Who's going out Trick or Treating this year? We went to a shop in Reading which was full of good Halloween stuff. There was a great display including floating ghosts, one of which we brought home because it was "cute".

Speaking of shops and festivals, has anyone seen that the shops are already stocking for Christmas? That's a bit early isn't it? I haven't even started to think about Christmas presents yet! I wonder what Christmas decorations will go up in the new sheltered bit in town, which looks really good.

Talk to you soon!

Beckie



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## Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team:

### Community update:

To all our residents, we hope that you have enjoyed your summer, and that you managed to get a well earned break. Anti-Social Behaviour over the summer holidays was lower than in previous years, with less reported incidents than 2009 - 2010. We would like to thank those of you who have reported incidents of ASB to us. This has helped the Safer Neighbourhoods Team to work alongside our partner agencies to prevent further ASB occurring. A way in which we have been dealing with reported ASB is to place those responsible on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). Those placed on the contract have conditions they must follow, such as areas they cannot go to, and Curfews. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team have also issued £80 Fixed Penalty Notices to those committing ASB. Please continue to report ASB to the 101 number.

Over the summer we saw a slight increase in bicycle thefts, particularly in the Poets, and new estate areas of Popley East. We would like to take this opportunity to advise all of our residents who own bicycles to please follow the steps below.

\* Please ensure your bicycle is locked and secured at all times when not in use. Even if your bicycle is in a designated bike storage shed, it is essential it is still locked.

\* Make a note of your frame number. This is usually located on the underside of the bike and will make it easier for Police to recover.

\* Take a photo of your bicycle, so that, if it is stolen, we have a clear description of what we are looking for.

Several arrests have been made throughout Popley in relation to drug activity. The arrests have occurred in Abbey Road, and Priestley Road which are both current PSNP (Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Panel) core priorities. If you are interested in joining, or you would like more information about the work of the PSNP, please contact PC Dan Carter on the details below.

With Halloween fast approaching, and Bonfire Night, we would like to remind all of our residents to stay safe and be considerate towards other members of your community. If you have children who are considering "Trick or Treating" over the Halloween period, please be considerate towards residents, especially those displaying "No Trick or Treat" signs. The Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team are committed to ensuring ASB stays low, especially over this period, and we are appealing to residents to assist us in monitoring their children. With regards to fireworks, please remember that in no circumstances should fireworks be let off in a public place. Fireworks which can be purchased from the local shops, and should only be used in your garden (facing away from a main road) or a licensed, or approved public showing. SNT have previously issued £80 fines for using fireworks that breach these conditions, so please bear this in mind.

Finally, the Safer Neighbourhoods Team would like to thank residents who attended the Pebbles Children Centre community event. The event was a great success, and you may have seen either PC Dan Carter or PCSO Phil Rapley posing for photos with the children of our community. Everybody had a chance to dress as Police Officers on the day. Photos of the day can be seen on the PSNP website [psnp.zapd.net/](http://psnp.zapd.net/)

If you have any issues or would like to talk to a member of the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team, please contact us on the details below. Alternatively for those of you with Twitter accounts, you can now follow us at @PopleySNP.

Regards

PC Dan Carter - PCSO Sarah Danks - PC Chris Brindley - PCSO and 13284 Phil Rapley

Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Basingstoke Police Station, London Road, Basingstoke. Hampshire RG21 4AD Tel: 0845 0454545





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THE new season is under way and MFC Popley Youth's teams have already been acquitting themselves with credit.

At Under 7s, Manager Andy Williams has done an awesome job and has an impressive 21 players - Daniel Ballard, Alfie Mosdell, Jack Savory, Frankie Smith, Brendan-Lee Pitt, Callum Piper, Kobain Collingwood, Alfie Kitchen, Jac Walsh, Luke Davies, Archie Oliver, David Gambrell, Jason Charles, Oliver Turner, Luke Barnes, Mamadou Jallow,

Lennon Latorre, Joseph Poynter, Lucas Stenning, Bradley Whitwell and Ethan Rolfe - signed up. The boys are all showing great promise and are looking forward to their first season playing Peter Houseman Youth games.

At Under 9s, Manager Lee Austen's boys have made a fab start with a comfortable 3-1 win in their opening Peter Houseman Youth League match.

And at Under 11s, Manager Danny Oates's lads made the best possible start by going all the way to Bournemouth to beat Bournemouth Youth Sports FC 5-1 in the First Round of the Hampshire Cup.



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## A View from the Fire Station.

It is pleasing to report a steady downward trend in nuisance fires in the Popley area this summer and generally throughout Basingstoke. This is as much a success of our education programmes

and supporting the local authority events run through the summer holidays to occupy young people. However we cannot rest on past success and must look ahead to a traditional time of festivities and a busy period for the emergency services. Halloween and Bonfire Night are within the same week period and much high spirits is expected. We do not want to dampen anyone's enthusiasm for honest, safe fun but each year we see injuries and fire damage that could have been avoided. So the message is simple, please follow the steps below.

- Always follow the firework code;
- Never misuse fireworks;
- Attend organised bonfire events where possible; and
- If you are having a bonfire at home, always have supervising adults.

Dave Norgate

Group Manager Basingstoke Group



# qps.

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We prayed this morning in church for all those in government at international, national and local level and especially those who bear the burden of financial responsibility. It seems that the financial stability the European zone is beginning to unravel at an alarming rate. We may only stand and nod our heads at the vast sums involved and we may believe that it does not really affect us. Yet it does! The decisions that have to be made and are being made must eventually impact on our daily lives. That's a worrying concern for those with mortgages and other bills to pay and families to feed. Isn't it amazing how fragile our society really is and yet how dependent we are on that fragility – kind of like standing on thin ice without knowing it!

The Bible says “we brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out..” and Jesus himself said “do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy ...look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them, are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

Think about it for a minute, what are you really dependent on and what are your priorities? To build up and store away things for the future or to live the abundant life that God wants for you in relationship with him and with those he's given you! Plan for tomorrow, live for today is a sensible axiom for life but what are irreplaceable to me are my relationships with those around me whom I love and most importantly my relationship with God who is my Creator and Redeemer.

Sadly, all too often we don't realise the immense value of relationships until they're gone, until misfortune strikes like sudden redundancy, serious illness or the death of someone close to us.

I'm reminded of the lyrics of a song that Matt Redman wrote “when the music fades and all is stripped away, and I simply come, longing just to bring, something that's of worth that will bless your heart...” Try this – imagine being stripped of all that you think is of worth around you - what's left?

At some point in the future the markets will recover, financial stability will return but may we never again become so complacent or foolhardy in the stewardship of our country's (and our personal) financial resources and may we learn from this of all that is of real and lasting value.

In Christ

Arthur  
Vicar of St Gabriel's

Police Support. We have had great support from the Neighbourhood Team who attend the beginning of all Parish Council meetings - to report in, and receive any feedback you want to give them. Thanks Mims and Geoff!

Parish Boundaries. We expect that BDBC will initiate the consultation process with Parish residents very soon. This is a question for all residents to respond to. The Parish Council considers that it is time for the two wards - SSJ Village and Popley Fields - to split (as was successfully achieved with Rooksdown).

**Merton Rise and Marnel Park.** Most of you will have received the invitation from Curtin and Co (on behalf of David Wilson Homes) to their exhibition in mid September. The Parish Council believes this proposed development is not in the interest of current residents of SSJ Village, Marnel Park, Merton Rise or Popley. We believe that:

- the existing development (Marnel Park and Merton Rise) must be completed before any new greenfield development such as this is considered
- vital community facilities promised for Marnel Park & Merton Rise should be provided without further delay.

Our recent information sheet can be found on the SSJPC website – [www.ssj-hampshire.org.uk](http://www.ssj-hampshire.org.uk)

**New Homes in Basingstoke / SHLAA / Localism Bill.** Basingstoke residents have told BDBC that it is time to rein back on house building in the Borough. This applies equally to the Marnel Park development – recent public meetings have shown unanimous opposition to yet more houses. This is clear!

What is not yet clear is which areas are included in BDBC's new Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) land bank - although we do know that the Park Prewett golf course is included. According to BDBC's timetable, this will have been decided at the BDBC Cabinet meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September. (The draft Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework should follow this in November).

Even less clear is how many homes BDBC will be looking to build in the future. The South East Regional Plan (which may or may not be revoked by HM Government) demanded 920 per annum. Current BDBC thinking seems to be in favour of 594pa, but there is no guarantee this figure will be accepted by central government. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – a section of the controversial Localism Bill – is currently under review by BDBC as part of the Government's consultation process.

You will be aware that The National Trust, CPRE, and Daily Telegraph, alongside other organisations, are all campaigning against the Bill – which seems to me to be ambiguous at best, and argues for a presumption in favour of *sustainable* development (whatever that means!) at worst.

**Church Path Repairs.** As programmed, these repairs were completed by HCC's Contractor just in time for the end of the School summer holiday. The dangerous path edge has been replaced - a definite improvement.

**Bus Services to SSJ Village.** Following feedback from the recent Transport Survey and a review of expenditure by HCC, we understand that it is proposed that the No14/15 bus service will be discontinued – but between 9am and 4.30pm the 'Jazz#2' service (which runs along the A340) will divert through the Village via Elm and Cranes Roads. We wait to see if this has any effect on HCC / BDBC views on requirements at Elm Bottom!

**Moss Hill Allotments.** Following consultation with allotment holders, the Parish Council is proceeding with installation of a new gate at the Sherborne Rd entrance. This will be 50% funded by the Parish Council.

**Red Telephone Boxes.** Both red telephone boxes in the village are looking very much better – well done and thank you to both sets of volunteers - John Edwards and Mike and Margaret Larby for Elm Road and Mandy Haworth and her team for Spring Close.

**Hedges** Please can we remind you that it is the homeowner responsibility to cut back any overhanging trees, bushes and hedges that form the boundary of your property, both on your own side and on the highway side so that they do not cause an obstruction. and finally ... ..

**The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June 2012.** How would you like to celebrate this – how should the Parish Council get involved? Please let us know NOW!

**The next meeting is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – 7.30pm at SSJ Village Hall. You are all welcome!** Julian Crawley Chairman, SSJ Parish Council



We currently have the following availability for our facilities – please call **01256 337573** for more information or to book

**Sports Hall** - Wednesday 5-6pm - Saturday & Sunday – various times

**Astro** - Monday 9-10pm - Tuesday 5-6pm, 7-8pm & 9-10pm - Wednesday 5-6pm & 9-10pm - Thursday 5-6pm & 9-10pm - Friday 5-6pm & 9-10pm - Saturday - various times - Sunday – all day

**Studio** - Tuesday 5-6pm & 8.30-10pm - Wednesday 8.30-10pm - Thursday 9-10pm - Friday 5-7.30pm & 9-10pm - Saturday 1-4pm - Sunday 11am-4pm (from 25/9/11)

**Main Hall/Theatre** - Monday 8-10pm - Tuesday 5-6pm - Wednesday 5-6pm & 8-10pm - Thursday 5-6pm - Friday 5-10pm - Saturday 1-4pm - Sunday 8-4pm

The **Over 50s Club** continues to meet every Friday 3.00-5.00pm (term time). All are welcome to come and use the facilities, have some refreshment, get to know others – cost £1. Call the number above for more information or just turn up.

**Autism Awareness Morning on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am-12.30pm.** In partnership with Hampshire Autistic Society, this is a free session for parents and professionals on how Everest can impact on autism. Refreshments will be provided. Call the number above to book.

## Kiln Farm Development?

As I write this article, the Planning and Infrastructure Committee are sitting to recommend to the Cabinet in Basingstoke and Deane Council what land should be included for more housing. The fields at the back of Marnel Park alongside Jersey and Guernsey Close are on that proposed list. Residents and your Labour Councillors went and spoke as to why it should not be included. Some of the reasons given were that Popley has already taken the bulk of new housing within the whole borough. There are still 784 to be completed in Merton Rise and this should happen so that we can see how the roads, doctors, shops, and transport copes before possibly choking Popley even more. We also said about how beautiful and tranquil these fields are, and that there are protected and endangered species there, for instance sky larks, slow worms and a sole badger family that were reported as being in the Kiln Farm Area. We spoke of our community and how we need time to settle. This was a view had also been expressed by the previous Inspectors report, not to build to give the community time to settle.

What will happen? I am unsure at present but David Wilson Homes have said they are putting in the planning application before Christmas for 450 more homes. Many of you will have signed the petition we presented to this committee and with the new Localism Bill I wonder how much we residents will be listened to?

I will report back in next months Popley Matters.



It's all going on here at the hall!!! Thank you to all who attended the Summer Streetz, we have had some really excellent feedback, and hope to do it again next year.

### NEW!

Rhythm Central street dance classes are now at Melrose Hall Every Thursday 5.30-8.00 ages 2-18. Contact Samantha or Jo on 07811299484 for more details.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December we are holding a Christmas Fayre. Anyone interested in hiring a table (£5) for this event. Please contact Vicki in the office.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November The Basingstoke branch of the National Autistic Society are holding a Halloween party. All families with autistic children are welcome and of course siblings too. Please bring your own food. For more information on this and other events in the area, see the NAS page on Facebook.

### WHATS ON:

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	4.00-9.00pm	AG Dance Academy
	9.30am-2.30pm	Pebbles Children's Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
	9.00-10.45am	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm	Oasis Lunch Club
	5.30-7.30pm	Slimming World
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30-11.30am	Friendly Café
	5.30-8.00pm	Street Dancing – NEW!
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	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.
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	9.00am-12.30pm	AG Dance Academy
<b>SUNDAY:</b>		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.

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### Top tips for private tenants

Are you a private tenant living in poor housing conditions? Here are some top tips to help you understand your legal rights and work out what action you might want to take.

- as a tenant, you have the right to have the structure of your home kept in good repair by your landlord. Heating and hot water systems must also be kept in working order. Details about repair responsibilities are usually set out in a written tenancy agreement
- there may be several ways of getting repairs or improvements done if you need them. But you should always check what type of agreement you have with your landlord before you complain about housing conditions. Your landlord may try to evict you if you ask for repairs to be carried out so you need to know how easy it would be for them to do this. If in doubt, get advice from an experienced adviser at your local housing aid centre, law centre or [Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)
- the first step to getting repairs done is usually to talk to your landlord. It may be worth trying to negotiate with them, even if they do not have a legal duty to carry out a repair. Put your request in writing and keep a copy
- if talking to your landlord doesn't work, don't just stop paying your rent. You don't have the right to withhold rent and you shouldn't do this to try to force your landlord to do repairs. Your landlord could take legal action against you for rent arrears and you could lose your home
- if your property is in poor condition, your landlord may have broken the tenancy agreement or the law in not carrying out repairs. This means you may be able to take court action against them. But it's really important to get advice first, in case your landlord tries to evict you. If you do decide you want to take court action, you will need to give your landlord written notice of the repairs that need doing and you won't be able to start court action until you have given your landlord reasonable time to carry out the repairs
- if you think the condition of the property is either affecting your health or causing a nuisance to others, you should complain to the Environmental Health Department of your local council. They should investigate and they have the power to order your landlord to do the necessary repairs. Local councils also have a duty to take action against a landlord if they consider that housing conditions are not acceptable for people to live in. To find details of your local council, go to the Directgov website at: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk).

### 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](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

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**Councillors Page:** The road repairs that were started on Tintern, Buckfast, Romsey and Fountains Closes will not be done till next year. On my walk about I saw the very poor attempt on the road into Tintern Close. The works were started in inclement weather! The contractor is no longer in the county and a better and more appropriate repair will be done next year. The cutting out of the "Hospital Loop" on the number 5 bus has understandably caused a lot of concerns and worry for patients and staff. I am arranging a meeting with Hampshire County Council cabinet member for transport, where I will put a strong case for continuing the subsidy to enable this vital link to continue. I am and will continue to say that Stagecoach should be continuing this link and not going to the Taxpayer to help to increase their massive profits £153 million pounds in the UK alone. If this cut in services affects you please let me know by letter or email. Contact details are phone 819924, mobile 07974098131, email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9EL

**Popley East:** The big issue this month is the Kiln Farm development. As I am sure you will know, David Wilson Homes want to build another 450 homes on the land at Kiln Farm next to Jersey and Guernsey Close and behind Marnel Park.

I am not against development; I know that there are many individuals and families in Basingstoke who need homes. However, this is not the right site and it is time for Popley to say no more, enough is enough. Popley has had a higher percentage of development than anywhere else in the town and in excess of 2,000 extra units over the last few years. Kiln Farm is a beautiful and tranquil area where the wildlife is thriving and the surrounding infrastructure cannot support the proposed development.

I attended the David Wilson Homes exhibition on the proposals at Popley Fields Community Centre on Friday night and was pleased to see many of you there voicing your objections to the developers. In addition to this if you want to object to these plans please write to Giorgio Frammalicco, Head of Planning at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices London Rd, Basingstoke RG21 4AH and ask the Council to stop the land at Kiln Farm, known as BAS104, from being allocated for development.

There is a meeting at the Council on Tuesday 20th September to discuss potential development sites and I will be attending to speak out against allocating the Kiln Farm site 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.

Please call me on 07834818489 or email me at Cllr.Shelley.Phelps@basingstoke.gov.uk.

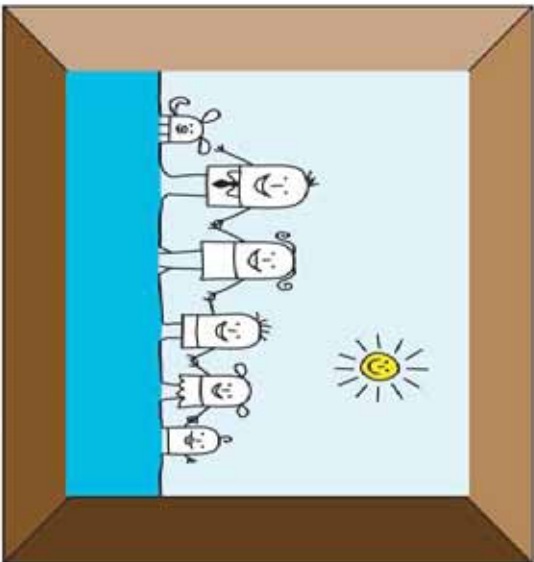
**Popley West:** All the team of Labour Councillors for Popley are working to have the Kiln Farm development site removed as a suitable site to build yet another 450 dwellings. Enough is enough with the further 784 due to start in Merton Rise, regeneration of Maldive and Faroe, the old John Hunt site, then proposals for 122 more at The Spinney, and the land in front of the hospital that the last application for was 313 more is sheer madness. The roads are heaving now at peak times before these are even being built. What about doctors, dentists and other services that all these people will require?

If building goes ahead by Jersey and Guernsey Close and at the back of Marnel Park we will lose some amazing wildlife and landscape. The deer are frequent visitors and the now rare sound of the skylarks, a fully protected species, could be lost forever in our area. There were reports of a family of badgers though there used to be more badger families in this area. This is a tranquil area. We are aware that people need homes, but let us complete what has been started and give our community time to settle, see how the infrastructure copes before we even contemplate even more housing in this part of town.

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

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popleyfields@hotmail.com

### **Halloween Family Night:**

Yes it's nearly that time of year again, we are holding our annual Halloween Family Night on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011, 7.00pm till 10.00pm.

Come along and join in the fun. We have music, fancy dress competitions, tombola, raffle, refreshments, a licensed bar and games for the children such as apple bobbing, stick the wart on the witch and donuts on strings. Tickets are available in advance or on the door at £4.00 an adult and £2.00 a child and all children under 3 are free.

### **Family Prize Bingo**

A date for your November diary/calendar is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November as this is when the next one is. Doors open at 6.00pm eyes down at 7.00/7.30pm

### **Zumba**

This takes place on Thursday, 7.30 till 8.30pm in the Large Hall

### **Silverwings Line Dancing**

Wednesday evenings 8.00 to 10.00pm

This class is for all those people that can line dance. Come along and give it a try.

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

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

### **Dynamics:**

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday Evenings 5.00 to 7.00pm.

### **Knitability Knitting Club**

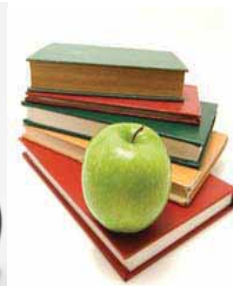
Are you a machine knitter or would you like to learn (hand knitters also welcome).

This group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month 10.00am till 12.00pm.

For more information please contact the secretary on 01256 772083.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and under 12s children's parties all at very reasonable rates. Call now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the Centre every week.

Tel: 01256 414494 or email [popleyfields@hotmail.com](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)



A very busy start to the new year, Beavers and Scouts have been out and about in Carpenters Down woods exploring our local woodland and learning about its surroundings. The Beavers have also had a visit to the library! And learnt all about how it works.

The Cubs have completed their Cyclist Badge, and are working towards their Global Challenge Badge by learning about global issues and how they can recycle to be environmentally friendly.

This month we are having a sleepover for all sections where we hopefully will be linking up with a Scout group in Germany! Also we will be sampling some international food and taking part in some international activities! We will let you know how it goes next month!

As ever please make contact with Martin Lee (Group Scout Leader) on 07854860895 if you have any questions or you would like to join us in our adventure! Whatever your age there is a place waiting for you!



Boys & Girls 6-8

Tuesday 5pm-6.00pm



Boys & Girls 8-10 ½

6.00pm-7.30pm



Boys & Girls 10 ½ -15

7.30pm-9.00pm

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

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## Helping the Homeless:

### The Camrose Centre Appeals for Volunteers!

Most of us lucky enough to live in the relative affluence of Basingstoke and its surrounds take the basic things in life, like having a roof over our head and enough food to eat, for granted. But not everyone is that lucky. Some of you may be surprised to learn that here in Basingstoke, up to as many as 11 people sleep rough each night. And many more will have to stay in unsatisfactory temporary accommodation such as in a hostel or sleeping on a friend's floor.

Right here on our doorstep there are people who, because of a variety of problems including unemployment, relationship breakdown, mental ill health, addiction or just plain bad luck, find themselves homeless. Let's face it, there but for the grace of God goes any one of us.

The Camrose Centre is the charity that provides practical and emotional support to people who are unlucky enough to find themselves homeless or vulnerably housed.

Our aim is to promote positive fulfilling lifestyles, emotional wellbeing and long-term changes for those experiencing the effects of homelessness. This starts with the basics, including hot meals, clothing, washing facilities and a contact address, and goes on to providing opportunities to make real, positive long-term changes through counselling and learning.

As a result, service users who might otherwise have felt they had no hope of turning their lives around are able to take positive steps towards change as individuals and as part of the wider community. One service user said, "If it wasn't for Camrose I wouldn't have a place to live or a job. I now have a future to look forward to".

The Camrose Centre is a direct access day service in Basingstoke that is available without judgement to anyone who asks for help.

The Camrose Centre works closely alongside other local organisations and services to provide help and support to people in Hampshire who are homeless and vulnerably housed.

Can you spare some time to help The Camrose Centre? We are on a drive to expand our circle of volunteers and we need all sorts of people to help with a wide range of practical tasks and client-facing roles.

If you can spare the odd afternoon to shake a bucket or man a stall, or if you are interested in more regular volunteering work with our clients at the centre, then please do get in touch. We hold regular sessions days when prospective volunteers can come along and find out more about what we do and how you might be able to help.

For more information visit [www.trinitywinchester.org.uk/volunteer-for-us/or](http://www.trinitywinchester.org.uk/volunteer-for-us/or) contact Jodie Gajic on 01962 842 827, [jodie@trinitywinchester.org.uk](mailto:jodie@trinitywinchester.org.uk)

## Buy With Confidence

Residents looking to buy a used car or carry out some home improvements can have information on local trustworthy traders at their finger tips with Hampshire County Council's new 'Buy With Confidence' directory.

The latest edition of the popular directory is out this week and contains information on over 600 organisations based in Hampshire (inc Southampton and Portsmouth) that have been checked by Trading Standards for trustworthiness and compliance with the law.

Easy-to-follow with colour-coded categories the 'Buy With Confidence' directory can help residents find their way to details of a range of companies covering over 100 trades from accountancy to pest control to yacht chartering.

Trading standards are asked most frequently for recommendations for home improvement and landscaping firms - the new directory includes over 100 companies that can help with those outstanding gardening and DIY jobs! The directory also identifies those companies that are small job friendly so residents can find a reliable trader whatever the size of their project - whether it is replacing one socket or rewiring their whole house.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Ken Thornber, said: "If you don't have a personal recommendation from friends or family it can be difficult to know who to trust when looking to buy goods or services. The 'Buy With Confidence' directory gives people a list of dependable businesses that come with the reassurance of having been approved by the County Council's Trading Standards service.

"The directory gets bigger and better each year with more businesses opting to join the scheme offering residents a wider choice of traders that come with built in peace of mind."

Copies of the directory are available from libraries and information centres across Hampshire or can be requested by e-mailing [buy.with.confidence@hants.gov.uk](mailto:buy.with.confidence@hants.gov.uk), by phone via Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or ordered online at the website at <http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/traders/directory.php>.

Alternatively residents can search for a trader using the Buy With Confidence website [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk)





## Employers and employees need to get set for the Olympics 2012

‘Hosting the 2012 Olympic Games is a fantastic opportunity for the UK and if you are lucky enough to have tickets for one or more events, you should be planning now to talk to your employer about taking leave or arranging flexible hours so that you don’t miss out’ says Gill Brown, head of the employment law team at Phillips.

‘Look at it from the other side and you can imagine the significant impact that 17 sporting days could have on business productivity.

ACAS has already issued guidelines to help employers prepare for this major sporting event and minimise absenteeism, so if you need time off or flexibility of hours, speak to your employer in good time so that your expectations can be considered.

**If you have a business and employ people**, you need to start planning now to avoid problems later on, check policies and procedures and remind staff how these work in practice.

Here are some recommendations:

**Communication** – start talking early to employees about managing leave and working hours: include those lucky enough to have tickets, those who have volunteered to help and those who have no interest whatsoever.

**Fairness** – respond fairly to requests for time off. Encourage those with tickets to book holidays as soon as they know the dates. Remember that some members of staff may get fed up with the fuss and won’t want to see any favouritism shown to those with sporting interests.

**Flexibility** - consider whether you can alter starting and finishing times, allow lunch breaks to be taken at different times or increase breaks so that staff can take time to watch key events during the working day.

**Clarity** – ensure your expectations are crystal clear. Spell out what you expect from your employees’ attendance, performance and flexibility; give transparent reasons for any temporary changes in working practices; and remember that Olympic volunteers will have rights too.

‘Proper planning’ concludes Gill ‘can minimise problems of absenteeism and productivity and maximise enjoyment of one of the greatest sporting events the UK has ever hosted.’

If you have any employment issues, whether an employer or an employee, contact Gill Brown, direct line: 01256 854605, email: [gbrown@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:gbrown@phillips-law.co.uk), web: [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)



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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](mailto:smh.furniturestore@live.co.uk) to book an inspection/collection.

Further information about the store can be found on the Hospice website [www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk).

Hi  
A big thank you to all you who supported our summer programme, we had some great FUN. Our autumn sessions have also taken off with a roaring success.

If you have popped into the Centre over the summer you will have seen lots of new faces at the reception desk, This is because we had to say goodbye to Lisa in July as she moved on to further her career. She is missed greatly by us all as she was our Admin Assistant for years. We have however now recruited 2 new Admin Assistants – Amy and Hannah will be starting with us very shortly. Do pop in and say hello and make them feel like they belong. Sue our Finance Officer will be so please to have them alongside her. The rest of the team who you know – Brenda, Debbie, Rosa and Paula continue to run the Outreach programme, with support from our Centre teacher Alison. We also have a new Counsellor Ken to work alongside Eileen to support those parents who need some extra support.

## FAMILY LEARNING FUN DAY

We have already started planning our October Holiday Activities which will start off on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October with FUN DAY where there will be lots of taster family learning activities, which can get involved with your child between 11am – 4pm. There will also be a trip on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October and other activities during the week which we will advertise in our Newsletter which will be out soon – so watch out for it.

If you haven't registered with Pebbles Children's Centre yet come along and get to know us I am sure you and your under 5 year old children will have a great time. If you don't know where we are or what's on just ring 01256 357028 or e-mail [pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk) or visit our website at [www.3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc](http://www.3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc)

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## Diaries from the Old Codger V2

Version 2. Because as I had finished the column for October then pressed to save, I pressed the wrong button! When it said "do you want to save it?" well, as you can guess, I did the usual. Well Her Indoors is downstairs ironing for our trip away. Now fellas how is it when it comes to packing you see the case and a mound of clothes and when you say those immortal words "How long do you think we are going for?" The look says it all, and you leave the room. The case is packed, and the dressing table as well. Her Indoors then says "That's it". "Good", I say as she passes me a small bag. I take a look at it and again open my big mouth "What's in this one?". "Oh they are your clothes." But what about that trunk you call a case? "Well", the reply comes "I am not sure what I will wear". All the wardrobes are empty, well Her Indoors ones are. All of this for a week I am not sure the car will stand the strain of it all, and by the time she unpacks the other end she will be packing to come home.

I have been in hospital a couple of time over the last month. Ok I needed a rest from you know who, but back home it's been a bit hectic. First finishing a road safety campaign idea I had that's taken forever, then finishing my second children's storybook. I am trying to get a sponsor to help republish my first book. From the proceeds of the sale of it, half will be given to some of the local schools for sports equipment, the rest will go to getting the second book out in the schools and shops. By doing so it will generate more cash for the schools. But all of this is a lot of hard work, so I have to take a bit of time out, hence the holiday. My son is coming with us and he wants to do a bit of sea fishing and has been contacting the fishing shops to see where the best places are so I can use my wheelchair. I am looking forward to that, its one of the things I miss most since my stroke. The only thing is I am on wheels so I do not want to get on the wrong side of him. One small accident and I could be in the drink! So until next month, keep well.

Old Codger

That's if I make it back in one piece .....

## Marnel and Merton Community Group

Marnel and Merton Community Group is progressing plans for the fun family Halloween Party on Saturday 22nd October at the Chute Pavilion in Sherborne St John. We will have a disco, bar and fun and games for everyone as well as a hog roast (not included in ticket price) with the fun starting at 7.00pm. So now is the time to start getting your fancy dress sorted as there is a prize for the best dressed adult and child! Entry to the party is by ticket only and priced at £2.50 for an adult or child. We will also have transport available so you do not have to drive - this will be at a cost of £1 per person return with mini busses running from Orchard Grove to Chute Pavilion. We look forward very much to seeing you there.

I am sure that many of you will have been to the David Wilson Homes exhibition to find out about the proposals for developing the fields north of Marnel Park. We understand that the planning application is to be submitted before Christmas and we will be posting information on how to object to the application on our Facebook page - search Marnel and Merton Community Group via pages.

If you require further information about the planning application or if you would like to buy tickets ( and transport ) for the Halloween Party please email [marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marnelparkresidentgroup@hotmail.co.uk)



## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

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

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

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



Several new members joined the Beaver Colony at the start of the autumn session and are beginning to settle in, find new friends and have fun. During September the Colony will be taking part in the Save the Children India passport and finding out about the culture, country, people, diet and living conditions. In October they will be having an India evening with food tasting. Amazingly 8 or 9 Beavers from the Colony have almost completed all the challenges to gain the Chief Scout's Bronze Award so we are looking forward to great celebrations soon.

The Cubs are on an international 'journey' around the world this month linking with the countries taking part in the Rugby Union World Cup. The Pack will be having its customary 'sleepover' at the end of October with Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes' celebrations in mind.

The scouts had a fantastic time at summer camp. The weather was a bit wet at times but not enough to dampen anyone's spirits and everyone came home tired but having had a super time. Meetings this month will explore issues in India and Afghanistan and try out spaghetti pioneering (no eating allowed). Work will also continue on Communications Badge.

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](mailto: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.

... who's up for more adventure? - come and join us!

Charity number 267734 HQ registration number 42755

## Cornerstone Nursery News - October 2011

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way -  
01256 840300

Through September we welcomed all our new children into the Nursery and helped all children settle into their new rooms.

Some of our children looked at Fire Safety where they discussed and were shown what to do in an emergency. Our 2-3 year old children spent a whole week looking at and taking part in lots of different cooking activities which they all enjoyed. And our babies have had a messy week where they have experienced lots of new sensory and painting activities.

In October we will be doing lots of activities on Halloween and we will be having a Halloween party for all the children who attend.

### Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road - 01256 818118

During September we had lots of fun! Each month we have a "theme day" This month's theme was princes and princesses. We all had great fun joining in the hall for our Royal tea party. The children had a fabulous Royal banquet and enjoyed their lovely feast. They all made a crown which they wore for the banquet and took home with them when they left.

We have welcomed lots of new children into the Nursery, especially in the baby unit. The babies and staff have been having great fun getting to know each other and taking part in lots of art and craft activities.

We have also had great joy in welcoming some of the school leavers back to show off their smart school uniforms.

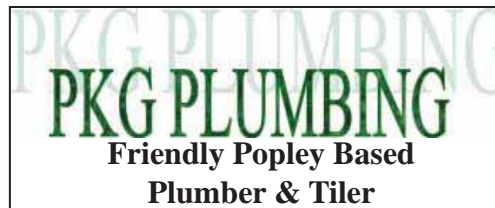
### Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

In our baby room the babies have been exploring the garden. They are doing craft work with the leaves and exploring the texture of the grass. They have been doing lots of bubble play, blowing the bubbles and playing with bubbles in water.

The family room have been talking about the sky and the planets as most mornings the children have noticed the moon in the sky as well as the sun. The children have made a wall display about the planets and made space rockets to put on the display.

The children have been discussing the four different seasons and have been exploring the fallen leaves, giving the children the idea to make a big tree display with leaves made from hand prints. They also made big rain drops and rain clouds as they said it has been raining so much!

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



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## Bonfire/Firework Safety.

### REMEMBER:

-  Fireworks are explosives.
-  Always buy fireworks that comply with the British Standard.
-  Follow all instructions and always put safety first.





### ALWAYS:

-  Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
-  Dispose of sparklers in a bucket of water as soon as they are finished.
-  Never give sparklers to a child under five.
-  Ensure that all children with fireworks are well supervised.
-  Keep fireworks in a closed box or tin.
-  Use them one at a time, replacing the lid immediately.
-  Follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch - never use a naked flame.
-  Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper or a firework lighter.
-  Do not drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
-  Stand well back.

### NEVER:

- Never** go back to a lit firework, it could explode in your face.
- Never** put fireworks in your pocket.
- Never** throw fireworks.

### BONFIRE TIPS:

-  Never use/pour petrol or other flammable liquids onto a fire to get it going.
-  Always start and keep bonfires away from buildings, sheds and fences etc.
-  Check the bonfire for animals/pets that may be hiding within it before lighting it.
-  Be aware of neighbouring/nearby thatch properties.

### Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)  
 Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809  
 Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)



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## Changing Times for Junction 6

Junction 6 Youth Centre moved from the old John Hunt Site to a new building 4 years ago. It has been a thriving youth centre on Popley for more than 16 years. Most people in Popley will at least know someone who has been here if they haven't actually used it themselves! I have managed the project for 11 years during which time I have worked with hundreds of local young people on tens of exciting and challenging projects as well as regular youth club nights where young people have built up some trusting and constructive brilliant relationships with their youth workers over time.

In these difficult times when all Councils see their budgets decreasing and pressure is put on to make significant cuts to services, Hampshire County Council will no longer be directly providing young people with youth centre services. As a consequence, Junction 6 in its current form, will be coming to an end in October this year. The new Youth Support Service is currently working to secure provision in the future with the voluntary sector and local partnerships. It is anticipated that a new youth project will run from the current building next to Everest Community Academy site in the near future.

In the meantime, the current Junction 6 team, Shirley, Junior Simone and I will all be moving on from our youth worker jobs. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the young people of Popley for some amazing times at the project and we leave with very fond memories of you all! We don't deny there have been plenty of challenging moments – you know who you are!! – but they have always worked out with the commitment and skill of the staff teams current and past.

Please pass on the message to those who may not read this article that we will be open on Tuesday nights throughout September into October and working on the streets on Wednesdays. We will also be supporting the Monday night youth centre now thriving at Popley Fields Community Centre. It would be great if those who want to could pop by to say goodbye, and stay informed about new developments and how you might be involved.

Thanks once again

BXX

07983995393

bianca.webb@hants.gov.uk



## **Popley Explorers Pre-school**

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We work within the EYFS guidelines to make your children's time with us as beneficial to them as possible.

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

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

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

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

**Contact: Ask for either Sharon or Elaine on 01256 363156**