

POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

August 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 126



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 18-08-12) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-The sun is shining as I write this and the holiday season has started in earnest. One of my biggest regrets is that my husband and I did not take a holiday for the last 17 years. I was always too busy, or we could not afford it. He understood the commitment and supported me, as all the family do. But now I wish so hard that I had spent more time with him while he was alive. It is a year ago I lost him so if I could say one thing I would say make time for yourselves and, even if it is only occasionally, make time to be with those you love, tomorrow could be too late. Thank you to PC Dan Carter who dedicated his 52 miles “Feds on Peds” charity bike ride to Ken’s memory

and also to the rest of the team who raised over £300 for St Michael’s Hospice. Shakespeare Community Group are holding a Hog Roast in Chineham Park and details are on page 6. There is some helpful information on the New Welfare Reform Bill and places to contact for help and information is on page 31. On the Popley Fields Community Centre page you can find details of Prize Quiz night on 8th September. There is an update on Bishop Bill Ind on page 16 for those of us that remember him at St Gabriel’s Church.

Popley Matters is a community magazine run voluntarily by Popley people, but we need more help if Popley Matters is to survive the recession and keep going. We are in very much in need of a treasurer. Our present treasurer has moved out of Popley and regrets that she has to leave. Thank you Trisha for the great job that you did for Popley Matters and the community of Popley. We also need someone who could spend some time in getting more advertisers, as without the people who pay to advertise there would be no Popley Matters and that would be a shame after 20 years of serving the people of Popley. We deliver to 4,800 homes and other interested people.

If you want to write to us or help then contact us at, editor@popleymatters.org.uk or write to Popley Matters 405 Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EL or phone me Jane Frankum on 819924.



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 Matters.

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Kiln Farm Fields Update

At the Development Control meeting on 17th July there were just two planning applications BDB/75761 and BDB75762 known as The Kiln Farm Fields applications from David Wilson Homes. The first was the outline application which is the boundary, access roads and landscape for 450 dwellings. The second application was for phase one which consists of the first 200 dwellings to be built in detail. Phase two would come later and that's the phase with all the amenities like the possibility of a school and community facilities. There is no time limit as to when phase two would come forward. It could be two years or years longer. Just think of Merton Rise, the outline was first granted years ago.

The residents who live in Marnel Park are still waiting for the area to be finished to a standard that it can be adopted by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. That would mean the authority on roads, lighting, play area maintenance, parking and litter. At the moment this is still the responsibility of the developers. Talks have been in progress for simply ages and despite being pressed from all angles there seems little movement made to the residents or Councillors' satisfaction.

At the July planning meeting about 150 residents attended to listen the a very strong case that was put as to why the planning application should be rejected, for instance; poor access; loss of parking to existing residents; loss of agricultural land; not within the settlement boundary; loss of wildlife habitat; and also it would result in the loss of more of the strategic gap between the town of Basingstoke and the village of Sherborne St John.

The meeting lasted for well over four hours and speakers came from the Popleys, Oakridge and Sherborne St John. Popley and Oakridge Councillors robustly put their many reasons why this was an outline application that needs to be rejected. Good strong reasons won the day on the outline application. It was rejected unanimously by all on the committee. There were 276 bullet points of the reasons contained in the report that the committee heard. The meeting was webcast and you can watch it on the Basingstoke and Deane website.

But this is just the first round as the second application for the 200 dwellings could not be heard due to it being well past 10.30pm. The second application will be heard on 19th September at the Civic office at 6.30pm, despite the request and motion by Popley Councillors to hold the meeting in Popley where we argued that the biggest impact would be felt. The formal motion by myself was seconded by Labour Councillor George Hood but the motion was lost. The administration were reminded that many people from both Popley East and Popley West had to leave early as the last bus goes at 8.45pm from the bus station. Residents had contacted the Popley Councillors Jane, David, Viv and Paul to say they wanted to come to the meeting but were concerned about how to get home.

I hope that residents will come and show the committee that 200 more homes without any added amenities and taking parking away from existing residents just to sell more dwellings is unreasonable and irresponsible. Your Popley Councillors will carry on the fight against this application.

Cllr Jane Frankum (County Councillor/ Popley West Councillor) ☎819924

Cllr David Potter (Popley East Councillor) ☎07941507801

Cllr Paul Frankum (Popley West Councillor) ☎819924

Cllr Viv Washbourne (Popley East Councillor) ☎07900890088

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BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB



Two new members joined us this month. For the last 3 months they have taken part in all our activities, enjoyed themselves, and decided to join. We've had at least one lady member for the past 20 years, but now I can truthfully say we've got 2 women in the Club.

The Loddon Valley Lions Club (Tadley) held their annual Treacle Fair at the beginning of June. The weather was atrocious but hundreds of people, including us, turned out to have a good time in the mud and the rain. Our Rat Race once again proved a great favourite, particularly with the kids. We

didn't have a prize left by the end of the afternoon. We've been out supporting school fetes and fairs all month and donating our gross proceeds to school funds. If you see us, give it a try – it's addictive. The kids are brilliant at it – but the dads are rubbish.

Paulton's Park kindly sets aside a special day each year for Lions Clubs (67 in our area) to sponsor disabled children and their carers to visit the Park. Although transport is not provided, everything else including a packed lunch at the Park is free. The feedback we've received from those we sponsored this year tells us that it was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Our Annual Charity Cycle Ride suffered from the atrocious weather, but 28 tough guys and gals joined us to raise over £500 for good causes. Fyffes and Tesco helped out with bananas and other refreshments and agreed that we should donate the excess to the Women's Refuge. They were delighted.

For the next month or so we will still be out supporting school and community fairs



and fetes. Our next major events are ABBA Sensation at QMC on 22 September (a recall after their great performance for us last year) followed by The Hampshire Constabulary Band, also at QMC, on 17th November. A discount of £2 per ticket is given if you buy both at once. Get your tickets by calling 01256 421867 or 325280.

We've revamped our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk. Have a look and tell us what you think. Better still – Join Us! We make a difference!.



Councillors Page: After yet another wall being knocked down, this time in Abbey Road by a hit and run driver I have persuaded Hampshire County Council and Sentinel to replace badly damaged walls with railings after a trial in Glastonbury Close proving that they are more permanent and safer there will be a replacement program.

The red temporary 30 mph signage at the entrance to Carpenters Down was due to be removed, as it had been moved and had not really been very visible, it will be moved to show that you will be entering a 30mph road.

I went to Swindon in July to meet 4 Labour Members of Parliament for a listening consultation on childcare. There were representatives from all over the South and we gave our opinions on how childcare could and should be improved; better and more affordable were high on the list. I was sad to hear that the surgery and walk-in clinic was going to close at the end of this year. The surgery section did not attract enough people to sign on there, but I argue that 30,000 visits to the walk in section showed the need for it to continue. They are looking at having a walk-in clinic elsewhere, possibly in the hospital itself. **Jane 01256 819924**

Popley West: Parking continues to be an issue. The biggest concern is the blocking of paths especially by dropped kerbs used by disabled, and pushchairs and parking on junctions causing pedestrians and vehicles not being able to see to cross the road safely. It is school holidays now and more children are out playing during the day so its even more dangerous.

On our walk about around the ward we have reported:- two sewage leaks, some very overgrown hedges, some covering the whole of the path, broken walls and the "temporary" repair by the garage area in Melrose Walk that has been in need of a permanent repair for months. These were just some of the issues we took up.

We continue to press for a return of a better bus service especially to the hospital. We were promised a public meeting to give bus users a chance to tell both councils and Stagecoach about their frustrations and complaints about lack of buses, poor service and atrocious time keeping. I am hoping to announce a meeting in September. It has been a long fight and we are not going to stop till we have a better service across the whole of the borough.

Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: Kiln Farm planning applications continue to dominate our work with residents of Popley East and will do over the weeks and months ahead. Despite David Wilson Homes having their first outline application rejected at the recent Development Control Committee meeting they intend to proceed with a detailed application at the meeting in September. We won the first round on this because of the widespread support given by residents in the form of protest letters and petitions and those who attended the meeting were vocal in their opposition and spoke with real feeling about the impact mass development has had on the community of Popley. We are grateful for this support and we need it to continue. We are trying to get the next meeting moved into the community so that as many people as possible will be able get to a local venue to voice their opinions on this latest application to give Popley even more unwanted development.

We have been successful in our campaign to get a bus shelter on Carpenters Down opposite Falkland Road (190) and we have pushed for this to be installed at the earliest opportunity albeit we realise users have already suffered the worst few months of weather for some time.

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088.
Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801.**

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Mortgage Rescue and Debt Advice

As households across the borough face challenging times, many families are struggling to make ends meet.

This may mean problems with mortgage payments, other essential bills and debts.

People often feel distressed or embarrassed about their financial difficulties and it is easy to try and ignore the problem. Unfortunately this can lead to the matter escalating.

It is important to get in touch with your lender or creditors as soon as possible and advise them of your situation. There are a number of options that they can offer to assist you.

It is essential to take independent advice before making an agreement with a debt solution company or taking out further loans. This is to ensure that you are being given the right advice for your circumstances.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council provide a free and confidential advice service and can help you to form a plan based on your specific situation. We can give advice on debt, bankruptcy, mortgage arrears, possession proceedings and the government mortgage rescue scheme.


There are two options available using mortgage rescue – equity loan and

Government mortgage to rent. If you want to discuss mortgage rescue and whether you might be eligible, please get in touch with us.

Should your mortgage provider take possession action, we can advise on negotiating with the lender and attend court hearings with you.

We can also help to maximise your income by ensuring you are claiming all the benefits to which you are entitled.

You can either contact the council direct on 01256 844844 or you can contact Tori at victoria.james@basingstoke.gov.uk or on 01256 845604, or Charlie on 07748 760208, to discuss your case.



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MERTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Well, what a busy time has been had by all the pupils in the Junior School this term.

Before closing for the May bank holiday the school celebrated the Diamond Jubilee by holding a disco and then a garden party in the school grounds on the Friday. Shared with the Infant school, everyone enjoyed their picnic lunch and playing games or making items like kites.

Many pupils across all year groups have been rehearsing since September for the 'Rock Challenge' competition held at Portsmouth Guildhall. Their subject this year was a reminiscence of dance from the twenties to modern times 'Groovin with Grandad'. The various costumes were excellent and they did themselves proud. They came 5th overall on the night and also picked up 2 individual subject awards. Thanks must go to the teachers and helpers for giving up their free time to produce this. I know that my family and I and the many supporters that went to watch the show thoroughly enjoyed the evening. There has been a whole school outing to the beach at Bournemouth and luckily they had one of the few rain free days. The children enjoyed playing on the beach and in the water (paddling became swimming in their clothes for some!) The school has some fantastic photos of all the children.

The year 6 children spent the day at Winchester University before their parents joined them at lunchtime for their 'Graduation' presentation. They all looked very smart and grown up in their mortar board and gown. The photograph with Miss Palmer is a lovely keepsake of the end of their time in school. What an experience for them of, hopefully, something they can achieve in the future.

The Upper school had their annual residential trip to Osmington Bay near Weymouth. Luckily the weather was kind to them and did not detract from their total enjoyment of the various activities on offer over the weekend. They even had a trip to the Olympic sailing site in Weymouth where one of the teachers was busy spotting all the celebrities! I don't know who enjoys this trip the most, the children or the teachers! News updates are posted on the Merton website to keep parents up to date with events. What a fantastic experience for these children.

Merton's got Talent - it seemed that nearly every child in the school took part this Year, it was not an easy task for the Judges. The hall was full with supporters who gave all the acts much encouragement. Well done to all who performed. The year 6 performance of 'Go Go Go Joseph' was a fantastic finale to the end of their time in junior school before going on to senior school in September. I don't think there was a dry eye in the packed hall!

The school had entered the Festival Place 'Clown' competition by making a clown out of rubbish/recyclable material and won 2nd prize. Thank you to all who took time and trouble to go into town and vote.

The new Year 3 children have been visiting to break them into junior school life, while the Year 6 children have been visiting Everest Academy preparing them for senior school. I am sure these visits help break down barriers for the children and take some of the pressures off as they advance through their schooling.

The leaver's assembly was tearful as usual, plus this was Miss Palmer's original lot of pupils leaving as they all joined in September 2008, the same time she was appointed headteacher. These children were presented with a card from their teacher that had an appropriate photograph of themselves on the front and comments by all the teachers inside as well as a special Merton pen and pencil set. What a lovely memento of their time in Merton Junior School.

When events like Mother's/Father's Day meals, picnics, special assemblies and open days are held, photographs taken on school trips are put together and projected onto the screen for all to see. It is lovely to hear the children when their face suddenly appears.

This summer will see a huge change to the school building. The whole of the outside is being re-clad and will look very smart when it is finished.

You can keep up with all the fun at school by logging onto our website www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk

Finally, to finish off this full year, after obtaining a very good OFSTED report earlier this year, the SATS results have just been received and are the best the school has seen.

I, on behalf of all the Governors, would like to congratulate and thank Miss Palmer and all her staff for the hard work and dedication they have put in to produce an extremely successful year.



Sandcastle building competition from the whole school beach trip

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133
popleyfields@hotmail.com

AGM

This will be on Saturday 22nd September at 2.00pm at Popley Fields. Anyone interested in joining the committee please contact the centre on 01256 414494.

PRIZE QUIZ NIGHT:

We are hoping to hold a prize quiz night on Sat 8th September 7.00-10.00pm
Any one wishing to enter a team, the maximum number is 6 players per team
Cost is £1.00 per player, licensed bar and food. Please contact the centre on 01256 414494 to book a place.

MG School of Dance:

This takes place on Tuesday evenings 4.00-9.00pm

Slimming World:

Slimming World is at Popley Fields on Wednesday mornings.
9.00-11.30am for more information contact Hazel on 07796158098.

Silverwings Line Dancing:

Wednesday evenings 7.45-9.45pm
This class is for all those people that can line dance. Come along and give it a try.

Dynamics:

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday evenings 5.00-7.00pm.

Zumba:

This takes place on Thursday 7.30-8.30pm in the Large Hall.

Knitability knitting club:

Are you a machine knitter or would you like to learn (hand knitters also welcome)
This group meets on the 1st and 3rd 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

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Did you know that there is currently no local facility for radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients in the catchment area of the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke?

Each year around 300 cancer patients have to travel from the Basingstoke area to either Southampton or Guildford and sometimes even London for radiotherapy treatment. This represents 7,500 sessions of treatment and may involve daily return journeys five days a week for up to six weeks! If you know someone who has undergone radiotherapy you will not only be aware of the time and distance involved but the stress it causes the patient and their families. Generally it takes a whole day for one session of treatment.

RadCan's founders have been in discussion with representatives of the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke for a considerable time on this issue. A firm commitment has now been made by the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that a dedicated radiotherapy facility will be provided in the North Hampshire area. The Centre will provide chemotherapy, radiotherapy, palliative care, core therapies and complementary therapies

The centre is expected to cost up to £18 million and will be funded partly by the NHS, by sponsorship and by charitable donations. RadCan will continue to raise funds for this project to ensure that cancer patients in Basingstoke no longer have to make these lengthy journeys at a time when their health is already at a low ebb.

How can you help?

- Join our mailing list to be kept up to date with events and progress
- Make a donation by sending a cheque made payable to RadCan
- Donate on-line through Virgin Money Giving <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/radcan>
- Make RadCan your chosen charity for your fundraising events
- Give a donation to Radcan in your will.
- Spread the word!

How to contact us:

Radcan
c/o BVS
The Orchard
White Hart Lane
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG21 4AF
01256 356012
radcan44@yahoo.com
www.radcan.org.uk



June

16th- I crewed up with PC Ian Hoile and PC Karen Binney for evening/late ASB patrols of several beats. A quiet evening, some ASB reported in Bermuda Close, and an address in Winklebury.

Other news: I have received a work Blackberry phone!! 'Gadget alert' I will soon be able to access work emails and update jobs on the go. Hopefully this will mean I can spend longer in the community whilst staying in touch.

17th- Due to a couple of serious incidents in the Brighton Hill/Kempshott area, I was asked to conduct high visibility patrols. I crewed with PC Karen Binney, and we covered 28 miles on bike in the drizzle.

In other news: As you may have gathered, I have been busy with various different operations, and work not related to Popley. I haven't forgotten you all, and I will get back to Popley as much as possible. We are still down 2 x PCSOs.

18th- I was by myself today! Normally I double crew on late duties for obvious reasons. Today my usual crew mates were on a course. I managed to get some good patrolling in Popley. On my way back to the station I located a male smoking cannabis on the path near Priestley Road. I had seized cannabis from this male before! He cheekily asked me.. 'Couldn't you have just rode past me?' I guess I could, but it's not likely. The male also had a bag of cannabis in his trousers. By this time he was getting desperate and stated "I thought you could only search someone if there were two of you" My reply was "You need to get off the weed".

In other news: I patrolled all the Popley hotspots. I have also booked the next PSNP meeting for early July.

19th and 20th- Rest Days.

20th- CSPO Paula James-Bailey delivered letters to the relevant areas of Marnel Park today. The letters are to plead with residents to park more considerately.

21st- Today I attended Whitchurch police station for 'Crime Reports' training. You can check crime reports out yourself at www.crimereports.co.uk

In other news: In the afternoon, I completed the summons file for the chap from the 18th.

22nd- For the next run of lates I will be on football duties. I will still get the opportunity to patrol my beat unless the wheel comes off. Tonight I crewed up with PC Ian Hoile and conducted patrols in Popley hotspot areas. Marnel Park was patrolled and most vehicles were parked safety. I did however issue a £30 FPN to

a vehicle parked on the junction of Barrington Drive/Penton Way.

As Ian is the Rooksdown beat manager we patrolled Rooksdown. As soon as we got to Watertower Way I located a male with a familiar and pungent smell!! Cannabis! This male had already received a cannabis warning a few months back, however as luck would have it, he was eligible for an £80 fixed penalty notice. An expensive bag of weed his friends jested. See the photo gallery on the PSNP site to see the drug.

23rd- Evening patrols of Popley and Oakridge. A fairly quiet evening.

In other news: I submitted paperwork for a 'Dog Owner Control Contract' after a number of reports of a dog running around barking and snarling at people in Melrose Walk.

24th- I assisted TPT officers by arresting a female on suspicion of assault. I handed the job onto the investigation team.

Later I was on town centre patrols for the England game. It was A quiet Sunday night, until England lost to penalties. Crew mate PC Ian Hoile arrested a male on suspicion of criminal damage at Pure Bar. I took a statement of the incident.

I also issued a male with a section 27 Violent Crime Reduction Dispersal after an alcohol related public order incident on Wote Street.

In other news: PCSO Richard Strauss delivered another 100 letters in Marnel Park ref: inconsiderate parking.

25th and 26th- Rest days.

27th- I crewed up with PC Ian Hoile today. Our first job of the day was to assist the council with the traveller encampment on Chineham Park field, along Shakespeare Road. The travellers moved directly from the field to Don Allen Drive. On-going multi agency work continued and the travellers left Popley.

28th- In the early afternoon I attended Merton Junior School after a report of trespass. Part of the school is currently undergoing a refurbishment and it would appear that youths have been messing about on site.

At 16:30 hours I attended the War Memorial Park with most of the North and South beat teams. The force photographer, Jan Brayley, had arrived to take team photos. We didn't get heckled too badly

In other news: later, PC Ian Hoile and I crewed up to patrol Popley and Rooksdown. I issued a male with a verbal warning for shouting and swearing in the street.

29th- I crewed up with Popley's new PCSO, Addison Maker. We patrolled the Popley hotspots and parts of Oakridge.

For a Friday night it was fairly quiet.

In other news: Sometime in the last week, someone has

set the free running site on fire! I imagine this will now be demolished. Such a shame. See the photo gallery.

July

2nd- I crewed up with PC Ian Hoile again today. We patrolled Popley and Oakridge in the rain! All the usual hotspot areas were patrolled.

In other news: I patrolled in and around Everest Community Academy after reports of trespass and drugs misuse. Nothing untoward located today but I will keep trying.

3rd. I decided to do a spot of early patrolling to get the full picture, within half an hour of leaving the police station I had arrested three males near Edison Road on suspicion of being illegal immigrants. I had cycled towards the area after reports of three men exiting a truck on Edison Road. The men were very hungry after a long ride from France. You wouldn't believe the paperwork involved with this job!! Oh well, it kept me dry . *update* the three men were here illegally and were all deported.

4th- In the early afternoon I attended Whitchurch police station. I completed the second part of my work Blackberry training. I am now able to access my work folders and take evidential photos using the device.

Later I crewed with PC Ian Hoile for patrols of Rooksdown. We didn't make it into Popley as there were a couple of incidents of note. We heard reports of a large scale disorder near Watertower Way. On attending we could see lots of people shouting and grouped together. It was clear something big and bad had taken place. We managed to separate several parties and take down details. The investigation is ongoing. Whilst I was in the middle of the commotion, a member of public reported to me that her child had been approached by a male who made lewd remarks. I conducted an area search, but I couldn't locate the male. I am the Investigating Officer for this job now and I have several lines of enquiry.

5th- In the early afternoon I returned to work. I still had a fair amount of paperwork to complete after yesterday's Rooksdown incident.

In other news: I took two statements in relation to a criminal damage that occurred on 27th June 2012. On that date a person had thrown a large stick off a bridge between Popley and Oakridge. Luckily nobody was hurt, however damage was caused to a vehicle.

Also.. Tonight I attended Popley Fields Community Centre for the quarterly 'Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel' meeting. The new priorities for Popley are: 1) Drugs issues in Popley 2) Garage breaks in Popley 3) Trespass on school grounds. These will be priorities until the end of September.

You can view community priorities in the 'Crime

Reports' website. This will show updates from the team including patrols and public updates.

The contentious issue of parking was also a big discussion during the PSNP meeting. I explained to members that PC Chris Brindley and I would do what we can, however we must focus our attention on criminal matters that affect the whole community. Marnel Park is an example of too few car parks and too many cars. No amount of penalty tickets will change that. We will however issue tickets when deemed appropriate.

6th- Rest Day

7th- Rest Day. Although it was a rest day, I attended the Merton Schools Summer Fete. The weather was rubbish, however lots of people turned up, and spirits were high! I won a prize at the pitch and putt, and a lolly in the raffle, a highly successful police/community operation! CSPO Dan White also attended the event. Check our mug shot on the PSNP gallery.

In other news: On 22nd July 2012, I will take part in the 'Big Wheel'. This charity event will hopefully see me and the team, complete a 52 mile bike ride, around Basingstoke. My ride will be dedicated to the memory of Ken Frankum who died on 21st July 2011. Ken was a pillar of the community and a loyal husband to our own Jane Frankum. You can sponsor the #FedsOnPeds by clicking the link: (St Michael's Hospice)

8th- Rest Day

9th- I got out early on patrol and headed straight to Marnel Park. Everyone appeared to have parked sensibly the night before. No tickets today! I then patrolled the schools of Popley East and West looking for trespassers.

10th- Today I crewed up with PCSO Addison Maker to conduct patrols across Popley. All the hotspots were patrolled.

11th- Well, what a day! I was lucky enough to represent the #FedsOnPeds during the Olympic Torch rRelay today in Basingstoke. Massive crowds gathered to witness the event. Nobody was hurt and most had a great time. Traffic was chaos though but it doesn't happen often so...

See the PSNP gallery for a couple of photos from the day.

12th- Rest Day

13th- 'Farnborough Air Show' A great first day for me.. Lots of cycling and some great planes. See the photo gallery.

14th- 'Farnborough Air Show'

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Naomi House Open Day and Fete

15th September 2012, 11 am – 4 pm
Naomi House Children's Hospice, Sutton Scotney
Parking at Forest Edge Kart Club, Barton Stacey, SO21 3BF

The Naomi House and jacksplace open day and fete will take place on 15th September.

The hospices will be throwing open their doors and inviting the public to come along to look around the buildings and gardens, and enjoy a fun packed day for the whole family.

With a free park and ride service to Naomi House and a unique opportunity to look around the hospices, it's an event not to be missed.

There are lots of activities during the day, with highlights including a free prize draw, pony rides, bouncy castles, a barbecue & cafe, birds of prey, dog display teams, clog dancers, and a children's interactive quiz around the hospices.

A fleet of vintage buses will be available to transport people from the free park and ride at the Forest Edge Kart Club, Barton Stacey, SO21 3BF and take visitors to the stunning grounds of Naomi House. Doors open at 11.00am and last entry is at 4.00pm Entry costs just £2 per adult, 50p for children and under 5s can visit for free.

Last year's event saw close to 2,000 people make the trip to Sutton Scotney and look around the hospices which care for life-limited children and young adults from across central southern England.



BASINGSTOKE MEETUP

Socialising and networking in your spare time during the day.

BASINGSTOKE MEETUP – Started on Monday 16 July 2012 in order to provide a social and networking forum for those with spare time during the day. It is open to anyone between the ages of 30 and 70 years of age and is free to join at the moment. The ideal target audience will be those who are retired, redundant, between jobs, long term sick and single parents. Although others are willing to apply if they feel the group will meet their social needs. I have already been running Basingstoke Meetup Group for almost 2 years which has been growing from strength. If you are a bit nervous about taking that first step, then you can contact me and I will happily have a chat with you. For more information take a look at our website: <http://www.meetup.com/Basingstoke-Meetup-Plus/> I look forward to welcoming you to an event very soon.

Meetup is an international brand which began life in the States and is now the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organise a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. More than 2,000 groups get together in local communities each day.

My vision is for Basingstoke Meetup Group to be the most successful, diverse, friendly and inclusive social group in Basingstoke. My overall aim is to provide a warm, friendly and inclusive group environment within which members can participate in a variety of professionally organised no or low cost events in order to try new experiences and make new friends. Since taking over I have organised a variety of events, mainly meals out, pub quizzes and themed events at my house, which have been very well received. There are 32+ events on the calendar including several walks, pub quizzes, meals out, a Murder Mystery weekend in December and a group holiday in March next year!

We currently have 140 + members from a variety of backgrounds and walks of life, living in and around the Basingstoke area. There is no average age group. People of all ages are welcome. You just need to be keen to get out and socialise and have fun with like minded people.

For more information take a look at our website: http://www.meetup.com/Basingstoke-Meetup/pages/About_Basingstoke_Meetup_group/ where you will find a full calendar and descriptions on forthcoming events as well as reviews on previous events and members' profiles. So if you feel your social life needs a bit of kick-start, then this could be the group for you. So take a look, sign up and get active. I look forward to welcoming you to an event very soon.

Anne Murrill Organiser anne.murrill@ntlworld.com or from 9 August 2012 - anne.murrill@btinternet.com Home: 01256 811798 Mobile: 07565960087

Update on Bishop Bill Ind

I am pleased to give the following update on Bishop Bill:

The former Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Bill Ind, is home again in Melksham, Wiltshire after major surgery. Bishop Bill says that his surgeon is very pleased with the outcome. Nothing unexpected was found.

Bishop Bill says, "It was only on 1st June that the operation took place. We had been warned that I would probably have several days in intensive care and that recovery would be a slow process, but now I'm home, eating normally and not in any discomfort."

The Bishop paid tribute to the medical team who had been looking after him. "We were kept very fully informed about what to expect" he says, "and I have nothing but praise for their skill and dedication." Bishop Bill knows that full recovery may take up to a year, and he is not intending to fulfil any engagements in that time. "My wife Frances and I, and our whole family are deeply grateful for the thoughts and prayers of so many people which have been a wonderful support to us through these last six months" the Bishop explained.

He added that as he is now entering the next stage of the recovery process, he hoped that people would continue to support the family with their thoughts and prayers in the months ahead. "Thank God for what has been achieved. Every week I can measure my progress" he says, adding that he tires quickly at the moment and needs to take things gently. "I shan't be digging my new potatoes yet quite yet – but it will come and anyway potatoes in Wiltshire come later than they do in Cornwall!"

Cornerstone Nursery News

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way - 01256 840300

We have had some special visitors into the nursery recently. The children had a football coach come into nursery for Sport Week and they all took part in learning how to control the ball and then aim to score a goal.

In our Puffins room one of the children bought in her 2 lovebirds for us to look after for the day which tied in nicely with their Animals Week and all the children drew their own portraits of the lovebirds to display on the wall. We were also very lucky to have a lady called Margie Doherty who is one of our children's grandmas come in to show us her Olympic torch that she had the pleasure to parade through town, all the children were very excited to hold and touch the Olympic torch and they all had the chance to make their own out of card and shiny paper.

The babies in the Ducklings room have had great fun playing and exploring in their new sensory pod that we purchased from the collection of the Sainsbury vouchers. The children in the penguins room have had a great time getting messy making their own storybooks as part of their book week.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road - 01256 818118

We've had a busy month, with lots of new children starting at the nursery and with our preschool children preparing to leave us for school. We held a fantastic party for our school leavers to say goodbye, all the children had a great time playing party games and eating the fabulous party tea.

The babies have been exploring and learning about their body parts, through songs and body painting. They also have had fun playing with animals in spaghetti and exploring cornflour and water. Our older babies in Butterflies room have been learning about animals and have made a fantastic display of beautiful birds!

Our toddlers have been busy in the garden, looking for bugs and insects. They found lots of creepy crawlies and learnt some new songs about them! They have also been exploring the musical instruments, making lots of noise banging drums and playing with the bells!

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College - 01256 356166

This month in the Family room we have had the fire brigade, police and ambulance doing a stunt show. The children were able to see the police cars and fire engine and have photos with them and also got to see the police dog.

The children had couscous and noodle play and they were very interested in the story Funny Bones which led us to make some lovely skeleton pictures for our display board.

We made Olympic torches as the Olympic torch came through Basingstoke and outdoors we have explored water flow with lots of guttering. We've been very interested in the story sack of Farmer Duck we also acted out the three little pigs story with straws, sticks and bricks.

This month the Baby room have enjoyed singing and learning the Five Little Ducks song. We had great fun searching for our colourful ducks in the water tray. The children have enjoyed a variety of sensory activities, exploring the textures and making lots of excitable mess.

We have added more photos to our family and friends book and have also enjoyed painting Peppa Pig pictures to create our very own Peppa Pig story book.

We have been out in the garden lots this month, learning how to use the slides and walking up the steps all by ourselves.

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

Headquarters:

Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake 01256 410559

Scout section: Andy Welham-Jones 07971 491 145

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 01256 346510



The Beavers had an absolutely fabulous time at the Hobbycraft evening. The staff were brilliant and there was a selection of activities to do including fill a beaver picture with tissue paper and put the Beavers hand prints all around on the canvas. The picture will be put on display in the hall soon. What a great time!



Thirteen Beavers attended the Colony 'sleepover' on 14/15th July. Those attending the District Beaver 'sleepover' at JJ's last month came home tired but happy and clutching a 'golden' bar from Gold Beaver for good behaviour.

The Group AGM was held in June with a large number of parents in attendance. The Beavers gave a rendition of the Bones song (and encouraged parents to join in) and the Cubs followed with the Banana song. Chief Scouts Silver and Bronze Awards were presented by the District Commissioner, Andy Cullen. Several new people offered to join the Group Executive Committee who administer the Group and are responsible for raising funds to subsidise the cost of activities and camps, and for managing and keeping Base 2000 in good repair.

The Cubs had a fantastic time at District Camp at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre. They dodged the heavy rain at times to complete a full programme and nothing marred everyone's fun and adventure. Activities included Zip Wire, Archery, Abseiling, Team Building and a Hike but, best of all by far, was the 3G Swing. Food was good as always with 'old hands' looking forward to the traditional dessert of "Liver Soup" with all the first timers a little unsure of what to expect. Once they realised what it was they were then sworn to secrecy, Not even I can reveal the secret for it will spoil the surprise for future Cubs who attend Camp, lets just say 'once tasted, always loved'!



The Scout Troop has welcomed several new recruits in recent weeks as Cubs moved up to the scout section. We said a temporary 'goodbye' to two of our leaders. Debbie is taking a bit of a break as the birth of her baby draws near and Dan is currently serving in Afghanistan. Some of the troop were fortunate to go to Farnborough Air Show this year. Summer camp at Lyons Copse rapidly approaches so the troop has been honing its camping skills to 'survive' the week! When the time comes scouts will remember how to put up their tent in the minimum possible time to avoid getting too wet and how to use a compass for orienteering. Perhaps we should have included swimming lessons and surviving flash floods in our preparations!

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**Basingstoke
and Deane**

news release

Getting down more Streetz this summer with free fun for 11 to 17-year-olds

More young people than ever will benefit from the *Summer Streetz* school holiday programme this year as the activity evenings are spreading to more areas of the borough.

Building on the success of previous years of the summer programme, which offers a range of free evening activity sessions for 11 to 17-year-olds, the scheme is now set to cover even more areas in the school holidays. The sessions will take place in Brighton Hill, Buckskin, Oakridge, Popley, South Ham, Tadley and Bramley, Overton and Whitchurch, Hatch Warren and Winklebury as in previous year. New areas for this year are Oakley, Kingsclere, Rooksdown, Chineham, Bishop's Green and the town centre during August.

The expansion has been made possible due to partnership funding from Anvil Arts, along with continued sponsorship from global specialty biopharmaceutical company Shire and financial support from Sovereign housing association.

The *Summer Streetz* project, created by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council working with partners from public, private and community sectors, will run from Monday 30 July until Friday 31 August and include activities such as DJ workshops, football, basketball, freerunning and street dance, as well as the popular return of open access youth club session, at various community venues across the borough.

The borough council's Cabinet Member for Partnerships Cllr Cathy Osselton said: "Summer Streetz offers young people fun activities along with the chance to try out something new during the summer holiday evenings. For local communities this can also result in preventing boredom from turning into anti-social behaviour.

"The expansion of the scheme even further this year is due to the fact that more young people and communities are getting involved and working together with our community development team. It is wonderful that our young people are taking a hand in setting up and running many of the activities. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee has revitalised community activities in many parts of the country and I have every confidence that this years' activities will be a huge success."

All 15 programmes of *Summer Streetz* activities will be available on the council's website from the end of June at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/streetz.

For further information please contact: Sophia Waite-King, External information Communications Officer, on 01256 845746 or email sophia.waite-king@basingstoke.gov.uk. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@twitter.com/BasingstokeGov](https://twitter.com/BasingstokeGov)



**HAMPSHIRE
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The view from the fire station has in recent weeks been the same as from your homes, a very damp and wet summer so far! However we are asking that during the months of August and September when the warm days arrive and we rush out to make the most of the sunshine that fire safety in the garden is not forgotten.

The fire service attend incidents every summer caused by misuse of BBQs and they are avoidable. Follow the simple safety rules and all will have a good enjoyable and safe summer time. many thanks

Barbecue Safety

Don't cook if you're affected by alcohol or prescription drugs.

Never leave barbecues unattended.

Never take a barbecue of any kind, or lit charcoal into an enclosed space like a tent or awning. The carbon monoxide it gives off can be lethal. [See the CO-Awareness carbon monoxide safety poster for more information \(opens new window\)](#)

Make sure that your barbecue is in good working order.

Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby in case of emergencies.

Only use barbecues in suitable and safe areas.

Set up your barbecue on level ground away from bushes, tents or other buildings and do not put it where you have to squeeze past

it.

Put about 5 cm of charcoal in the barbecue, keep the rest away from the fire.

Only use recommended fluids or fire lighters and **never** petrol.

Wear suitable clothing and use appropriate long handled tools.

Be careful when cooking fatty foods, the dripping fat can cause the barbecue to flare up.

Make sure the coals are cool before you move the barbecue. Once cool, dispose of the ashes safely - never place them in dustbins.

Keep young children, animals and ball games away from the cooking area.

Gas Barbecues

Remember!

Enjoy yourself, but too much alcohol and fire don't mix!

Bottled gas barbecues need special care when being turned on and off.

Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.

Change gas cylinders in the open air if possible or open doors and windows to provide good ventilation.

When you've finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinders before you turn off the barbecue controls, to ensure any gas in the pipeline is used up.

If you have a protective cover for your BBQ ensure that the unit is completely cool before covering and storing away.

If you suspect a leak to the gas cylinder or pipe work, brush soapy water around all joints and watch for bubbles.

If you find a leaky joint, try to tighten it.

But do not overtighten.

Storing Gas Cylinders

Store gas cylinders outside.

Keep gas cylinders away from frost and direct sunlight.

Never store gas cylinders under the stairs of your home - if you are upstairs this is your means of escape from a fire.

Do not keep more spare gas cylinders than you need.

Garden Appliances

When buying electrical garden (or DIY) tools, look for the kite mark.

Check cables and flexes regularly for frays and kinks.

Check plugs to make sure they are firmly wired and not damaged.

Replace damaged flex or plugs.

Use a residual current device (RCD) or power breaker on all appliances.

Fully unwind extension leads before use.

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Group Manager Basingstoke Group

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Dear Friends, do you know the old rhyme...

Whether the weather be fine
Or whether the weather be not
Whether the weather be cold
Or whether the weather be hot
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather
Whether we like it or not!

We've certainly had a soaking so far this year, haven't we? But I live fully in the hope that by the time you're reading this the jet stream will have taken up residence much further north and allowed our usual balmy English summer weather to prevail and we can all begin to enjoy our gardens, holidays, barbeques or the ubiquitous Olympic Games. It is interesting to note that our summers, particularly July and August are traditionally unsettled and if they were any different whatever would we have to talk about?

I quite like some of the old proverbs about weather, I'm sure you know the type of thing – 'red sky at night shepherds delight; red sky in the morning, shepherds warning' and 'ash before oak and we'll get a soak, oak before ash and we'll have a splash' referring of course to whichever tree comes into leaf first for the type of summer that's in store for us. The ash must have come into leaf first this year!

Two thousand years ago Jesus too, was quite familiar with speculation and talk about the weather. One day he was doing some teaching when some of the local religious authorities came to him and demanded a sign to demonstrate his power he said to them "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times." (Matthew chapter 16 verse 2 onwards).

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the direction our government is taking and the stance they are adopting on some of the foundations of our national life. I am also concerned about the on-going scandal of some of our major financial institutions. It calls into question the integrity of our leaders and generates a lack of confidence and trust in those who bear the responsibility of leadership, whether that's political, commercial, financial or otherwise. The trouble is, it's sets a very poor example and like children following parents it becomes the norm to say "if it's okay for them to do it then it's okay for me to do it" and the moral fabric of society and community begins to fray.

But we too have a responsibility to let those in positions of leadership to know what is and what is not acceptable. We can do this through the internet, writing to them or visiting their offices. Our leaders will always need our prayers and our support as they bear the burden or responsibility – it's a tough role. Praise and credit when they get it right, but let them know when you think its going wrong!

**Every blessing
Arthur**

Marnel Infant School July 2012

Although we are drawing near to the end of the school year we are still very busy in school with exciting events. Sadly, due to the weather, we had to cancel Sports Day. However we were able to have our family picnic indoors and this was enjoyed by all. As part of our Healthy Schools week we all enjoyed our annual 'Jump Rope for Life' skipping challenge and many parents came along to support us and join in with the skipping. All the money raised goes to The British Heart Foundation.

Year 1 children went to visit Hillier Gardens and although they also had a wet day they were able to enjoy all the activities there including pond dipping. They were full of enthusiasm for their day out and all would like to go back and see the gardens on a dry day.

The children were able to work with a visiting artist Jane Bower who was in school for 3 days in July. She talked to the children about painting techniques and each class then worked with Jane to produce a beautiful painting of their class mascot.

This week Terriann Clarkstone visited assembly to talk to the children about being chosen as an Olympic Torchbearer. She ran with the torch in Winchester and proudly showed us the torch and her uniform. The children and the teachers were very excited to see the torch and some were lucky enough to hold it!

We would like to wish all our families a happy summer holiday and hope the sun shines!

Bernadette Cole Headteacher

The Joe Glover Trust, children's cancer charity supporting Charlie's Day Unit

The Joe Glover Trust, a Hampshire based children's cancer charity, are getting behind the fundraising appeal for Charlie's Day Unit at Basingstoke and North Hospital, part of the Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust. They are aiming to help raise the £50,000 required for the 2 bedded Oncology Unit within Charlie's Day Unit to start making the cancer treatment at Basingstoke Hospital just a little bit easier for children and their families.

Camilla Cordle, whose son underwent treatment at Basingstoke Hospital says "I want to add my support to The Joe Glover Trust who are helping raise funds for Charlie's Day Unit. My son was treated for 3 and a 1/4 years at Charlie's Day Unit when he was undergoing treatment for Leukaemia. They have a wonderful caring team of staff there and I am sure all money raised will go to help and support children needing treatment for all kinds of illnesses. Being well cared for and feeling comfortable in your surroundings when you are in hospital for long periods of time really help children feel better and more at 'home'

If you would like to donate please visit at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BasingstokeAppeal> or if your company would like to get involved, please contact Jane Wilmshurst at The Joe Glover Trust on on 07818 417164

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NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITY IN BASINGSTOKE FUNDED BY EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

The Café Project has appointed Anne Wright as Online Trading Tutor to start training groups of 5-6 students with learning disabilities in how to buy and sell items on portals such as eBay amazon, and play.com.

Anne commented "I am delighted to be joining the team at the café project; it's a really unique and innovative way of helping those less academic students develop their skills in a more practical way".

The training will consist of three 3 hr sessions a week at the Cafe Project in Brighton Hill and will focus more on the practical skills on online retailing. It will cover sourcing products, describing products, researching and setting prices, along with packaging, despatch, and providing excellent customer services.

Ultimately students will learn how to run a small online business and this training will equip them with the vital commercial skills and experience to help them get into mainstream employment.

Christine Fisher, Trustee of the Café Project explained how excited she is to get the initiative up and running giving them the opportunity to support a wider range of people with learning disabilities.

The course will start next month and there are still a couple of student placements available. Please call Anne on 07816 787579 or download an application form from www.thecafeproject.co.uk.

As the course will depend on having items for students to practice on, The Café Project is looking for individual and or corporate donations of unwanted DVD's and Games Console Games such as XBOX, PLAYSTATION, and GAMEBOY. If there was a larger organisation in the town that would support us with a staff initiative, it would be a huge help to get this initiative underway. Anyone interested should call Anne on 07816787579

The Café Project, Off Sullivan Road, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, RG22 4EH
T: 01256 816375 dome@thecafeproject.co.uk www.thecafeproject.co.uk
The Café Project is a registered charity no. 1140619

TEAM GB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

In this Olympic Year, the challenge has been set to 'Inspire a Generation'.

Basingstoke's Junior Team Gym Squad, comprising 13 girls aged 12 to 17 are the current British Champions and are hoping to 'Inspire a Generation' when they represent Great Britain at the TeamGym European Championships in Denmark this October.

The girls have worked tirelessly all year to be at the top of their game – training 9 hours a week. The discipline consists of 3 elements – a synchronised floor routine including meticulous choreography; tumbling with spectacular acrobatic elements; and trampette where they perform a series of somersaults and twists. For footage of the girls at The British Championships please search in YouTube for "Basingstoke Teamgym British Finals 2012" followed by "floor" "tumble" or "trampet".

The girls need to raise £800 each to cover travel, accommodation, food and the cost of the Team GB kit because there is no financial support from British Gymnastics.

Do you think you could support these dedicated girls? If so, please email teamgymbasingstoke@gmail.com for more information. Any donation will be very gratefully received, no matter how small.

Any businesses offering sponsorship in excess of £100 will be provided with a link to their business on Basingstoke Gymnastic Club's website as a thank you for their support.

Please do all you can, in this Olympic Year, to support and encourage local talent and give these Basingstoke girls the chance to represent their country and 'Inspire a Generation.'

DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

As I write this, that thing in the sky called the SUN is out, but I don't think its going to last. I have talked about this subject before, but I want to go over it again. Some may not agree with me, but I can't please all, Her Indoors for a start...When we came to The Poets, some 40 odd years ago, the first thing we noticed was how clean and tidy the place was. How the council came round cutting the grass not only public areas but also people's front gardens, as then that was part of the council. We had at that time in our rent books that people were to keep back and front of their houses tidy and neat. I wonder what went wrong? It was not just the residents but the council that kept the foot paths neat and tidy and cut grass that had encroached over the paths each year. We had people come along killing weeds that sprang up along walls or paths pot holes were dealt with quickly, I mean dealt with they would do a professional job. Long gone are those days, they seemed to have disappeared. Now all we get is patch up on paths or people shooting round on mowers, as if on a race track. leaving chunks of grass all over the paths that are still left upswept. This year again I see the same leaves that have fallen from the winter just gone by, drains on footpaths that never get unblocked. This causes huge puddles up to two inches deep that people have to get around. I am sure our council do not give a damn sometimes, and they have the audacity to send out questionnaires asking people if they have problems with paths in their area, I very much doubt people will send them back because they know the forms are just for show.



I have just started to read a book about the Sugar Girls at Tate and Lyles in the East End. My mother and her sister worked at the plant, and my aunt right up till she was 60 years of age. Back then you had to retire at 60 and she lived on to the age of 93. Every year Tate's would send her a hamper at Christmas without fail, this was great, I got the Golden Syrup. I have just started to read the book that has two names I knew from my mums wedding photos. I am having a look now for the others that worked with my mum and Aunt May. In the war no bombs were dropped on the factory, it was said that it was because it was all German machinery, but in fact it was that the German bomber would home in on Tate and Lyle's tall towers then they knew they were over the London Docks. My mother told me how her school she went to took a direct hit, killing over a 130 men, women and children that were sheltering from a raid. As I read on into the book so many of the stories that are in it take me back to Latimer Avenue in East Ham and my family that lived there, so many years ago. As a very young boy I can remember the Queen's Coronation, we had a street party from one end of the road to the other. This month our families are all getting together and have rented a twenty-bed house in North Devon. We did sadly lose a family member not too long ago. Her great granddaughter said "Has Markel gone to Devon?" She is a bit too young to know it is Heaven. As for the holiday unfortunately I will not be among them as there are so many and the trip takes 3 hours to get there. I can not sit in the car for that long. I know in my heart I will be there with them and know and pray they all have a wonderful holiday. One good thing is, I will not have Her Indoors nagging me for a week, life can be bliss after all!



**Till next month
The Old Codger**

Making Dreams a Reality

Dreams are great – they encourage us, motivate us to get to where we want to be in life. Some dreams are big, others are small; some are simple to achieve, whereas others are harder to reach. Without these goals in life, where would we be?

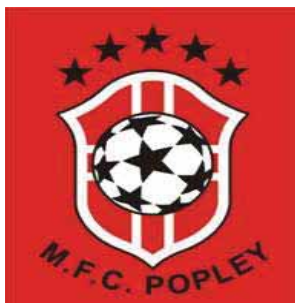
I'm an example of a dreamer because I want to be a writer, an author, in the future. My dream is to publish at least one book and I'm willing to work hard to improve my skills to get there. I upload anything I write to online websites for feedback, take part in social online writing competitions and so on just so I can develop and improve. The Internet is there for me to utilise my ability for writing, so I take what it gives me and I work on it.

Even musicians can be a great example of working towards a dream – Ed Sheeran is one of the many. As a boy, he had the dream of becoming big and famous through song-writing and singing, played in so many gigs and used YouTube to get himself recognised out there. Look at where he is now, releasing songs that are hitting the charts and becoming a star. No dream is too profound, nor is it too impossible to achieve (unless you were thinking of being a super-robot-ninja-monkey, then I'm afraid that *is* impossible) – you just keep on working to reach that goal you've always hoped for.

We're always changing our minds about where, or what, we want to be in the near-future – an actor, musician, model, cartoonist? It doesn't matter what goal or what dream you have, what matters is that you work hard to make it a reality. What use is a dream if it is only to be a figment of your imagination? If you have a goal in life that you want so bad, go for it. You want to be an astronaut? Do it. You want to be an artist? Work at it. Getting into the writing business can be really hard – even if I were to publish a book, it may not even be a hit with the public. Truthfully, I just want something out there so I can say “I did that. That was mine and I'm proud of it”. If it becomes popular with everyone that would be even better, but all I want is to realise a single dream of creating at least one novel that has my name on it – I love to write and it's what I want to do. Sure, being an author seems a bit far-fetched or fairly difficult to get into, but I *want* the challenge of working towards it and I am willing to put in all of the effort just to reach my goal.

No dream is too silly or too difficult – as long as you're willing to face the challenges ahead, why not go for it? The best people in the world have worked hard to achieve what they have now and, most likely, they've had to face criticism from both friends and family; all you have to remember is that you have control over your life and the dreams you wish to fulfil, not them. You dictate your own road to travel down and the goals you want to bring into reality, just be prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

Adam Seal



IT is still closed season but at MFC Popley Youth, an FA Charter Standard Club, pre-season training has already already started. The Club will have 13 teams competing in the Peter Houseman Youth League on Sundays this season, with over 150 players expected to sign on in total.

The Under 7s will be managed by Andrew Mark Hopley, with Peter Shearman assisting, the Under 8s by Andy Williams with Dave Gambrell assisting, the Under 9s by Warwick Sear-Jarvis, the Under 10s Knights by Lee Austen, the Under tens Panthers by Tom Bartlett, the Under 11s by Russell Graves and Glenn Taylor, the Under 12s by Danny Oates with Darren Best assisting, the Under 13s by Paul O'Shea with Piotr assisting, the Under 14s by Dave Wright with Kevan Merrit assisting and the Under 16s by Danny Oates and Chris Gordon.

Off the pitch, the newly-formed Ruling Committee of the Club has met and this consists of: Ian Davies, Chairman, Club Secretary & Tournament Director; Lee Austen, Vice Chairman; Linda Austen, Treasurer; Nicci Cox, Club Welfare Officer, Andy Williams, Minutes Secretary, Glenn Taylor, Kit Co-Ordinator; and Warwick Sear-Jarvis, Equipment Co-Ordinator.

The Club's 2012 Tournament was a success and a date of 11th/12th May has already been provisionally set for the 2013 Tournament.



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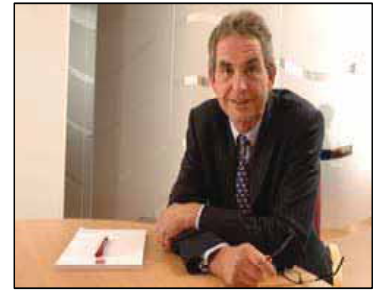
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Legal Corner



Q: What are my rights if I want to prevent my neighbour from either extending his property or, worse, building a house in his garden?

A: Howard Gardener, solicitor specializing in disputes and family law at Phillips, answers:

'There is neither a quick nor an easy answer to this I'm afraid,' says Howard Gardener, solicitor specialising in disputes and family law at Phillips 'but going to court should always be a last resort. You may have heard of a 'restrictive covenant' which is a promise not to do something on land for the benefit of other land, but the law is extremely complex. For example, if you have a covenant that was entered into by a former owner of your house, you must prove that you own the land and the benefit of the covenant must have passed to you.

So the first thing to do is to examine your deeds and establish that your covenant is still valid, that it has been correctly registered and is genuinely restrictive in nature. Generally, a restrictive covenant will be enforceable between the original parties as a matter of contract. But the situation becomes more complicated if your covenant was entered into by the former owner and the benefit has not been passed to you.'

'If all else fails,' concludes Howard, 'going to court can be an effective way to resolve matters. Primarily, the court will decide whether or not to grant an injunction prohibiting the development or grant damages. Either option is drastic so make sure you properly evaluate the merits of a claim and take legal advice at an early stage. Clearly there is a lot to think about so my advice is try to negotiate with your neighbour before any building work starts and before bad feeling between you spoils your home life.'

Howard Gardener is a director at Phillips Solicitors, Basingstoke, specialising in dispute resolution and family law. Call Howard direct on 01256 854632, email: hgardener@phillips-law.co.uk

Visit our website for lots more information at www.phillips-law.co.uk



Welfare reform and you

Changes to the state benefit system are just around the corner, but what will they mean to you? If you or any member of your household claims benefits then you will be affected when the new rules apply from April 2013. It's all part of the government's plans to cut spending and reduce the deficit.

Housing benefit

If you have a spare bedroom in your home and you're under 61, your housing benefit will be cut. A spare bedroom, under the new rules, is one which is not currently occupied by either of the following:

- An adult couple
- Someone over the age of 16
- Two children under 16 of the same sex
- Two children under 10 regardless of sex
- Any other child
- A non-resident overnight carer

One spare bedroom means you will lose 14% of your weekly housing **benefit; while two or more spare bedrooms will result in a 25% reduction.**

Universal credit

From October 2013 a new Universal Credit will be phased in. Instead of claiming several types of benefit you will claim just one, which will cover jobseekers allowance, income support, housing benefit, working tax credits and child tax credits. Universal Credit will be paid once per month and you will manage all your bills – including rent – from this monthly payment.

Benefit cap

Under the new welfare regulations all benefits will be added together and capped. The maximum amount you will be able to receive will be £500 per week for families and £350 per week for single people without children.

These are complex changes, and we'll be sending more information to our customers nearer the time. For further advice you can take a look at the National Housing Federation website at www.housing.org.uk, or visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Beckie's Column

Hello again! The summer holidays are here!! Even if the weather hasn't sorted itself out yet! While I am writing this, it's raining again and it's the middle of July. What happened to summer weather?

Despite the weather, did anyone go to see the torch go through town? We were really lucky and got a first floor room overlooking the torch's path. It was a great view and there was such a lovely atmosphere building up to it! It was amazing. The only downfall was that it didn't last very long. There was a real carnival atmosphere and it would have been nice if there was more to the celebrations like a funfair or procession afterwards.

Everest year 11s had their prom at Aldermaston Manor a couple of weeks ago. It was really good and there were so many gorgeous dresses! Even the boys made an effort and looked smart in their suits. It was great watching everyone turn up in different cars. My friend and I rented a BMW convertible for the evening, however we didn't ride the whole way to the venue with the roof down; we didn't want to mess our hair up!

One of my favourite parts of the evening was setting off some balloons. We all had a card to sign and tie to a balloon. We let them off outside behind the Manor (before we were meant to) and watched them fly off over the building. It was quite an emotional sight. The whole evening was great but it went by really fast!

Most of my friends have been looking for a part time job since we left school. It's really hard for teenagers to find a job nowadays. My friends have given out dozens of CVs and only got a couple of replies. I guess you've just got to keep at it. So good luck to anyone looking for a job!

Well, talk to you soon!

Beckie



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Tuesday evening -

Community Bingo doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 8:00pm.

Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available halftime)

Wednesday evening -

C.M.A Kick Boxing from 7:00-8:30pm

Thursday evening-

Street Dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult.

4:30-6:30pm Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484.

Friday evening-

Friday Club (children) 5:00-6:30pm

The hall is also available to hire for parties etc. at very reasonable rates.

For details ring 01256 363156.

The next prize bingo will be on Friday 3rd August. Doors open at 6pm eyes down at 7pm everyone welcome. Great prizes on bingo and raffle. Come along and join in the fun. Refreshments available.



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