

POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

November 2012

Distribution of 4,800

Issue 129



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-11-12) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-The shops are stocking up for Christmas, and I am writing out my list already for Santa. I always think of those who are lonely, or on their own. Please keep a look out for your neighbours. One lady told me that just a smile and good morning from someone always brightened her day.

Lots of Christmas Fayres and events to go to:- St Michael's Hospice 'Light Up a Life' 2012 on page 6; St Gabriel's Christmas Fayre on the inside back page; Naomi House Light up a life Choir service on page 30; Merton Infant School invite you to their Christmas Bazaar on page 14; and Melrose Hall have a Christmas Fayre details on page 7.

There is an article from Sentinel Housing about the new "Bedroom Tax" that takes effect from April on page 16-17. You might like to read about the forthcoming new Fire Service Station on page 19. There is an article on page 10 from our Community Patrol Officers and their three priorities for the next three months.

It has been reported to me that copper pipping has been cut from outside Sentinel houses. Please, if you are affected, call 101 to get a crime number then report it to Sentinel.

We continue to struggle to get more volunteers to deliver your Popley Matters. We would be grateful if any of our good readers could deliver some so if you can spare just one hour a month to help I can assure you, the team would be grateful. The Elevate and Everest are the two areas most in need at the moment, but there are a few more roads in Marnel Park and Merton Rise that need cover. We have a print run of 4,800 that we deliver as best we can each month, so a big thank you to our wonderful volunteers that turn up trumps for us all every month.

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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Solutions to Bus Service Concerns Being Considered

Over 100 people gave their views as part of sessions held in September to get feedback on the bus services in Popley and Brighton Hill.

Senior managers from bus company Stagecoach and Hampshire County Council, which subsidises services that are not commercially viable for the bus operator to run (15% of journeys), were on a feedback bus to hear concerns and issues raised. Officers from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council co-ordinated the sessions.

The three organisations have considered all of the comments raised and the four key issues raised most often were:

1. reduced services (mainly through Popley) to the hospital
2. reduced evening and Sunday services
3. issues of reliability and timeliness
4. bus driver conduct

The councils are now meeting with the bus company and the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital Trust to look at how these key issues can be addressed and there will be updates on what happens next in future editions. The individual organisations will also respond to other points raised directly to those who made the comments.

Issues will also be considered as part of the wider review of public transport supported by the borough council which starts early in 2013. Any additional comments as part of this review should be emailed to commissioning@basingstoke.gov.uk or sent to the commissioning team, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH titled 'public transport review'.

Missing Cats

Hi my name is Lucy Warner I have two cats missing. The first one is called Salem he is four and a half, pure black is microchipped and neutered and he was wearing a red collar. My other cat is Finnlay, he is one and half, also pure black, neutered but not chipped. I took his collar off for a few days to let his neck get some air. He was in a road accident when he was a kitten so he has a fluffy bunny stump for a tail. They have both been missing since the beginning of October and went within a few days of each other. My mobile number is 07869574099 and my address is 23 Whitgift Close, Beggarwood, RG22 4QJ. Even if they are found dead I would like to be told. Please, I just need to know. I have asked for this to be put in Popley Matters as I know that cats and dogs can travel quite long distances.

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Popley Islands Regeneration Update

We're making good progress on the final phase of the Popley Islands regeneration and are on target to complete the shops by the end of November. The next phase of construction, eight flats and three houses, began on 8 October on the site of the central car park. We've made sure there's still plenty of parking available by creating temporary parking next to the existing shops.



We appreciate your patience as ground works have restricted access to some of the garages. Thank you for your patience and on going support during these times and apologise for any inconvenience.

We anticipate that the remaining 30 homes will be complete by September 2013.

Following various anti social behaviour complaints from residents in the area we have been working with local agencies and our residents, to resolve anti-social behaviour and vandalism. We have carried out site visits with a security consultant who has suggested improvements that may help the area. These options are currently being reviewed.

In the meantime please continue to report any issues on the appropriate numbers below:

Dawn Stanley – Sentinel Housing Association – Neighbourhood Co-ordinator – 0800 195 5515

Dan Carter / Chris Brindley – Local beat officer's /PCSO'S – 0845 045 4545

101 – Non emergency police number

999 – Emergency police number

Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111

Dog Warden – 01256 845474

Councillors Page: Persimmon / Charles Church have purchased Merton Rise with the benefit of the outline planning consent that was finally issued by Basingstoke & Deane on 4 January 2012 after lengthy negotiations over the associated Section 106 agreement. This outline planning consent provides for 784 dwellings, up to 1500 sqm of local centre, retail uses, which includes a foodstore of up to 500 sqm and 10 hectares of publicly accessible open space, as well as allotments. Of the 784 dwellings, 40% or 314 dwellings are to be affordable housing, with the expectation that 25% of these will be social rented units and 15% shared ownership units. I have made it clear in the past that there should be some bungalows and that the community centre should be big enough to serve the needs of the area. I will ensure that there will be consultation with you the residents of Popley Hampshire County Council Transport department are meeting with Stagecoach about the running of the number 4 bus more frequently and serving the public better with some of the 106 money from the developers. It would cost NOTHING to Stagecoach but they have control over commercial routes. I wonder what the detailed result of the "Have Your Say" consultation will be, and if Stagecoach will make any improvements to the poor service we currently get! **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

Popley West: We are negotiating with officers about the 106 developer money being spent to improve landscaping and repairing some of the open grass and garden areas across Popley. We have also met with officers about improvements to play spaces and equipment. The old tennis courts in Tintern Close are needing to be looked at and upgraded. At Popley Community Park we have said that more picnic benches are needed, and that once the money from the Merton Rise development is available that the original master plan should be implemented. We want to see a bigger and much better equipped area that families can come and enjoy free of charge. We continue to fight for a better and more customer friendly bus service. We were pleased to see so many people come to the consultation but were hugely disappointed that it was for just a few hours in the daytime and that meant people who were at work in town or at the hospital were unable to put their concerns and complaints forward. The posters and leaflets had no way of contacting Stagecoach or the portfolio holder. You can draw your own conclusions on that.

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: The 19th September 2012 saw the planning application for 200 homes at Kiln Farm unanimously rejected by members of the Development Control Committee. Popley residents and local councillors working together to achieve a fantastic result. The application was turned down on the grounds of loss of countryside, traffic congestion fears, destruction of wildlife, and poor infrastructure. Parking continues to be of major concern to most Popley East residents, and we are calling for more action from the borough council to do something to alleviate the worst cases of overcrowded residential parking. To this end Labour councillors put forward a motion at the 11th October Full Council Meeting, calling for the administration to set aside £1m of the £3.5m budget surplus the council banked over 2011-12 for a "one-off parking project" across the borough. Unfortunately the motion wasn't passed and the fight continues.

Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088

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'Light Up A Life' 2012
Sunday 9th December
St. Michael's Hospice at 6:00pm



Remember a loved one

You are warmly invited to attend our special 'Light up a Life' service to commemorate the memory of a loved one.

This is an informal, service with readings, music, and hymns sung by local Basingstoke Choral Choir and the Basingstoke Silver Band.

The service is concluded by the 'symbolic' lighting of life candle, lit by the Mayor of Basingstoke. Following the service refreshments are available, where friends, old and new, can share their thoughts and memories of loved ones.

If you would like to sponsor a light in memory, then please visit the website:
www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk or call
Fundraising on 01256 848 848

Registered Charity No: 1002856



On Saturday 24th November 2-4pm we will be holding a **Christmas Fayre**. If you or anyone you know would be interested in selling at our Fayre, the tables are £5 payable on booking. Contact Vicki in the office.

Friday 9th November sees the return of the ever popular **Family Bingo Night** at Popley Fields Community Hall, run in association with Melrose and Bermuda Community Associations. Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 7pm, refreshments available. Many great prizes to be won!

For a second year running Melrose Community Association are hosting a **Community Christmas Dinner!** 11th December 12-3pm. Only £1 a head, children concessionary rate. With a raffle and local choir it promises to be a great event!

All are welcome. Please register your interest with Vicki in the office so we have an idea how many to cater for.

MONDAY:	9.30am-12.00pm	Little Rainbows (child minders)
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
WEDNESDAY:	9.30-11.00	Popley Little People, Baby and Toddler group (all careers)
	9.00-10.45am	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm	Oasis Lunch club
	5.30 and 7.30pm	Slimming World
THURSDAY:	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
FRIDAY:	DAY TIME HIRE AVAILABLE	
	6.30-7.45pm	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00- 9.15pm	age 11 plus.
SATURDAY:	AVAILABLE FOR HIRE	
SUNDAY:	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.	
	4.00pm	Beginners - Phoenix Dog Training Club
	5.00pm	Improvers - Phoenix Dog Training Club

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, and conferences and regular groups. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@btconnect.com**

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Junior Street Dance	5.00pm
Teen Street Dance	6.00pm
Zumba	7.00pm

Tuesdays @ Everest in Popley

Junior Street Dance	4.30pm
---------------------	--------

Wednesdays @ The Active Life in Houndmills

Junior Zumba	4.45pm
Zumba	5.45pm
Dance FIT	6.45pm

If you are an aspiring twinkle toes then come along to Baby Ballet, or if you've always wanted to dance like they do on MTV then hop down to our Street Dance sessions! Perhaps you want to lose weight and tone up? Then shimmy and shake your way to Zumba or Dance FIT!

We have plenty of fun and exciting sessions at GREAT PRICES for children and adults of all abilities! See you all at a class soon...

Contact Amy on 07501 091163 or visit
www.phoenixdancefitness.co.uk



MFC Popley Youth broke new ground by offering a Half Term 'Total Football' Holiday Camp at Everest Community Academy.

Priced at just £10 a day the Club was proud to offer a children's football holiday camp throughout the Autumn half-term holiday, 29th October to 2nd November.

MFC Popley Youth is a local charity-run youth football club that aims to give boys and girls of all ages the opportunity to play football and have fun.

MFC Popley's coaches are all FA-qualified and fully CRB-checked.

The daily timetable was - 9-10am: Registration, 10am-Noon: Total Football (football activities and general fitness work), Noon-1pm: Lunch break, 1-3pm: Total Football (football activities and general fitness work), 3-4pm: Wind-down time and a fun kick about.

On Friday, an awards ceremony took place at 3pm for all the children that attended the week.

The club plans to offer more holiday camps going forward.

Meanwhile, the Club's team are doing well on the pitch.

Manager Andrew Hopley's Under 7s are delighted with their new kit and are having fun. And Andrew Williams's superb Under 8s continue to make astonishing progress.

In the First Round of the Peter Houseman Youth League Cup, Manager Warwick Sear Jarvis's Under 9s progressed after beating Basingstoke Town Colts in a penalty shoot-out, Rusell Graves's Under 11s beat Thatcham Town Harriers 7-2, and Danny Oates's Under 12s beat Thatcham Tornadoes 12-5.

Over 55 Forum

Our December Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th December 2012 at Carnival Hall. It is our AGM first, then Guest speakers will be a representative from The Hawk Conservancy, Colin Godfrey with his Olympic Torch, followed by a Christmas sing song from our Carnival Chorus, also included will be our refreshment break and lunch.

All new members most welcome, we have been able to keep our membership fee at £6 for 2013. This must be good value for £6.

Dates of our Open Forum meeting for 2013 are; 6th February - 10th April - 12th June - 14th August - 9th October - 4th December at the Carnival Hall.

A selection of Proposed trips for 2013 David Austin (Garden) Roses; Poppy Factory; Waterperry Gardens; Wimbeldon Tennis Tour; Avon Canal trip with Lunch; Music Hall in Brick Lane London with Lunch;

New Year Celebration 2013/14 and Christmas Shopping Trip To Be Arranged. Programme subject to slight change.

Our membership so far this year has reached 584. The Forum is here to help all the Over 55s in the Borough and we feel we have had another great year with several success stories. Why not come and join us.

I Gerald.L.Merritt (Secretary) B & D "Young at Heart" of the Over 55s Forum has been elected again as Governor for Older People at our Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust by the Hampshire Association of Older People Forums.

Hello...

From your Community Safety Patrol Officers

As Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPO) we identify and tackle local issues, reduce crime, deter anti-social behaviour and deal with environmental crimes, to make residents feel safer and happier about their neighborhood.

We have had a busy few months out on the beat in Popley. Working with local residents and using our own evidence of problems we encounter whilst on patrol, we set up three priorities.

The first priority we have been looking into is the amount of untaxed vehicles reported around Popley. Quite often untaxed vehicles may be abandoned and are a blight on local neighbourhoods, a health risk and can attract anti-social behaviour and crime. We have conducted an environmental visual audit to evidence how many vehicles are untaxed. From this we have been working with a range of various landowners and the DVLA to get these vehicles removed. This has resulted in a greater number of parking spaces being available for law abiding motorists.

The second priority is road safety, particularly before and after school time. We have conducted school assemblies to educate about road safety. Whilst out on patrol we have also been speaking to vehicle owners parked in a dangerous manor or causing obstructions. Hopefully this has raised awareness of road safety for local residents both young and old.

Our third priority has been dealing with anti-social-behaviour, particularly arson and litter problems at Basing Woods. Being a regular high visibility presence in this area has discouraged problems and we have seen a reduction in the amount of recorded incidents.

For your awareness, you may have noticed our uniforms have recently changed color to a navy blue with fluorescent yellow stripes. This change has occurred for operational reasons.

We hope to see as many of you as possible whilst on patrol around Popley. If you don't manage to see us and would like to talk to us about any issues you may have, please contact us on **01256 845 700** or by email; safetypatrolservice@basingstoke.gov.uk

Dan, Paula & Paul



Marnel Infant School.

We have been pleased to welcome the new Year R children who have settled in so quickly to school life. They have been enjoying learning in their classrooms and outdoors and have already enjoyed an autumn walk.

On Friday Year 1 children had great fun during a camping day. Luckily the weather was kind and the sun shone all day. They enjoyed a range of challenges including den building, putting up tents and trailblazer environment searches. The highlight of the day was the campfire and hotdogs. The children had a wonderful time and went home tired but happy.

Year 2 have been learning about space and planets using the book 'Man on the Moon'. The mobile planetarium visited and the children were able to experience the night skies during a virtual trip to outer space. The topic ended with a visit to the 'Space Party' where the children and their parents could explore a range of space themed activities.

Next week we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival and will again be collecting for our local Besom Charity which does such good work in our town supporting homeless families. Mrs B.Cole Head Teacher

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POPLEY FIELDS YOUTH GROUP

We run at Popley Fields Community Centre every Monday from 7pm-8pm for 11-13 year olds and from 8-9pm for 14-17 year olds.

Activities include:

- Pool table;
- Table Tennis;
- Games in the hall ;
- Tuck-shop;
- Workshops e.g. Graffiti and Street Dance;
- We are looking in to arranging some outings for the Youths coming very soon.

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Merton Infants and Junior Schools
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Christmas Bazaar

**Friday 30th November 2012
2.00 to 3.30pm**

**Various Craft Stalls
Festive Games and Refreshments
Christmas Hamper Raffle
Bottle Tombola
Face Painting
Father Christmas Grotto**

SAMARITANS

SAMARITANS AT THE CAB

Dealing with financial or legal issues can be extremely stressful and it can often feel like there's no one to talk to about how overwhelming it all is. But you aren't alone. Since January 2012 Basingstoke Samaritans have been at the Citizens Advice Bureau once a week providing a free drop-in listening service. Every Wednesday there are Samaritans volunteers at the CAB in Festival Place ready to listen to whatever you are struggling with, it's totally confidential and we won't judge you.

Basingstoke Samaritans provide confidential support 24 hours a day for people feeling unhappy, anxious or struggling to cope. You can talk to us any time of day or night, 365 days a year. We don't judge, we don't tell you what to do, we just listen. Phone us on 08457 90 90 90. Or send us an email; jo@samaritans.org it will be answered by any one of the Samaritans branches in the UK, normally within 12 hours.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN AID OF BASINGSTOKE SAMARITANS.

Join us for an evening of festive favourites led by The Macmillan Singers and Friends – Just what you need to get you in the Christmas spirit.

Thursday 13th December, 7:30pm, at The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU.

Tickets £5 (includes interval refreshments). Available on the door or in advance from Basingstoke Samaritans Secretary: lynda@lyndacooper.co.uk.

This evening is kindly sponsored by Macmillan Publishers Ltd – Publishers throughout the world. The Samaritans in a registered charity (Registered Charity number 263588)

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Benefit Changes – Do You Have a Spare Bedroom?

The benefits system is changing. From April 2013, the Government will reduce the amount of housing benefit paid to people aged 61 and under who have 'spare' bedrooms in their home. Here is some useful information about what you can do if you're affected. Don't get caught out – act now.

What do they mean by spare bedroom?

It means a bedroom which is not currently occupied by any of the following:

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

What you use your spare bedroom for is irrelevant. If it's decided that you have more bedrooms than the rules say you need, you will lose part of your housing benefit and will have to make up the shortfall. You will be responsible for paying your rent on time and keeping a clear rent account.

How much of my housing benefit will be cut?

The new size criteria (known as under-occupation or bedroom tax) means that any working age household deemed to be under occupying will lose a percentage of their total eligible rent which will then be deducted from the amount of housing benefit they receive.

If you have one spare bedroom you will lose 14% of your weekly benefit; if you have two or more spare bedrooms you will lose 25%. For example:

The Browns

Tom and Janice live together in a three bedroomed flat. Their rent is £150 per week and it is all covered by Housing Benefit. Tom needs care, and sometimes a carer stays overnight to help him. Under the Government changes Tom and Janice are counted as sharing a bedroom, and the carer counts as using another bedroom. This means they are classed as having one spare bedroom and will lose 14% of their Housing Benefit. From April next year they will only get £129 per week and will have to find the extra £21 per week to pay the rent themselves.

Does this mean I will have to leave my home?

No, don't panic, you don't have to move out of your home, you just need to pay the shortfall in rent and keep a clear rent account.

What if I can't cover the shortfall in the rent myself?

1. Check with your Local Council to see if you are entitled to any extra discretionary help.
2. If you are claiming benefits and think you will struggle to cover the difference, you may be able to work without affecting your benefits – you need to check this with Job Centre Plus.
3. If you are already working part time, are you able to increase your hours to help afford the shortfall?
4. Check with your landlord to see if your tenancy allows you to take in a lodger.
5. Check you are receiving all the benefits you're entitled to and maximising your income to help afford the shortfall in your rent.

What if I decide I do want to move?

If you feel that these options are not for you and you would prefer to move you can:

1. Register for a Property Swap (mutual exchange) and look to swap your home for a smaller one.
2. Register with your Local Authority and bid on smaller homes as they become available.

We're here to help and advise Sentinel customers through these changes and will be contacting those customers who will be affected to discuss their options. In the meantime if you're a Sentinel customer and have any questions please get in touch by phone, email or pop into one of our offices.

0800 195 5515
www.sentinelha.org.uk



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

Members of the Group took part in the Basingstoke East Scouts' 'Walk-the-District' on 14th October. In all 70 sponsored walkers participated from six Scout Groups and expect to raise a total of about £2000 for Scouting funds which will be shared equally between Groups and the District. Beavers had great fun on the way finding as many natural objects as they could to fit into a matchbox. The winner had 28 and yes –we did find the spider, ant and worm in the contents which were quickly returned to a more familiar environment. Cubs and Scouts completed an Observation Quiz as they walked and found some interesting local features in and around Basingstoke town centre and the more rural areas of Basing Fens and the Common. Leaders from the Group ran a BBQ for all walkers as they returned to Base 2000.



Now the darker evenings are here, attention has moved towards indoor pursuits in all sections. The Cubs and Scouts are busy making guys to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day. The Cub section hopes to take part in the District Scrapheap Challenge this month whilst the Beavers are already looking forward to their annual trip to Paultons Park to see 'you know who' as he prepares for his BIG occasion!

Due to shortage of leaders waiting lists operate for both Beavers and Cubs. Potential Cubs (aged 8-10½ years) should contact Douglas Gowan baloo@thescoutingpages.org.uk; parents of potential Beavers should contact Eve Alexander alexander.yvonne@sky.com



The Group is seeking extra leaders for both the Beaver and Cub section which are very popular and subsequently over-subscribed. No previous experience necessary but a keen interest in challenging young people to achieve of their best essential.



The Group is looking into the possibility of opening an Explorer Scout Unit in Base 2000 for boys and girls aged from 14-18 years subject to finding suitable leaders. Any adult interested in taking up a voluntary role in the Group with any section should contact the Group Scout Leader on 01256 410559 or mobile 07796 772 500. It is a requirement of the Scout Association for all uniformed leaders to have a valid CRB clearance before working with young people.





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Proposals for New Basingstoke Fire Station Revealed

The first proposals for a new £6m fire station in Basingstoke have been revealed.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service plans to completely rebuild the current facility on West Ham Close.

Basingstoke's fire crews will relocate to a temporary site while the rebuild is taking place, but there will be no reduction or interruption to the service provided by the station.

The new station will be capable of housing an increased number of specialist vehicles, making Basingstoke the largest in Hampshire in terms of vehicle numbers.

A new state-of-the-art training facility is also planned on the site, while extra community spaces will also be built into the new structure.

Dave Norgate, Group Manager for Basingstoke, said: "This investment shows the Service's commitment to the safety of our communities in the north of Hampshire.

"Our current station was built back in the 1960s and it has served us well since that time.

"However, it is no longer equipped to deal with the demands of a modern fire service and the annual upkeep costs are high.

"The new station will provide Basingstoke and the north of the county with a wonderful facility that will help us to protect the public for decades to come."

An outline budget of £6m was approved by the Hampshire Fire Authority in February.

The proposals, drafted by Hampshire County Council architects, are due to be discussed by the fire authority later this year, with a view to submitting a planning application early in 2013.

If approved, the project will be the biggest undertaken by the Service since the construction of their current headquarters in Eastleigh in the early 1980s.

The current preferred option for the interim site is a warehouse at Houndsmill. A projected date of November 2014 has been set for the move into the new station.

Basingstoke is one of the county's most important strategic sites, with its excellent north-south and east-west road links.

Spotlight Competition.....

Spotlight UK are giving away a fantastic performing arts prize for one lucky local child. Help us design our Mascot Competition!

Win a Performing Arts Passport for one year at the Popley Spotlight Centre
Open to all children aged between 4-16 years old.

Singing, acting, dancing classes as well as free holiday clubs (If used to full potential worth £2,000). Visit our website for more details on how to enter @ www.spotlightuk.org

Marathon Men....half!

Jamie (co- founder) and Darran (marketing manager) donned the purple morph suits to cover the 13.1 very hilly, Basingstoke half marathon course. They were there to raise awareness of the charity, bring in some much needed funds and launch the design a mascot competition. They managed to finish despite a couple of visits to the very kind St John's Ambulance unit in just less than 3 hours. It was a great day with the suits creating a big stir! Big smiles, lots of laughter and many high fives handed out to the hundreds of supporters, mostly children, along the difficult route. We will be back next year bigger, better and hopefully fitter. The donation activity is still open for the next few weeks so please visit our site to donate. Every penny will help make a real difference to people's lives- Thank you

The Best Value Holiday Clubs in Basingstoke...99% of our parents agreed with this statement.

October's theme- **West Side Story**. Book your child's space now, only £40 per week leading to an end of week performance.

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"Not just a babysitting service. My children loved it!"

"Good fun, great coaching and excellent value for money-what more could a parent ask for?"

Visit www.spotlightuk.org to reserve your space now

St. Michael's Hospice Make your Will Fortnight



19th to 30th November 2012

Do you need to make or update your Will?

Never got round to making a Will? This November St. Michael's Hospice is providing a great opportunity to get your affairs in order whilst helping raise valuable funds. Making a Will ensures the people you want to receive your property or assets will receive them, if no Will is in place then there is no guarantee who will benefit.

A number of local Solicitors have agreed to waive their usual fee for writing or changing a simple Will in exchange for a donation to the Hospice.

For more information please contact the fundraising department on 01256 848848 or visit

www.stmichaels Hospice.org.uk

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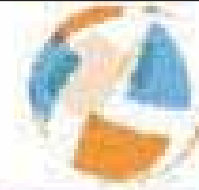
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Dear Friends

It may well be that by the time you read this the ashes of Bonfire Night will have cooled and all the fireworks will have been set off, except maybe for that big one you're saving for New Year's Eve! I remember Bonfire Night as a boy in Manchester as a time of wonderful community. For weeks beforehand the boys in the neighbourhood would all be out every spare moment gathering bits of wood (or anything else that would burn) and piling it onto the bonfire in the field near where we lived. Competition for "penny for the guy" would be fierce among the children as we scabbled for the best pitch – usually outside the pub!

On Bonfire Night we'd rush home from school to get changed and gather around the pile of wood and stuff. As it was lit and the flames reached hungrily into the cool of the November evening air, fireworks of every colour shape and size would crackle and flare, lighting the faces of adults and children alike with their bright, eerie colours. We'd share 'hard as rock' treacle toffee, toffee apples and potatoes baked to charcoal in the intense heat at the edge of the bonfire. As the bonfire died down we children would wander home to bed and the grown ups would sit around the glowing red embers swapping tall stories and drinking warm, flat beer! The next day the air would be thick with bonfire and firework smoke and the lingering smell of expended gunpowder. For me Bonfire Night conjures up very pleasant, powerful and evocative memories.

Community is a vital part of what it is to be human. I'm not talking just about the social gatherings like Bonfire Night which are usually such great fun! It's the sense of community that takes pride in its surroundings, which cares for the vulnerable individual whether old or young, rich or poor, which takes the time to smile, to greet, to look in on someone. In fact it's the community that God created us to be a part of, and to take part in! Unless we all buy in to this idea of community it will never be as it should and that diminishes all of us!

As a Christian I firmly believe that we at St Gabriel's are called to be a people that reflect the nature and character of Jesus to our community. Jesus was the Master of caring and sharing, listening and talking with those among whom he lived and worked each day. I hope that His example and desire today for true community is what forms the heart of our vision for our church and for Popley. If this is what you are looking for in a community we would love to welcome you any time you want to drop in.

I hope and pray that you have a funtastic and safe bonfire night, shared with family and friends and one that in future years will evoke pleasant and powerful memories for you.

Yours in Christ

Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's, Popley.



Phillips Legal Corner Temporary Seasonal Employees have rights too!



Companies, supermarkets and other retailers are running their pre-Christmas recruitment drives to find temporary staff for the Christmas and New Year sales period and hoping for a boost in productivity to improve their turnover and profits for the year.' says Gill Brown, Head of the Employment Law Team at Phillips Solicitors. 'Engaging seasonal personnel is of benefit to students looking for holiday work, the unemployed and of course the employers who need a temporary seasonal influx of staff. However, temporary seasonal employees and those businesses which employ them need to be aware of their rights and obligations to ensure they protect themselves from potential claims.

What are those rights?

There has been much in the press recently to advertise the fact that employees now have to be employed for 2 years before they can bring a claim for unfair dismissal. If you are an employer and you employ staff on short, fixed term contracts of employment they do have the right to be informed of permanent vacancies. Also in addition to the usual right not to be discriminated against on the usual grounds, both part-time and fixed term employees have the specific right not to be discriminated against in comparison to permanent or full-time employees in equivalent roles in respect of their pay, benefits and treatment. So, please remember to include them in invitations to the Christmas party!

Basic Rules

In addition to treating employees with dignity and respect and ensuring they are not discriminated against, there are also rules to be observed relating to:

- the National Minimum Wage
- working time limits, including rest breaks, holiday and limits on night work
- limits and consents relating to employment of minors
- special rules in respect of Sunday working in the retail trade
- protection against unauthorised deductions from pay
- maternity, paternity and adoption pay (but not leave)
- Statutory Sick Pay
- protection against less favourable treatment if, for example, when making a disclosure in the public interest (often called 'whistle blowing')
- unlawful discrimination

'Temporary seasonal employees are an extremely useful resource for crucial periods of business such as during the festive season' concludes Gill, 'but they do have rights which should not be overlooked by their employers if they want to avoid costly Employment Tribunal Claims. '

You can call Gill on 01256 854605, email gbrown@phillips-law.co.uk and visit our website for lots more information at www.phillips-law.co.uk

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Paralympics Visit for Merton Junior

On Thursday 6th September a coach-load of excitable children from each year group and excitable staff from Merton Junior School set off at 5.30am in the morning to head to London to enjoy a morning of Athletics at the Paralympics.

The group were appropriately dressed in red, white and blue, all clutching flags to wave. On arriving at the Olympic Park there was a photograph opportunity with Mandeville and lots of ooos and aaaahs at how big the stadium was.

After a water bottle filling stop the group headed for the stadium. *“Our seats were amazing – they were right at the front!”* Harley Yr3.

It was really really busy – there was millions of people there!” Angel Yr6

Merton led all the cheering in our section and enjoyed being directly next to the triple jump pits. Throughout the session we watched the blind triple jump. *“We had to be really quiet when they ran because the helper was clapping or shouting so they could run and jump in the right place”* Emily Yr5. All the pupils were so excited and asked many questions – it was a really fantastic opportunity for them all. *“I cheered and waved my flag the whole time – my shoulder hurt but I kept waving!”* Andrew Yr3

“We watched 5 medal ceremonies and stood up for the anthems, some of them are really long but we stood out of respect for them, some people in the crowd were even crying they were so happy.” Ben Yr6

“It was so cool, we were in the stadium and the wheel chairs just whizzed by, they were just fantastic, and we cheered at the top of our voices GO TEAM GB! GO TEAM GB!” Holly Yr6.

Everyone had a brilliant day and a day that will be remembered for the rest of their lives.



Marnel Lodge Care Home

Marnel Lodge Care Home in Popley have had a very busy few months. In August the home was inspected by the Quality Care Commission (CQC) and found to be 'Fully Compliant in all areas'.

In simple terms that means the home received top marks in all aspects. The care of the residents, the standards of cleanliness, the attitude of the staff towards the residents.

The CQC observe how well people are cared for and talk to the residents of Marnel Lodge. They were told by a number of the residents that they enjoyed living at Marnel Lodge and that they felt involved in making decisions about their care and treatment.

A few weeks later, the Environmental Health arrived at Marnel Lodge to carry out an unplanned inspection. Once again Marnel Lodge was given top marks. The Head Chef, Chris Laidler and his team work hard to provide delicious homemade food in a safe and immaculate environment.

The Activities Manager Ann Hadley is a well known and popular member of the local community. Ann, together with the Carers maintains a very full activities programme at Marnel Lodge. As well as the regular minibus trips, the residents can enjoy a monthly 'book group', weekly visits from Mia the dog and her owner, everyone looks forward to her gentle ways and waggy tail! Each month there is a church service, entertainers making appearances, such as 'Step Back in Time', singing a medley of old favourites. Even the local Brownies make visits to joining in with events such as the Halloween party. The home also hosted a 'Masked Party' which the residents and their families enjoyed along with karaoke fun.

Marnel Lodge is part of your community, so if you have a talent that you think may be of interest to your neighbours why not pop in and see them or give them a call.



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Diaries from the Old Codger

Well November is on us, how fast the time goes or should I say where has it gone?

It is starting to get colder and our senior citizens should get that bit extra in by the way of canned soups and things like that. They are talking about cuts in power this winter, so make sure you have plenty of clothes to put on. For myself a good pair of woollen socks really helps. When you do have power make yourself up a flask in the mornings of tea or soup. If you have a spare blanket get it out and make sure you have plenty on the bed. I am OK I can stick my cold feet on Her Indoors, mind you I could be sleeping on the floor if I do!



I hope all the students enjoy their time at school/college this year. Make sure you have a bright bit of clothing to put on when you leave school at night and be careful on your way to and from school. Many senior citizens fall in the ice and snow. If you see an elderly person's path full of snow or ice ask them if it's okay to clear it. Do not expect people to pay you in money because doing good deeds, one day they will be returned. Hopefully you will have a good neighbour who will help if needed.

I have had a chest infection, and took a turn for the worse while I was writing. Two doctors, followed by an ambulance and was whisked into hospital. They soon got me on my feet and home. How much our hospital Emergency Department has changed, the poor nurses and doctors were run off their feet and we must give them all credit for the compassion and hard work they put in. How they do it I will never know. THANK YOU ALL.

Firework Night is upon us and once again please take care of your pets. Turn some music on so it will not be too traumatic for them. Kids, remember that letting off fireworks in the streets is against the law, plus you could be the one that ends up badly burnt. On saying this please try and go to a dedicated display and enjoy yourself with large groups of people and friends.

I can understand children getting hold of fireworks very easily and as young children we did the same, but if our local bobby caught us we were definitely in for it. One whack from him, then one from Dad when we got back home. Our local bobby was great, don't get me wrong, he took care of us all. Even when he was out on his beat, if he saw you mending a puncture on your bike he would take his coat off and give you a hand and then make sure your bike was safe to ride. How often do you see that nowadays? I was thinking as I wrote that bit how many of the Popley kids of old remember PC Dave Emmett. He was of the old school and gave a lot of his time to all the children in Popley. I just love to look back, not only my time in Basingstoke and all the great people that went into building it, but also the times I enjoyed with my own dad and granddad, racing pigeons, out in the fields looking and listening to all the birds, seeing snakes, lizards all the different butterflies the list goes on. What I am trying to say is they are still out there for all of you. Thanks to our council members and the public that stood up and objected to the Kiln Farm Fields proposal. For hundreds of houses and flats that would have covered the beautiful area there. They have saved a lovely area to walk and enjoy.



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From the moment my mother and I first visited Marnel Lodge, we knew we had found somewhere pretty special. Elegant surroundings, delicious food and beautiful gardens were made even more appealing by the presence of like-minded residents with whom she can socialise and enjoy activities. For my part, knowing that she's safe in the care of such a dedicated and compassionate team gives me great peace of mind. And for that I'm extremely grateful.

Thank you, Marnel Lodge!



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Covering all of the areas of the Poets, Everest Park, Elevate, Chineham Park Court and Hathaway Gardens.

In the summer, we asked you to fill out a questionnaire asking you what you thought about our area of Popley.

We would like to thank those of you that returned those surveys. From the information you gave us, the top ten things people would like to see addressed, in no particular order, were: 1. Availability of parking, 2. Cleanliness of the area, 3. The condition of play areas, 4. More visible policing, 5. State of parks, 6. State of pavements, 7. Safe places to cross the road, 8. Traffic issues, 9. Things to do for youths, and 10. Bins being left out. As a result, we will be holding a social event closer to Christmas where we will be asking you to comment further on these issues and explore possible solutions. You have the chance to be part of making the Shakespeare Community a place to be proud to live in, so watch this space!

Julie Johnson, 816101, jjohn957@aol.com



BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE
BASINGSTOKE HANTS
RG24 9PE

TELEPHONE
OFFICE: 01256 363156
HALL: 01256 308442

We have an excellent Popley Explorers pre-school here Monday to Friday 8:30am-3:00pm

Also available-Breakfast and Lunch Clubs (for further details contact Elaine on 363156)

Monday evening - C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick Boxing from 6:30-8:00pm

Tuesday evening - Community Bingo doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 8:00pm.
Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available halftime)

Wednesday evening - Available to hire.please ring 363156 for details.

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.

**Christmas prize bingo is on Friday 9th November 2012 at Popley Fields Hall on
Carpenters Down. Doors open at 6pm with a 7pm start.**

Refreshments available. hot food and snacks.

Lots of great prizes to win on the bingo and the raffle.

All welcome, come along and bring a friend or two.



St. Gabriel's Church

Invites You To Join Us For Our

Annual Christmas Fayre

Saturday 1st December 1.00-4.00pm

Fantastic Grand Raffle!

Top prize £150 cash!

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For further details ring ☎357637

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri 9am -7pm; Sat 9am-5pm



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