

POPLEY MATTERS

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Issue 127



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-09-12) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-September, and autumn approaches, a new school year begins, and I bet there will be Christmas items in the shops before the end of the month! I promised myself to have at least a mini holiday as it would be the first in 17 years but again it didn't happen. Popley had a visitor from Russia and Natasha has written her impressions of England, our culture and people on page 3. I hope to meet Natasha when she next returns to Popley. We went to lots of Summer fetes including a Strawberry Fair, open days and a Hog Roast in Chineham Park run by the residents of Shakespeare Community Residents Association, read about it on page 7. On pages 10 and 12 you

can read about Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel and the report from PC Dan Carter on parking. This is a problem across all parts of the estate, and if David Wilson Homes get a further 200 properties on Kiln Farm Fields passed on 19th September they have admitted they would take away parking spaces from Jersey and Guernsey Close. They need to be convinced that the huge majority of residents feel this is total madness and is just one of the many reasons why the application should be refused. Read more about it on the opposite page. Lots of work over the last 4 years has been going into improving access for residents in Popley Islands and you can read where we are up to on page 19. On page 28 we say a goodbye to Beckie who has written her column for two years. Good luck Beckie at college and maybe you will write to us occasionally to let us know your impressions of college and how you are doing with your studies.

We are still looking for a community minded resident that would take on the duties of treasurer though, like the rest of our brilliant volunteers, it would be unpaid but we would supply stationery and stamps. We also need some more deliverers.

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

September 19th 6-30pm at the Civic Offices is the time and date for the David Wilson Homes (DWH) planning application for 200 dwellings in the Kiln Farm Fields. The question on most peoples lips is if the full outline application was rejected unanimously by the Development Control Committee on 17th July why is this part of the plan still going ahead? That is a good question and it has baffled us all, but there is nothing stopping DWH from submitting the plans and they will have to be heard. There were 276 bullet points of objections and the vast majority apply again in this application, plus a few more.

We need the scores of residents who came to the meeting to come to the September meeting too, We clearly need to show the developer that we as a community are objecting alongside Sherborne St John Parish Council, that this is a wrong application at the wrong time. There is outline planning permission for around 1,000 more homes in Popley still to be built and our schools and doctors can't cope with the needs of the population in Popley already. There is no provision in this phase of the application for the 200 dwellings for ANY amenities like a school, doctors or community facilities. The roads are already too busy and that's without the 1,000 already to come.

The area they want to build over is agricultural land that has had crops in it for as many years as I can remember and I have lived here in Popley for 42 years. Technically it is in the parish of Sherborne St John and therefore open countryside but we all know the impact of an increase of 200 more dwellings will affect us in Popley.

Residents in Marnel Park told us it was shameful that they had been assured that there were no plans to build on the fields. Many told us they would not have bought their homes if they had known this was not so.

The track around the field has hosted a sponsored bike ride for the Boys Brigade and dog walkers take their strolls there, pre-schools and school children have enjoyed the open countryside and learnt about the seasons. The great crested newt is a protected species and would be completely surrounded by buildings and roads.

There are other sites available in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane so why are we expected to cram even more in the North of the borough? The proposal to build on the allotments in Oakridge is another example of developers greed to build for profit no matter what impact on the local communities.

Please come along and support your fellow residents and your Labour Councillors on 19th September, 6-30pm at the Council Civic Offices.

Jane Frankum Basingstoke North Labour County Councillor and Popley West Borough

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Natasha's Impressions of England

Introduction by Terry Jones:

Natasha is 23 years old and teaches English at a university in Minsk. I've known her for nearly four years, from when she was a student at the prestigious Linguistic University in Minsk. When, during my visit to Minsk last spring, she asked if she could come and stay with me, I was delighted to give her the chance to see England with me.

Despite the vast differences in our ages, we get on very well with each other. Due to her English being excellent I would take her places and then leave her to explore on her own, when she would ask people if she needed any information.

My Impressions of England, Basingstoke and Abbey Road:

by Natasha Suruntovich from Orsha, Belarus

I've been to England before, as a child, but couldn't form a conscious opinion of the country and the people.

However, as an adult I've had a wonderful opportunity to achieve one of my dreams; to visit this country again and to see the way of life of British people in reality compared with the information I learned about as a student of English.

From my previous experience as a child, I found English people friendly, hospitable and polite.

This time I started to admire their warmth, generosity, patience and extreme politeness to each other.

Being given a pleasant smile and a courteous explanation by the people in the streets gave me a feeling of joy, comfort and self content.

I even didn't mind getting lost as I felt 100% confident that I would find a way out relying on the kind assistance of the people around me; this applies to Basingstoke town centre, Abbey Road, Oxford, Whitchurch Silk Mill, Windsor Castle, London, Basing House, Vyne House, Silchester, Bath, Salisbury, Old Sarum and Winchester.

I find the atmosphere in English surroundings the most relaxing, stress free, exciting - exactly how you want it to enjoy yourself at all times.

I admire the preservation of the national heritage, culture and traditions, which is feature of English people, in such places as Bath, Salisbury and Winchester, which gave me the feeling of being in a fairy tale.

I believe in reincarnation and I'm convinced that in my next life I will join the English society, customs and traditions I appreciate greatly.

Despite only spending two weeks in England ,I feel absolutely at ease both in the country and the community and it seems to me I've been living here for many years.

From my studies I'm aware of the hardships the British people have come through. Nevertheless, I suppose they must be quite appreciative of the policies of successive governments that, in my opinion, have shaped the people as very well bred, well mannered, kind and very helpful to one another.

In conclusion, I'd like to say I've experienced endless pleasure visiting this country and communicating with the people Terry introduced me to. **Natasha Suruntovich, 29th July 2012.**



Natasha and the 'Feds on Peds'!

Councillors Page: This month we have been walking around the ward in the sunshine and have noted quite a few more walls badly damaged, the worst one in the garage area of Glastonbury Close. The broken parts of the wall were removed and we did a site visit with a Sentinel surveyor and again suggested it be replaced with railings. There were some very overgrown hedges in Fountains Close that were cutting right across the pathways and these were trimmed back, and the litter removed. We also pointed out the parking area in Tintern Close that the concrete has broken and is so loose it moves. Some of the hedges in Selby Walk are growing across the path and those that are the responsibility of the council have been cut. Some walls in Abbey Road have been repaired or replaced with railings. If you have any issues you can contact us by phone or email.

The Popley East and West Councillors met with the Hampshire County Council officer that is working on the access improvements for Popley Islands pathways that should start soon this year. They were held up to divert some water pipes to reduce the flooding risk in Bermuda Close. More details as to timescales will follow in next month's issue. *Jane 01256 819924*

Popley West: The meeting that David Wilson Homes (DWH) and the police were invited to was to try to progress the adoption of Marnel Park so that a solution on the long awaited traffic issues, lighting etc. can start to be looked at. Unfortunately the DWH rep had a problem with his car and no one from DWH turned up. The meeting then changed to solely looking at parking problems. Five years ago we were promised that as soon as the area is adopted, a plan to manage the problems would start! The measures include yellow lines, better lighting in the car parking areas and better marking of spaces. It is frustrating that this is dragging on for so long. Another meeting is being arranged. We had a few phone calls about the smell that was all over Popley. We found out it was from the Manydown Farm area and they were doing their annual "muck spreading". It reminded me that we are on the edge of the beautiful countryside in Hampshire and though this one day was not pleasant it is preferable to having hundreds more houses squashing us in!
Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: The North Popley Accessibility Improvements programme is currently underway. With the third phase hopefully due to start in autumn 2012.

It will provide improvements to the footways and cycle ways in Popley East and is currently undergoing detailed design. Plans will include gateway features to provide a boundary and alert drivers to reduce their speed as they enter into the Popley Community.

On 19th September David Wilson Homes will be putting their detailed full planning application to build 200 new dwellings on Kiln Farm before the Development Control committee. Although a victory was won in July with the outline planning application being rejected, the battle continues. Please join fellow residents and your Labour Councillors on 19th September 6.30pm at the Council Civic Offices, to show the strength of feeling against this development. Parking continues to be a problem in Popley East, and one that there never seems to be an easy solution for. David and I have pledged to continue to push for improvements at every opportunity, and we will continue to keep you informed through our leaflets and Popley Matters.

Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801.

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088

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Anyone interested in joining us to help organise future events would be very welcome. We need as many volunteers as we can get to continue holding these events. We are soon to be making plans for a special Christmas celebration. Please contact Julie Johnson at jjohn957@aol.com or 816101 if you are interested.

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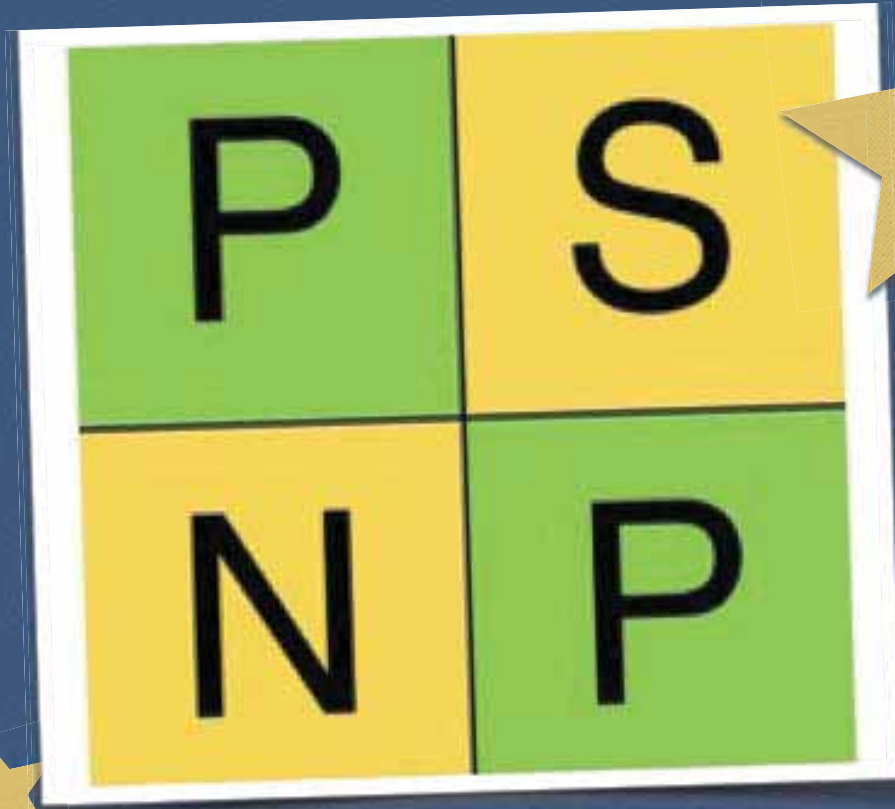
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PSNP

Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel

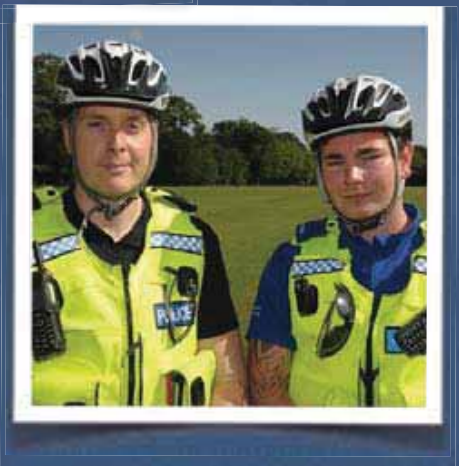


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The Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel: Keeping Popley safe since 2007

Marnel Park Parking Issues (Beat Blog 11)

Since Marnel Park was built there have been parking issues. There are 1.5 car spaces, per address, with many residents owning 2 or more cars. Unfortunately this means that there will be residents forced to park on the streets... Except, the residents are choosing to park on the pavements rather than the streets.

At times in the evenings, I have counted up to 50 vehicles parked on pavements and near to junctions and parallel parked, etc. In my opinion, due to the design of the estate and lack of parking provisions, residents are forced to park on pavements. I am told that having fewer parking spaces is meant to encourage people to lift-share, catch a bus or have fewer cars. I will leave it for you to decide if that is a good move.

We have received many complaints about Marnel Park and the parking situation via twitter, email and word of mouth. In-fact, a disproportionate amount of complaints. I say this as when compared to what is going on in other areas of Popley, Marnel Park enjoys less crime and less issues.

Last year, after many complaints, I delivered letters to residents requesting cooperation in sensible parking. This year I have done the same. This year however, I have issued a number of £30 fixed penalty tickets to residents, who in my opinion have parked dangerously. I have also conducted several call-ons to car owners addresses, to ask them to park more considerately. I have had a number of emails from residents asking why I can't just issue tickets to all residents parked on pavements etc. This is not possible for a number of reasons. I will highlight a few: 1) The residents are parking on the pavements to keep the road clear, and to allow access to other vehicles, including fire engines and other emergency vehicles. If all the residents that park on the pavements suddenly decided to park on the road, the estate would be in chaos. 2) Although Popley has a Safer Neighbourhood Team, I am the only officer within the team with the power to issue parking tickets at present. Police Community Support Officers, and Community Safety Patrolling Officers, cannot. I simply cannot afford to spend large amounts of time issuing tickets and calling on residents to park more sensibly. Popley is one of the busiest beat areas in Basingstoke, and crime, and ASB issues must take priority.

On 16th August 2012, I attended a multi agency meeting along with representatives of Traffic Management, Road Adoptions and the highways team from Hampshire County Council. We met at the roundabout off Barrington Drive, then did a walkabout around the estate. It is possible that from this meeting, measures will be drawn up for yellow lines at some point in the future but that is not a definite. Also mentioned was a possible survey to see who owns what driveway and if the driveway is used appropriately. I will update you further when I receive further information. During the walkabout I pointed out the areas of concern from a police perspective. A representative of David Wilson Homes was invited to the meeting but didn't turn up.

What can you do as a resident to help? Please be more considerate with your parking. I would encourage neighbours to talk to each other. Perhaps you have a neighbour that in your opinion parks in an inconsiderate manner!? Have you spoken to them? It could be that they are unaware that this causes you issues.

When possible, I will continue to patrol Marnel Park, and when I deem it is necessary, and proportionate, I will issue £30 fixed penalty notices. As mentioned, I will not issue tickets to residents simply for parking on pavements. There would need to be a dangerous

or a persistent element to my strategy. I know some of you will not like reading that, but I cannot please all of the people all of the time. Just like in the movie 'Hot Fuzz', I must work for the 'greater good' in Popley. I have always been honest and transparent in the way I work. I am the only officer in Basingstoke that keeps a daily online diary of my work/arrests/meetings/community work etc. I am always open to suggestions and new ideas about solving long term community issues. If you would like to have your say about the issues that matter to you, then let us know via our website <http://psnp.zapd.net/> or email me directly: daniel.carter.20686@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. **PC Dan Carter**



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Winchester Cathedral



Friday 16th November 2012

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of St Michael's Hospice, a celebratory service is taking place at Winchester Cathedral. Guests are invited to arrive at 19.00 with the service commencing at 19.30.

This is a non ticket event, however if you could register your attendance online at: stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events it would aid with our planning.

Entry is free, so please join us to celebrate the wonderful work undertaken at Basingstoke and North Hampshire's only Hospice

Kids Nursery, Shakespeare Road, Popley.

Mini Olympics



At Kids Nursery, Popley, we held a mini Olympics to say goodbye to all the children leaving us for big school. The children all made medals and Olympic torches to celebrate the day.

Parents came and joined in the fun and even the sun came out for the occasion. The babies and toddlers came out to be part of the fun, joining in the races and cheering on their friends and siblings.

The children took part in egg and spoon races, sack races, an obstacle course, running, hopping and carrying the Olympic torch, and at the end of the day they were all winners in our eyes.

The parents even showed their competitive streak when it came to their race, battling with each other to get to the finishing line first!

All in all it was a fun day and a great way to send the pre-school children on their next adventure. A massive thank you to all the parents and children that came along.

Kids is a low fee, inclusive nursery. We still have spaces available in all age groups, we accept 2 and 3 year old funding as well as nursery vouchers.

Low fees of £3.41 per hour – flexible hours available.

If you would like any more information about Kids Nursery please call Nicky on- 01256 464750 or email nicola.robinson@kids.org.uk.

BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

The Lion of Basingstoke escaped from the Club on Saturday 30 June but, he was recaptured at Four Lanes School by the children. The children loved him. But the day was very hot so the poor old Lion had to take lots of naps – just like at home his mummy said. 🤔

At the same time 7 other (less sleepy) Lions went out to help at the World Party in the Park. This was a superb event and The Making, and all involved, are to be congratulated. The music and dance, the workshops, attractions and food from around the world were all excellent. Favourite quote from a visitor was “I didn’t know Basingstoke did anything like this – it’s fantastic!” I had a personal moment of glory when a group of school kids came up to me and said “We know you – you’re the guy in the black hat with the putting game!” Fame at last.



One of the great benefits of being in a Lions Club is that when a problem is too large for one club to handle, it can invite other clubs to help out. Pangbourne Lions were faced with the case of Owen Kew(6) a dystonic quadriplegic palsy sufferer who needed a specialised wheelchair costing over **£14,000**. Smart Wheelchairs, a specialist charity supported by many household names, bought the chair for **£11,000**. Pangbourne Masons Lodge and 4 Lions Clubs chipped in the balance and Owen now has his chair. Sounds easy – but it took a lot of hard work by all concerned, particularly the Pangbourne Lions Club, to raise that sort of money.

During this month we have allocated funds to assist house conversion for an MS sufferer and to assist a student teaching disabled women in Uganda practical skills which will enable them to support themselves. Underwritten costs are around **£500**. We have also helped 4 other people with problems related to birth certificates, fares and domestic appliances at a total cost of **£70.60**. 🤔

Lions are Green. Water is the lifeblood of the planet and trees are its lungs. So, last year the President of Lions Clubs International asked the 46000 Lions Clubs around the world to plant a million trees during the year. Last month he reported that as a result of our efforts **13.8 million additional trees** have so far been planted around the world and the number is still rising. **World Leaders talk about it – Lions get on and do it! Join us and help to make a difference!** 😊 😊

You know you can help us just my going out and having a good time. 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. You know it makes sense! Get your tickets by calling 01256 421867 or 325280.** 🤔

Please visit us at <http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk/>



Headquarters:

Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake	01256 410559
Scout section: Andy Welham-Jones	07971 491 145
Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander	01256 346510

Weekly meetings for sections recommence on Tuesday 11th September and Friday 14th September after the summer break. Leaders are currently finalising section activity programmes for the autumn session but the Cubs will certainly try to complete the Navigation Skills badge which was 'rained off' during July. The Pack is also hoping to emulate the Beavers with a visit to Hobbycraft for a 'creative arts' evening. The very popular 'sleepover' will undoubtedly feature as always and then there is the County 'Supercub/Mastermind' competition to tackle and the Beavers' Annual Visit to see 'you know who' at Paultons' Park in November.

The Group will be supporting Basingstoke East's 'Walk the District' to raise funds for the Group and the District in October and the 'Cash4Clothes' collection in October.



Regrettably the Beaver Colony is currently full but new recruits are welcome in both cub and scout sections. Cubs (aged 8-10½) meet on Tuesdays; Scout section (aged 10½-14) on Friday. Parents of anyone of Beaver age (5¾ - 6years) are advised to put their child's name on the waiting list by e-mailing alexander.yvonne@sky.com. All sections open to both boys and girls. Contact section leaders listed above for more information. Explorer section (for those aged 14-18) – contact Group Scout Leader.



The Group Headquarters at Base 2000 had its customary 'spruce-up' during the summer break with the toilets, kitchen and foyer being redecorated and the carpets steam cleaned.

Base 2000 is available for hire to community user groups and for private children's parties. Enquiries through bookings@base2000.co.uk or telephone Colin on 01256 410559/ 07796 772 500. Hire charges range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall on weekdays to £10/12 for large hall at weekends.

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Dear Friends

Summer? What summer? They weren't kidding when they said it was the wettest August on record, I would not be surprised if July wasn't far behind. I guess the weather affects many of us and our moods and I know a lot of folk have struggled to cope with the weather over the last couple of months – a very definite lack of clear blue skies and warm sunshine can often bring on a feeling of melancholy. Take heart – I'm told September will deliver what July and August should've done (but I'm not holding my breath!)

In spite of the weather there have been a few high spots. Not least the wonderful performance of Team GB in the London Olympics! Our athletes certainly out-did all expectations in winning medals and even those who didn't make the top three have done their country proud (as did the volunteers, police and armed forces). It's a tribute to all the training and preparation in the years running up to their events. Hard work and commitment coupled with focus on the task will always bring its reward and you never get 'owt fer nowt!' as they say up North.

The journey our athletes have taken can be likened to the Christian journey through life. Sports and games were as popular 2000 years ago as they are today and athleticism and the ability to compete and win were much admired – I'm certain they had their own Ben Ainslie or Chris Hoy or Jessica Ennis. St Paul makes a distinct comparison as he writes to a small church in a place called Corinth *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize... Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly.”*

Alice Cooper the rock star said that *‘becoming a Christian was the hardest thing he's ever done.’* For me this is so true. It takes hard work, commitment and focus but I know the prize at the finish line is an eternal one and that for me makes it worthwhile – and I have to say I do have an excellent personal trainer!!!

In September St Gabriel's will celebrate two major events. The first is on 16th September at 1030 when we host the Battle of Britain service with representatives of the Royal Air Forces Association, the Air Training Corps and the Royal British Legion. Please do feel welcome to come along, especially if you or a member of your family is a former member of the RAF. The second event will take place on the afternoon of the 21st of September at 4pm as Messy Church, a fast growing families event, happens again in the church and hall. Again please do feel welcome to come along and join us.

Here's to a warm and sunny September and a champion's welcome to all our athletes!

God Bless.

Revd. Arthur Botham

Vicar, St Gabriel's

Popley Island Access Improvements

In 2008 we met with officers about making Popley a safer place for pedestrians and cyclists. Cllr Paul Frankum and I, Cllr Jane Frankum had been concerned about the speeds and accidents in Popley especially after witnessing a serious accident with an 11 year old child. With the closing of Chineham Park School and children expected to cross the busy Popley Way, we met with a series of officers and cabinet members in the County to get some action. The North Popley Accessibility Improvements programme is currently underway. The first phase in the summer of 2010, was a series of informal pedestrian crossings on Popley Way and Carpenters Down. It was brought forward to ensure that students could safely cross to the enlarged Marnel School following the closure of Chineham Park.

The second phase was in the summer 2011, mostly an improved shared use foot and cycle-way on Popley Way and Carpenters Down. It also included more improved crossing points for pedestrians and at last a permanent change in the speed limit to 30mph for the whole of Popley Way and Carpenters Down in tune with the rest of the town areas.

The third phase is hopefully due to come forward in autumn 2012. It will provide improvements to the footways and cycleways mostly in Popley Islands and it is currently undergoing detailed design. This is due to start soon (pending two outstanding issues, related to drainage).

After many requests for gateway features to provide a boundary into the residential area of the Popley community, with 30mph signs on as you come in from all three main entrances. With the brick structures at the junctions of Popley Way with the A340 roundabout and the A33, as well as Carpenters Down with the A33. Because of the speeds coming from the A33, the structures need lighting, which goes outside the norm. An innovative solution has been arrived at and is being used for the first time in Popley to allow the structures to be put in place.

The drainage issue needs the pathway to be resurfaced with an easier-to-maintain and better-looking tarmac. WSome areas will be returned back to grass to allow the water to drain naturally and hopefully we will see an end to the flooding in the play area and homes around. County officers have been liaising with colleagues in Development Control, at both Basingstoke and Deane and HCC, to ensure that our North Popley Improvements fit in with what is to be delivered by developers.

There is also a further study underway called "Popley Futures". This is to look at the wider links to other key destinations and is being used to ensure all planned future development tie together and the whole picture is considered, rather than just specific sites on an ad hoc basis.

We need to provide wider links into the countryside, e.g. Sherborne St John, and provide improved connections to Everest Academy College and the hospital.

We will keep you informed in Popley Matters when there's more to show you. Given the fast growth in Popley, we want to make sure it was all being tied together.

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Volunteers needed!

Popley Youth Group needs your help!

Popley Youth Group desperately needs help to stay open. We run every Monday evenings from 7:00pm until 9:00pm.

We have many lively young people in the Popley Youth Group who need strong and positive role models to help them develop in a safe environment. We are working hard to create an environment where they can come, relax, feel safe and enjoy running around playing games. We need your help to do this!

If you think you would be able to give up some of your time to help support the youth in your area we would love to hear from you. Please do help us send the right message to the young people; they are worth your time.

If you think you can help or would like more information please contact Megan Greenhalgh on: youthprojectsbasingstoke@gmail.com

OPEN EVENING NOTICE

Thursday 20th September
at 7:00pm



BASINGSTOKE OPEN DofE CENTRE

- Aged 14 - 24
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- Like the outdoor life?
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- Want to meet and make new friends?

If the answer to any of the above is Yes then
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award could be for you!

Basingstoke's Open Duke of Edinburgh Centre will be holding an open evening for both new participants and their parents/guardians (if under 18) at the Junction 6 Building Everest Community College on the evening of 20 September 2012 at 7:00pm.

All the leaders are Hampshire County Council (HCC) trained (with enhanced CRB checks). The Basingstoke Open DofE Centre is operated by HCC.

The centre has been operating for over 6 years providing an alternative for participants who are unable to undertake their **Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE award** at their school/college.

To find out more, come along and perhaps bring a friend as well !



The DofE award is open to any young person aged between 14 and 24 who wishes to undertake the challenge of this prestige award, make new friends and learn new skills. For more information please contact Lisa on 07801931738 or email lisa.niezgoda@gmail.com

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Diaries from the Old Codger.

As I write this month the Olympics have finished, I eagerly await the Paralympics'. To think that in my lifetime we have seen two of them in London! The first brought the world back as one, as it was after, the carnage of WW2. This 2012 Olympics again has shown the world what a great nation we are, putting on a show that could not be bettered no matter what people say. Well done to all the participants of Team GB. We still see people write and comment about how much it cost. Most of the funding will be retrieved and also will leave a great legacy for future Olympians. I also got annoyed at people having a dig at our Queen at the start of the games saying how undignified it was. For her to play a small but very humorous part, one of which even her grandchildren never knew about, to me it shows she is a great leader of our nation. Plus, as always, a people person and I would like to congratulate her and all the royals for the support they put behind the games.



I would like to think our council could put backing/funds into building a purpose-built indoor stadium in our town for athletic events. This could be a pipe dream, but you also have to look at the amount of great talent this town has. By building such a place we could provide a much needed help to the youth and youngsters for the future. So come on council members take a long hard look at the area. We have many brown field sites to be able to build one.

How the year has flown by, even many trees are turning to autumn colours soon the summer will end and back to the dark winter nights.

Some time ago I put in a proposal to County on a new safety campaign for our youngsters. At first when I sent it in, the woman I talked to said it was a great idea and she will most certainly put it to the safety people in county. To date they have not bothered to get in touch. It does seem as if as long as they say they will look into it, that is all that happens. I know a lot of proposals get put forward but it would be nice to get follow up, even if it is to say sorry thanks but no thanks.

So much has gone on in the UK this year the Jubilee and the Olympics and we must cash in, and improve our town by building new venues to encourage people from outside to come to Basingstoke. Well you know me well by now and how I feel about the town that I care so much about. I was pleased to see Bill Ind is back home and continues to improve on his health. Till next month. *The Old Codger*





EXCITEMENT is mounting at MFC Popley Youth as the 2012/13 season approaches. New equipment has been bought, new kit is on the way and the Club will have 12 teams playing in the Peter Houseman Youth League.

At U7s, Managers Andrew Mark Hopley and Peter Shearman will have two teams; at U8s, three teams will be in the care of Andrew Williams, David Gambrell and Jo Dawber, at U9s, Warwick Sear-Jarvis will manage a team, at U10s Lee Austen will manage the Knights, and Tom Bartlett and Mark Cox will take care of the Panthers, Danny Oates manages the U12s, Paul O'Shea manages the U13s and Dave Wright manages the U14s.

The Club's teams will play their home games at Marnel Junior School, Merton Junior School, Everest Community Academy and Sherborne Road.

BASINGSTOKE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The latest addition to the Society's Blue Plaques celebrating local events and personalities commemorates the architect John James 1672-1746. The oldest child of John James Snr, headmaster of the Holy Ghost school, he was to become an architect of some note: besides working with Sir Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor, he designed a number of great houses and churches. His own house can be found at Eversley where the church commemorates his life. His Blue Plaque is on the Holy Ghost site joining those for Gilbert White, the naturalist, of Selborne who attended school there and Mrs Blundell the well know lady buried alive.

Among earlier plaques is that marking the Basingstoke & Alton Light Railway; this has moved from its original position on the exterior wall of the station ticket office: the renovations to the frontage of the station have resulted in a new position at the Information Point on platforms 1 - 2.

Next plaque up will pay tribute to the town's connection with Major R J Howard, Ox & Bucks Light Infantry, who planned and led the D-Day attack by glider-borne troops to seize the bridges over the Caen Canal and the River Orne.

www.bas-herit-soc.org



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Phillips Legal Corner



Some timely advice in case you split

'Breaking up doesn't have to be hard to do - if you put romance to one side briefly when you move in together' says Sheila Glyn-Owen, solicitor at Phillips. 'You may be one of the 3-4 million couples who are choosing to live together without getting married. Many cohabit successfully all their lives without ever feeling the need to marry, but many couples break up - and only then discover how few rights they have.

"Common law" wife or husband is a myth. The reality is that if you split up, you have no automatic right to the property if it is in your partner's name; if you rent your home, you have no automatic right to stay; and if your partner dies without making a will, you won't automatically inherit anything from him or her. If you have children together the situation is even more complex.

So what practical steps can you take? If you're renting, put both names on the tenancy. If you are buying a new place together, or moving into a home your partner already owns, then think carefully about getting a "Declaration of Trust" drawn up. This is a legally binding document that spells out the proportion of the property each unmarried partner will receive if you break up. If you are contributing more financially than your partner towards the property it will protect your investment in the event that the property is eventually sold.

The Trust can be as simple or as complex as you require and if your circumstances change it can be re-written. It should include:

- The percentage of the property each of you will own
- The percentage of the deposit each will pay and how much each will contribute to mortgage payments
- Who pays for purchase expenses, utilities and other outgoings
- The provisions for buying each other out
- An agreed mechanism for valuing the property
- Provisions for children, such as enabling the child to stay in the property until he or she reaches maturity

No-one knows what the future holds,' concludes Sheila 'so my advice is take some practical steps to protect yourself. Investing in a Declaration of Trust and ensuring you both have Wills could save you a lot of stress, time and expense in the event that you separate or if one of you dies.'

Call Sheila Glyn-Owen or Ben Holden on 01256 460830.

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Beckie's Column

Hiya!! How has everyone's summer been? Fortunately, it did warm up eventually, didn't it? I really enjoyed watching the Olympics this year. I thought it was more relevant because it was in London. All the excitement and build up to it made it more interesting to me. How about you? And the way they lit the torch made me feel really proud of my country too! Although, it was really sad to see it extinguished.

Sadly, I didn't get to see much of the actual games because I was away and the TV we had didn't show all the channels, but I did get to see the diving and some of the pole vaulting. To be honest, in the diving, I couldn't actually tell between "good" and "ok" dives; they all looked really good to me, especially from the heights they were diving. You wouldn't be able to get me to dive from that height!

My grandad helped out at the Olympics as well, so I had another reason to be proud. We spent ages sitting watching the TV in the hope that we would see him on it and then shouting, "That's him!" whenever he appeared in the distance. He kept us updated on what was going on and sent us pictures that were great to see. It meant that we also got the inside story on what goes on at the Olympics too! We are very proud of him!

I'm afraid this will be the last time I write to you, as I've decided to give my column up. I start college soon and I will need to put all my time into my studying instead. I've really enjoyed writing this column for the past two years and I know I will miss it, but I think it might be time for a fresh view on Popley and all the events that happen in Basingstoke.

So, I guess it's time to say goodbye. I've loved writing for Popley Matters and I've loved all the comments people have given me about my column, so thank you for reading it and goodbye!

Beckie



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Thursday evening-

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Friday evening-

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For details ring 01256 363156.

On behalf of the three community Centres in Popley I would like to thank everyone for coming to the prize bingo. Hope to see you all at the Christmas prize bingo. Details will be in the October issue.



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