



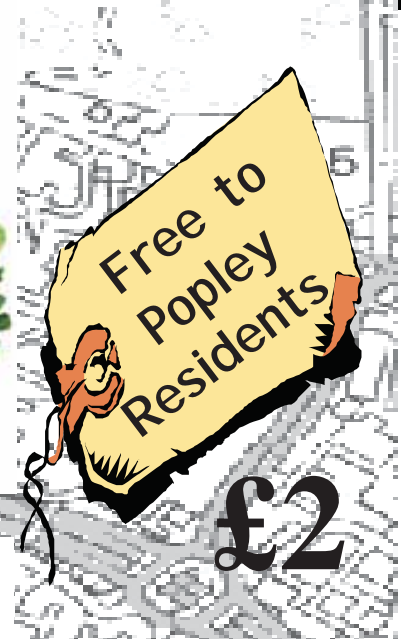
# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

December 2012

Distribution of 5,000

Issue 130



1992

2012

## Seasons Greetings

From the Popley Matters Team

**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

## Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Air Scouts Report	Page 18
Christmas Extravaganza	Page 1	Celebrate Safely	Page 19
Councillors Page	Page 4	PSNP	Page 20
Nominate Your Sporting Stars	Page 6	Arthur Botham	Page 22
Melrose Hall News	Page 7	Phillips Legal Corner	Page 23
Basingstoke Amnesty International	Page 7	Christmas Extravaganza Help Needed	Page 25
MFC Popley	Page 9	Tips on Clearing Snow and Ice	Page 25
Lions Club of Basingstoke	Page 10	Popley Fields Youth Group	Page 26
Popley Fields Quiz Night	Page 12	The Old Codger	Page 28
"Please Don't Buy an Electric Car"	Page 14	Kids Nursery Christmas Fayre	Page 30
Street Surfing	Page 15	YOU Trust	Page 30
Shopmobility	Page 16	Over 55s Forum	Page 32
Wheelchair Sports Day	Page 17	Bermuda Community Association	Page 32

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-12-12) [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** May I firstly wish each and every one of you a Happy Christmas and hope that the new year brings many happy days and memories. I have read in several publications that we should prepare for a severe cold spell with possible power cuts. I hope that it doesn't happen (but just in case it does perhaps we should be prepared with alternative lighting but be careful with candles) and some warm clothes and blankets ready. Keep an eye open for your neighbours and those that you know may be vulnerable.

We try to get The Popley Matters out as near to the beginning of the month as possible and there are around thirty people who are our wonderful band of volunteers that deliver for us. They really need some help for more to join the team, because if there were are just a few more that would like to help out the community, just about an hour a month would be much appreciated by myself and our great team of helpers. We especially need help in Everest and Aspire, Maldive and Faroe, and people to cover other roads for holidays and sickness. Popley Matters is your free community magazine and a lot of time and work goes into getting it ready for you to read. It's a shame when we just can't physically get them all delivered.

Old Codge on page 28 is reminiscing of Christmas when he was a youngster. Everest are holding a Wheelchair Sports Day, read about the details on page 17.

On page 30 there is an article on Floating Support that is an excellent service for anyone over 16 that needs advice and help on housing and financial matters. If you are looking to do something new in the new year then read page 16 and help a worthwhile charity too.

If you want to write an article or be one of our wonderful volunteers cont me by email [jane@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:jane@popleymatters.org.uk) or phone 819924 or write to Popley Matters 405.Abbey Road, Popley, RG24 9EL.



Sub Editor  
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Matters.

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<u>Advertising Index</u>					
Jonathan Williams Independent		Phoenix Dance and Fitness	Page 8	Piccolo Nursery	Page 24
Funeral Directors	Page 2	Naomi Little Star Childminder	Page 9	Phil Della-Savina Carpets	Page 24
Horizon Aerials and Satellites	Page 2	Computerwised	Page 11	JRS Computer Services	Page 24
Bodywise	Page 2	IPS Hair	Page 11	Young's Chinese Food	Page 27
M.N. Steeden Plumbing & Heating	Page 2	NCA Services	Page 11	Steve Rayner Accountancy	Page 27
Sentinel Housing Association	Page 3	Your Country Florist	Page 13	Sue's Driving School	Page 27
Boatman Cleaning Services	Page 5	K J Services	Page 13	Barchester Marnel Lodge	Page 29
Oakridge West Hall	Page 5	Angela M Rabess	Page 13	Elite Electrical Services	Page 31
Kylies Whipper Snappers	Page 5	Unique Block Paving	Page 13	Discovery Centre	Page 31
Domestic Oven Cleaning	Page 5	PKG Plumbing & Tiling	Page 21	St Gabriel's Church	Inside B/P
Spencer & Peyton Ltd	Page 8	PC Martin	Page 21	Fastfare Store	Back Page
Happy Tails Grooming	Page 8	M H Autos	Page 21	Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
Basing Electrical	Page 8	Peter's Fish Bar	Page 21		
		1st Response	Page 24		

Thank you for the support

# Christmas extravaganza

Monday 17 December 2012 6pm to 8.30pm

6pm candlelit procession to the Basing Woods  
The procession will begin from Dryden Close

6.30pm Carols in the Basing Wood

7pm Gather at Popley Fields  
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for seasonal refreshments,  
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As part of our commitment to tackling ASB we are working in partnership with the national charity, Victim Support, to provide free and confidential support to those people affected by ASB. Specially trained caseworkers will listen, understand and give you support. Most people feel better after talking to someone independent.

Victim Support is the independent national charity that helps people find their strength again after crime and anti-social behaviour. Victim Support offers help to over 1.5 million people affected by crime each year across England and Wales.

The benefits of the service include: direct emotional support through phone calls and face to face meetings, reassurance that issues are being listened to and appropriate action is being taken, information and updates on the progress of your case, practical help with personal safety and home security and one to one support and information to help you prepare for being a witness should an ASB incident you report go to court.

ASB can be very distressing for the people who are affected by it. No one should have their lives ruined by ASB, so don't wait before asking for help. If you feel that the service may be of benefit to you, please contact your Neighbourhood Co-ordinator on 0800 195 5515 (from a landline) or 0300 666 5515 (from a mobile). In an emergency please call 999.

**Councillors Page:** Negotiations are still going on to improve the bus service for Popley. The number 4 (funded by Hampshire County Council) could run hourly, though, I was hoping for a half hourly service. It may do a new route taking in part of Marnel Park and through to the hospital. I will let you know as soon as I hear anything.

The road repairs that were overdue in Tintern, Buckfast, Romsey and Fountains are appalling and I have taken it up with the Highways and cabinet holder Cllr Mel Kendal. The standard of repair is far below anything we would expect. Hopefully by the time this magazine is delivered the mess will be sorted! I will be monitoring it very closely.

Thank you to Father Dominic for opening up the overflow car parking area at St Bede's and for asking the visitors to be more thoughtful to the residents of Popley when they park.

I am expecting the full planning application for Merton Rise to be presented within the next few weeks. I will keep you as up to date as possible. The development I understand would include the social rented, starter homes and bungalows, shops, allotments and community facilities I have been fighting for, for the last eight years!. The original plans had 40% flats and I will be fighting for a big reduction on that figure. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

**Popley West:** David Wilson Homes have given notice that they are going to appeal against the decision of refusal for the development on Kiln Farm Fields. Your Labour Councillors will be working once again alongside Sherborne St John Parish Council to defend the unanimous decision by the planning committee. I believe the basis of their appeal is that planning officers of Basingstoke and Deane recommended approval. Bizarre when they were told right at the very beginning that members of the planning committee make the decision for approval or refusal. There were ten reasons for refusal and, in my opinion, their case is not only weak but not defensible.

We have requested more picnic benches for the Popley Community Park with some of the 106 developer money. All the Popley Labour Councillors are working together to ensure that the play areas and greens will have some substantial improvements across Popley East and West for next year.

Paul and I have met officers to press that they insist that the developers of Marnel Park get the work needed to be done so we can progress the adoption of the area. There are still issues with landscape, lighting and highway repairs.

*Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924*

*Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924*

**Popley East:** Your Labour Councillors will be seeking to ensure that the appeal from David Wilson Homes in respect of proposed development at Kiln farm does not succeed. We hope to make sure that the Council resists the appeal vigorously and that the best possible legal representation is employed to represent the local communities of Popley and Sherborne St John.

We have secured 106 funding for significant improvements to the Dryden Close play area and proposals for these will be circulated to residents as soon as possible.

We are continuing to seek improvements to the parking problems throughout the area against a backdrop of restricted budgets and lack of political will demonstrated by the current Tory administration. Working with Sentinel we hope to provide a small number of extra car park spaces adjacent to a garage forecourt to benefit residents in Tasmania Close and we are reviewing the current parking restrictions on roads to see if any more flexible arrangements can be introduced.

**Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801**

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088**

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## **Nominate Your Sporting Stars**

Do you know a sports person, team, coach or volunteer who should be honoured in Basingstoke and Deane's Sports Awards?

Nominations for the annual awards, coordinated by the Local Sports Council, are open and people are being encouraged to celebrate the borough's sporting success. This year lots of awards are up for grabs including junior, senior and veteran male and female categories, disabled sports person, junior and senior teams and club of the year.

To celebrate those people who dedicate their lives to helping others to gold medal glory there are awards for coach of the year, service to sport, senior volunteer and senior official.

Building on the success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is hoped even more people will put forward nominations to celebrate the efforts and achievements of the borough's sporting stars.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Sport and Culture Cllr Elaine Still said: "The Sports Awards is about celebrating the achievements of those people who take part in sport in the borough be it the athletes or teams themselves, the people that contribute to the success of the athletes or teams, or the people that run local clubs or enable sports events to take place.

"We have seen tremendous success nationally in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, now it is time to recognise and celebrate the achievements of those people who bring sporting success to the borough."

Deadline for nominations is Monday 31 December. For more information and nomination forms see [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/sportsawards](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/sportsawards) or call Amy Sambell on 01256 845752.

**For further information on this release please contact: Krissy Lloyd, Senior Media Relations and Communications Officer, on 01256 845240 or email [krissy.lloyd@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:krissy.lloyd@basingstoke.gov.uk).**

**For all media enquiries call 01256 845220 or email [communications@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:communications@basingstoke.gov.uk)**

**Don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@twitter.com/BasingstokeGov](https://twitter.com/BasingstokeGov)**

Collateral

- Nominate your sporting stars  
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For a second year running Melrose Community Association are hosting a **Community Christmas Dinner!** 11<sup>th</sup> December 12-3pm. Only £1 a head, children consessionary 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.

**NEW FOR JANUARY!!** As of 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 Slimming

World will be holding an additional morning group 9.00-11.00am!!!!

POPLEY LITTLE PEOPLE CHANGE OF DAY AS OF JANUARY IT WILL BE ON A TUESDAY SAME TIME 9.30-11.00AM

WHATS ON IN DEC:

MONDAY:

9.30am-12.00pm Little Rainbows (child minders)

7.30-10.00am Peregrinus Healing and Holistic

TUESDAY:

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WEDNESDAY:

9.00-11.00am Popley Little People, Baby and Toddler group (all careers)

9.00-10.45 am 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:

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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 for you 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](mailto:Melrosehall@btconnect.com)

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

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## The Basingstoke Amnesty International Group

The Basingstoke Amnesty Group would like to invite you to the 2012 Greetings Card Campaign. Come along to Church Cottage (near St Michael's Church, Basingstoke) on Wednesday 5th December between 7:30 and 9:30pm, for as little or as long as you can spare, to show victims of human rights abuses all over the world that they are not forgotten by sending them a greetings card. We will be serving hot drinks and refreshments throughout the evening.

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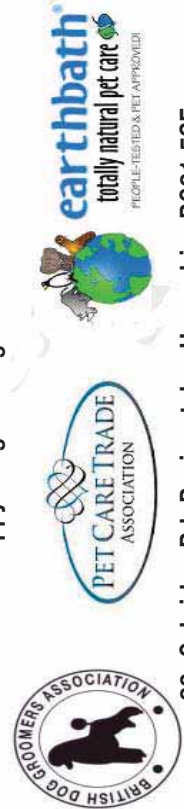
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Teen Street Dance	6.00pm
Zumba	7.00pm

### 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!

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Contact Amy on 07501 091163 or visit [www.phoenixdancefitness.co.uk](http://www.phoenixdancefitness.co.uk)



IT'S Boom! time at MFC Popley Youth, an FA Charter Standard Club which goes from strength to strength.

Off the pitch, since the last edition of Popley Matters, the Club has staged a very successful fundraising Race Night, organised by Glenn Taylor, Vice Chairman of the Club.

And Club Chairman/Club Secretary Ian Davies and Nicci Cox, Club Welfare Officer, organised an equally successful Half Term Holiday Children's Football Camp at Everest. At this, Davies, assisted by Club Coach Tom Bartlett, developed the football skills of between 16 and 25 children a day, 45 in all over the week, and they all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

These football camps are set to become regular events during school holidays so, if you want your child to attend future camps, look for details on the Club website - <http://www.mfcpopley.wordpress.com> - or text 07884 185 693 for details.

On the pitch, the Club's 12 teams are all doing well. Andy Hopley's U7s, many of who are playing a year up, are doing great things, and at U8s, Andy Williams and David Gambrell are having great success with their two teams while Jo Dawber's development team continues to improve.

At U9s, Warwick Sear-Jarvis's squad are improving, as are Tom Bartlett's Panthers at U10s, while Lee Austen's Knights continue to be hard to beat.

At U11s, Russell Graves's and Glenn Taylor's boys are having a fab season - including a scintillating eight-one win at Berg Crusaders in the Peter Houseman Youth League Cup - and at U12s Danny Oates's boys are in the quarter finals after a six-nil win over Thatcham Town harriers.

Paul O'Shea's U13s are looking promotion contenders while Dave Wright's boys are also doing well.

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# Lions Club of Basingstoke

1. One of the best features of our monthly Club business meeting is the Tail Twister. The responsibility of the Tail Twister is to fine those present for any misdemeanours, real or imagined, during the meeting and to ensure that their bad conduct is recorded in the minutes. As the standard fine level is 10p per infraction it says a lot for our general conduct that fines levied last year amounted to over £40. Generally speaking, if you weren't fined you weren't there. And even that doesn't always save you.

2. Welfare items once again took up most time. Apart from emergency cases, we made donations to the Make Mollie Mobile appeal and the Joshua Tree Foundation, funded a piece of monitoring equipment for the hospital, made a contribution to a school trip to Uganda, encouraged other school children to make use of our fundraising activities to raise money for their own projects and made a contribution to a group fostering activities for the blind. A total of £1,490 was spent. In addition, one of our members held a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Cancer nurses which raised £220 and of course our stall takings went to Naomi House.

3. **LIONS CLUBS YOUNG AMBASSADOR COMPETITION:** Do you know a young person between the ages of 15 and 18 who plays an active role in your local community? If so then the Lions Club of Basingstoke would like the opportunity to nominate her/him as a candidate for the title of District, National and European Young Ambassador. Ask them to contact John Lincoln on 01256 325280 for more information.

3. The east coast of the US has been devastated by Hurricane Sandy. We have had no reports about the recovery efforts as yet. But, the one thing you can be certain of is that local Lions Clubs and members will be in there at ground level making a difference. That is Lions' main aim in life so why not join us.

4. Money spent has of course to be replaced. So, if you're thinking of having a night out, remember we've got an exciting evening of music to be played for us by the Hampshire Constabulary Band on Saturday 17 November at Queen Mary's College followed by one of our fun Quiz Nights on Saturday 24 November at the Cliddesden Millenium Hall. If you like to have a good time and support good causes, these are great ways to do it. So, if you're interested, please call 01256 421867 or 325280.

5. We've made some changes to our website [www.basingstokelions.org.uk](http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk). Have a look and let us know what you think.

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## *Basingstoke Café Scientifique Press Release*



For immediate release: 18 October 2012

### **“Please Don’t Buy an Electric Car”**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 7.30pm  
Lobby Bar, Central Studio, Queen Mary’s College**

Café Scientifique is a place where, for the price of a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, anyone can come to explore the latest ideas in science and technology.

Software developer and general science enthusiast Bob Clifford is the organiser of Basingstoke’s own Café Scientifique meeting. The free monthly events begin on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January and will have the Lobby Bar of the Central Studio Theatre at Queen Marys College as its home.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 sees Professor Averil Macdonald, from Reading University and Professor Alun Vaughan from Southampton University lead a discussion on “the problems no one tells you about if everyone changed to an electric car”. The bar at the Central Studio will be open before the talk starts at 7.30pm, so you can get yourself a drink and have a chat with other participants. The discussions will aim to finish around 9.00pm, though everyone will be welcome to stay around and have a chat with the speakers afterwards.

Details of future Café Scientifique talks in Basingstoke and surrounding areas are in the events diary on the website at: [www.cafesci-basingstoke.org.uk](http://www.cafesci-basingstoke.org.uk). You can also sign up for email reminders of future meeting dates and topics by joining our free **Meetup Group** at: [www.meetup.com/cafesci-basingstoke](http://www.meetup.com/cafesci-basingstoke).

The format of the evening is usually a talk of 30 to 40 minutes, followed by a short break so the audience can refill their glasses, before questions and discussions about the talk.

Future speakers for Café Scientifique in Basingstoke will be announced as they become known. The talks will cover a wide range of subjects including the sciences, health, food, energy generation, climate change and transport. Café Scientifique aims to encourage participants to suggest speakers they think might be interesting or even volunteer to lead a discussion on a science or technology subject they feel passionate about.

Basingstoke Café Scientifique is grateful to the following sponsors. The Thames Valley British Science Association ([www.britishscienceassociation.org](http://www.britishscienceassociation.org)) who are paying for the speakers travel costs. Central Studio ([www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk)) for providing their Lobby Bar as the venue (so please do buy some drinks at the bar when you are there!) Finally, ActivityForum Ltd for their web site and community builder application “Agoria” ([www.agoria.co.uk](http://www.agoria.co.uk)).

There are also a number of local groups supporting Café Scientifique by advertising the talks to their members. These groups include BCOT, Basingstoke IVC Social Club ([www.bnhivc.org](http://www.bnhivc.org)) and Basingstoke Transition Town.

Further information from: **Bob Clifford** Tel: **01256 400678** or **07811 289586**

E-mail: [bob\\_clifford@email.com](mailto:bob_clifford@email.com)



# Street Surfing Fun at Merton Junior School



This term Merton Junior has been offering something a bit different to our pupils. Street Surfing is becoming a really popular sport across the UK and we organised for the company 'Go Active' to do some taster sessions to all the classes and then run an after school club. 'Go Active' is a coaching company with over 10 years experience of providing alternative and inclusive sports to children of all ages and abilities. They have the unique status as being the UK's only authorised Street Surfing coaches.

We, at Merton, know the benefit of offering something different and exciting to our children and love seeing the positive reaction from them when they learn something new. This club will develop the children's skills building on different elements of street surfing each week. The children are definitely enjoying themselves... "It is awesome" and "I can't believe I did it, I balanced in the first week – it is brilliant fun."

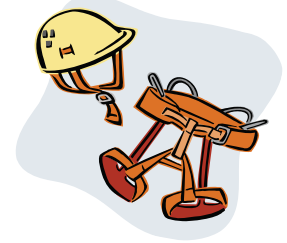
Keep up with all exciting news on [www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk)





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# 2013



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# Wheelchair Sports Open Day Sunday 9 December 2012

10.00am - 1.00pm  
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Everest Community Academy  
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Basingstoke  
RG24 9UP



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Email: [jperrin@everestcommunityacademy.org](mailto:jperrin@everestcommunityacademy.org)  
[www.everest.hants.sch.uk](http://www.everest.hants.sch.uk)



Inspired by the Paralympic legacy, the aim of the day is for Everest to showcase its accessible facilities focussing on wheelchair sports. Our aim in the future is to host a regular wheelchair sports club.

**Families and all ages welcome**

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**PLUS - Guided Tours of the Academy**

**Guest Appearances by GB Paralympians**

**Peter Hull MBE** (Swimming)  
**Ross Morrison** (Rugby)



#### Headquarters:

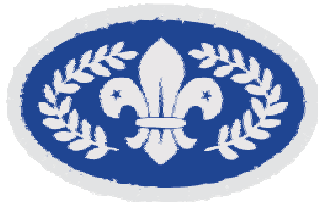
Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

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



Two Chief Scout's Awards have been gained in the Group recently. These are the highest awards available to a section and represent a high level of commitment and challenge to complete a number of specific activity and challenge badges. Congratulations to Beaver Scout Ryan and Cub Scout Ellie – well done!



The Beaver Colony enjoyed their visit to Paultons Park to see the 'man in red' and enjoyed the Cobra ride and Peppa Pig. Once again the weather stayed fine. They now have inside information on how Santa plans to do his rounds this year and how hard his reindeers work!

Coming weeks Beaver Scout programmes will include a visit to the police Station, making things for Christmas and learning more about 'stranger danger' and other safety issues to gain Personal Safety badges. Water safety was covered earlier in the year.

Five Beavers have recently 'linked' to the Cub section and are finding out more about how Scouting began before being invested. This also gives an opportunity to remind others of the Promise and Law which are the fundamentals of Scouting. The Cubs enjoyed a firework display put on by leaders on 6<sup>th</sup> November and will have a party on 11<sup>th</sup> December at the close of the autumn session. Three new Beaver Lodge leaders will shortly be chosen to fill the vacancy created by their older chums leaving the section.



Due to the popularity of the Beaver and Cub sections a waiting list is in operation – for Beavers contact Yvonne Alexander [alexander.yvonne@sky.com](mailto:alexander.yvonne@sky.com); for Cubs contact Douglas Gowan [baloo@thescoutingpages.org.uk](mailto:baloo@thescoutingpages.org.uk)



More adult leaders would enable the Group to expand its provision. No previous experience is required but a real interest in developing young people through activity and challenge is essential. A full training and support programme exists. It is a requirement of the Scout Association for leaders to hold a valid CRB clearance before working with young people. Contact Group Scout Leader Colin Karlake on 07796 772 500 for more information.

# Celebrate Safely

## **Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service urges everyone to celebrate safely this Christmas**

People often get distracted by the hustle and bustle of Christmas and are unaware of the potential fire hazards and toxic threats that can lurk in fairy lights, candles and flammable decorations.

Latest figures from the government fire safety campaigns show a rise in the number of accidental fire deaths and injuries over the festive period. In recent years there were 33,000 accidental house fires, 10% of which occurred in the run up to Christmas Day.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service wants everyone to have a happy and safe Christmas this year and is urging the public to take fire safety seriously - plan escape routes, install smoke alarms, and test them weekly.

Assistant Chief Officer Bob Rattcliffe, Head of Community Safety at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, says:

“The risk of fire in the home is an all year round issue - however people are particularly vulnerable at Christmas for many reasons ranging from unsafe electrical decorations, unattended candles, through to cooking whilst drunk.

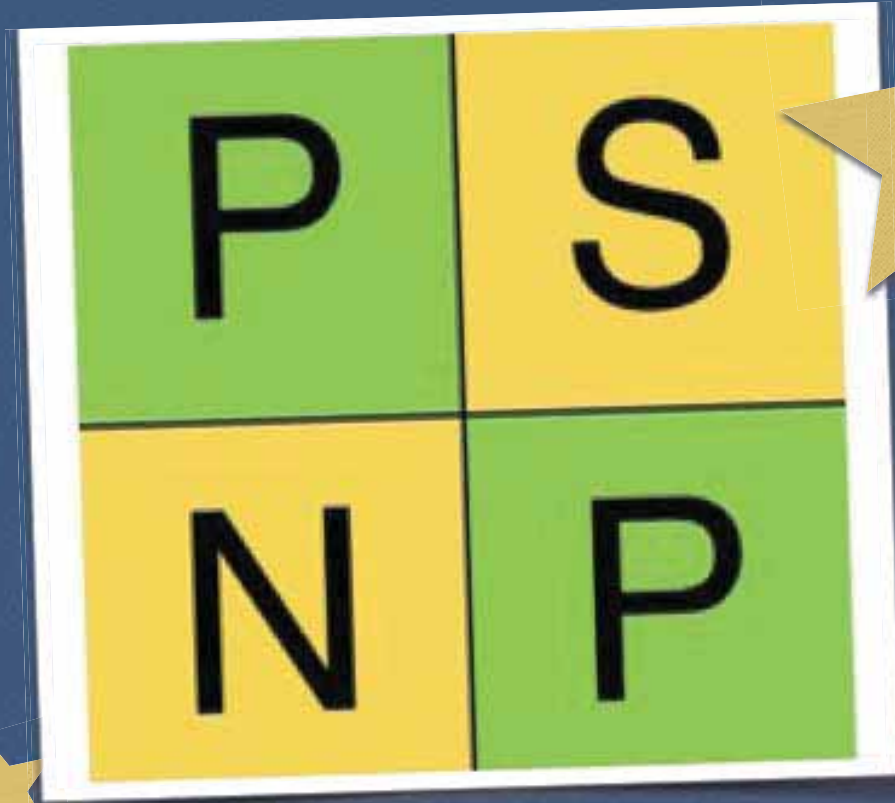
“People also vastly underestimate the deadly strength of toxic smoke and overestimate how long they have to escape should a fire break out. The reality is that just two to three breaths of smoke in a fire can render a person unconscious. Christmas should be a time for celebration rather than tragedy and for this reason we’re urging people to be fire aware and stay fire safe.”

Here are Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service’s top tips to stay safe from fire this Christmas:

- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm installed on all levels of your home. Test your smoke alarms weekly and never remove batteries to power presents!
- Never leave cooking unattended and avoid cooking whilst drunk. The majority of fires start in the kitchen so this is a high risk area. Always turn off kitchen appliances when you have finished cooking.
- Never leave candles unattended. Keep decorations, cards and wrapping paper away from candles, fires, lights and heaters.
- Ensure you switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed, or leave the house. Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard (BS EN 60598).
- Always use an RCD (residual current device) on outdoor electrical equipment (a safety device that can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault).
- Don’t overload sockets - ensure only one plug per socket. Always turn off plugs when they are not in use, except those that are designed to be left on, like freezers.
- Make sure cigarettes are extinguished properly and never smoke in bed. Put it out, right out.
- Check on older relatives and neighbours this Christmas, as they are at greater risk from fire.
- Ask the experts - Fire safety in the home is the primary concern of Hampshire Fire and Rescue’s Community Safety department. Visit our website at [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk) for information on how to protect yourself and your home from fire.
- And finally, in the event of fire: get out, stay out and call 999.

# PSNP

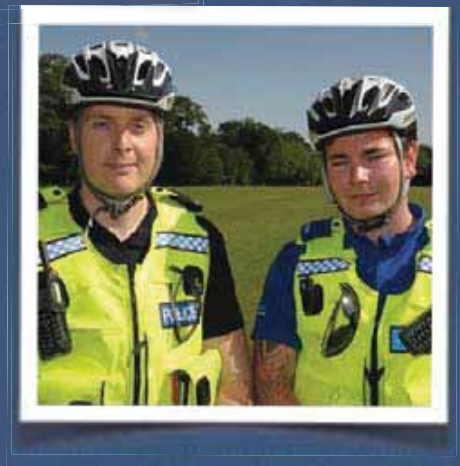
## Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel



### Contact us:

*PSNP Chairman: PC Dan Carter tel:101*

*Email: [daniel.carter.20686@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:daniel.carter.20686@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)*



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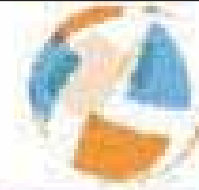
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Dear friends

I guess by the time you read this the Christmas frenzy will be well under way but as I write the sky is a clear azure blue, the sun is hot and the temperature is around 25 degrees. Yes, it's November and my wife and I are on our usual pre-Christmas break, which is an opportunity to rest and reflect before we too are caught up in the rush of Christmas preparations. In past years we've spent a week in Bath and a week in Berlin but this year we decided that as the summer had passed us by we would travel to the Canary Islands, and to the beautiful island of Gran Canaria to catch up on the vitamin D. Hence the weather!

It does feel very strange lying on a sun bed by the swimming pool and it really isn't putting us in the Christmas mood. Nonetheless as I gaze at the rugged mountain scenery that surrounds our resort I remind myself that Jesus wasn't born in a country with frost or snow on the ground but in the Middle East, in Palestine in a small town called Bethlehem. Likely as not, it was hot and sunny during the day and the town would have been surrounded by wild rugged scenery. It is all too easy to fall into the romantic idyll of Christmas that the retailers create to get us to part with our cash, you know the one I mean - Christmas trees and lights, red breasted robins hopping across snowy white hedges, Santa with his sack disappearing with a cheery wave down the chimney, families gathering to celebrate, churches and carol singing.

Don't misunderstand me me, I love all that stuff but first and foremost we must keep in mind just what it is we're celebrating. Jesus, the Son of God was born to a young peasant girl and her husband Joseph. He was born into poverty, became a refugee, settled in a small northern Palestinian town before setting out at the age of 30 to proclaim God's Kingdom to all who would listen. At the age of 33 he was killed at the behest of the local authorities and three days later rose again from the dead.

Today a third of the world's population believe in him and follow him. No one person has ever had the effect on mankind that he has. John wrote "the hinge of history is to be found on a stable door in Bethlehem" how right that is.

I pray that your Christmas celebrations will be filled with his joy and his peace, wherever you are and whoever you are with, but more, I pray that you will come to recognise and know Jesus for who he truly is, Lord and Saviour of each and everyone who would hear and respond to his call.

Every blessing for Christmas to you and your families from all of us at St Gabriel's

**Revd Arthur  
Vicar St Gabriel's  
01256 324734**





# ‘Good will to all children’

Christmas is traditionally a time for ‘good will to all men’ and we hope that this includes you this year. Sadly, however, we probably all know someone who has been affected by a marriage breakdown. It is often the case that when parents divorce and their lives move on, they may remarry and trust their new spouses ‘to do right by them’ and their children in the event of their death.

A parent will trust that even in the event that their former spouse remarries that they will consider their children even if they have more children from their new relationship.

Many parents, unfortunately, ignore the need to create a Will and therefore their entire estate might pass to their new spouse by the Intestacy Rules. The surviving step-parent is then entrusted to make sure they provide for their own children and their step-children in the event of their own death. However, the second spouse may decide to just leave their estate to their own children; or they may decide not to make a Will, meaning their estate then passes to their own children, again by the Intestacy Rules. This will mean that stepchildren are disinherited completely and receive nothing from their parent’s estate.

Children can seek to challenge the validity of their parent’s Will if they believe there is evidence of undue influence or lack of testamentary capacity and because of this the parent did not provide for them but left everything to his new family. There is also the option to bring a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 – as a minor child of the family who has not received reasonable financial provision from the step-parent’s estate. Obviously, these options cause more grief and the costs also have to be considered.

If you would like more information about Wills and if you are reading this as a step-parent or if you are in your second marriage and have children from your first and want to make sure your children benefit from your estate, please contact either Sheila Glyn-Owen or Ben Holden at Phillips Solicitors, tel: 01256 460830, and via [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

Sheila Glyn-Owen is a Director at Phillips Solicitors, Basingstoke, specialising in Wills and probate, lasting powers of attorney, inheritance tax planning and elderly client matters.

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# Christmas Extravaganza Help Needed

The upcoming, exciting event for the residents of Popley on page 1, is being jointly organised and hosted by Popley Fields Community Association, Popley Islands Community Group and Shakespeare Community Residents' Association. We want to get as many people involved in the event as possible, and everyone's help is needed! We especially need help with the following:

- Marshalling for the procession
- People who play musical instruments to form a band to play for the carol singing
- People with ideas for games
- People who may wish to provide some entertainment
- Volunteers to help serve refreshments
- Volunteers to help with set up and pack down
- Volunteers to help design and run the grotto
- People willing to dress up in Dickensian costume
- People to put goodie bags together for the grotto
- People who can contribute items for refreshment, entertainment or the raffle prizes.

Please get in touch with how you or people from your organisation may want to get involved.

It's a very exciting project but time is short so we need all hands on deck!

Have a great evening and let's get decking those halls!

**Stephen Bate**

**Community Development Officer Community Services**

**Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**

**01256 844844**

**07500 987638**

---

## Tips and Advice on Clearing Snow and Ice

- Start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.
- Be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property.
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels.
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on.
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming.
- Table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it.
- Pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients.
- Use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight.
- If there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

**DO NOT USE CAT LITTER** The clay granules in cat litter soften when they absorb moisture and turn into a watery sludge. Although this sludge may freeze at a slightly lower temperature, the clay content acts as a lubricant with the ice, making the ground more slippery and longer to thaw. It also walks into your house and stains and rots your carpets.



# 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.

**All welcome so please do drop by!**

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E-mail: [sue@suesdrivingschool.com](mailto:sue@suesdrivingschool.com) Page 27

# Diaries from the Old Codger.



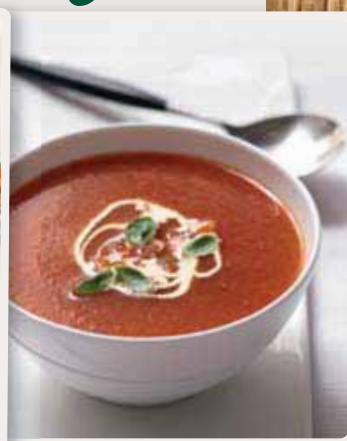
Where has this year gone? It's Christmas then blink, and it is Christmas a year later. Many families struggle to meet their children's Christmas wish lists, and try to please children the best they can. Many end up with enormous debts. It takes forever paying the bills off, this is a sad fact. Long gone are the days when we only had stockings, and woke up to a tangerine, some nuts, a few sweets and a shiny penny in it. How pleased we were. You may have one or if really lucky two presents under the Christmas tree. The biggest joy and what we liked the best of Christmas was to see all the family together, and then the extended family in the evening for a party. We all went to church on Christmas Day though sorry to say, that would be it until the next year.

This again was a joyful occasion as we gathered as a community, I for one did not like all the food they would put on the table for us to eat. I was a real fussy eater. Often my mum and dad would say "just think of the poor children that do not have food like this". Most of our veg granddad and dad would grow in the garden, as we lived next door to each other. Some of the food grown would be dished out to other local people in our road. I think this is what Christmas is about, thinking of others and giving if you can. It can also be a very lonely time of the year for many, and we as neighbors should look out for these people, especially now the cold weather is approaching. I would ask you all to take care of each other. Remember many members of the services do not get Christmas off but are working to take care of the community so please do not overstretch our emergency services. They need to look after the needy not people getting stoned out of their heads. I hope you all have a good time and also celebrate what Christmas is about. Her Indoors is never the one to turn away from people. Even a small thing like talking to her can help, mind you on saying that boy can she talk, I wear two hearing aids and when she gets going I take them out, sheer BLISS. Please all have a wonderful and safe Christmas from the Old Codger. O.K, Her Indoors as well. I have had to say that or for the next year I will be in for it, PLUS I hope she buys me a nice present,. Well, you never know. We are expecting all the family again this year and I would not miss it for the world even if it takes me a month to get over it. As I have said enjoy but be safe. And to all the great people of Popley, we wish you a Happy Christmas also all the services that look after us, and our wonderful hospital staff.



**Till next year The Old Codger**

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Carter Drive, off Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9UL

*Respite  
Stays  
Available*



KIDS Nursery invite you to our

Christmas Tayre!!

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
1-3pm

All parents and children  
welcome!!



Come and join in the festive fun, see the donkeys, sheep and other animals. There will be cake and jumble stalls, a tombola, art table and games!

Pebbles Children's Centre  
Shakespeare Road, Popley, RG24 9BP  
01256 464750

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## YOU Trust's First Point Floating Support Service

I would like to tell you about YOU Trust's First Point Floating Support Service. First Point is a short term generic floating support service that works across all tenures and households in Basingstoke and Deane. The service is available seven days a week including evenings and weekends and can provide housing-related support for up to two years.

We aim to provide flexible housing related support to vulnerable people aged 16 years plus to meet their needs and aspirations towards living independently, to work in partnership to reduce and prevent homelessness, reduce social exclusion and promote links into the community.

We can help if someone has housing related support needs, or face losing their home or need support to take up housing, to help them to set up and sustain their home or help if they are moving on from supported housing, prison or hospital to independent living.

Our friendly and experienced staff could support someone to claim welfare entitlements and maximise their income, support to budget for rent and utility bills, liaise with the landlords/mortgage companies over rent or mortgage arrears, make links within the local community and support networks, support them to maintain safety and security of their home or move into a new home and help them to engage in employment/further education/training.

Our service is free and self-referrals can be made by a telephone call or by completing one of our referral forms. Alternatively a professional can refer on their behalf. Once we receive this, a member of staff will arrange to meet with them to carry out a full assessment of their needs.

### **Our contact details are**

First Point Floating Support, YOU, The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke. Hants RG21 4AF **Phone:** 01256 423805 **Fax:** 01256 423807 **Email:** firstpoint-basingstoke@lifecycleyouwant.org.uk **Facebook** www.facebook.com/basingstokefirstpointfloatingsupport



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If you know of anyone who lives with, works with, or is an adult with a learning or physical disability please tell them to get in touch.

# Spread the word

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and 100%  
accessible

\*Small charge for some  
activities and workshops

[bit.ly/librarylearningcentre](http://bit.ly/librarylearningcentre)  
or call 01256 478670

# Over 55s

Our last Open Forum for this year will be held on Wednesday 5th December 2012 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. 9.30am registration -10.00am start. Our total membership at the moment is 608.

Notice is hereby given that all members fees are due for renewal at the end of December for the coming year (2013). Still £6 a year and good value for money.

The Open Forum will start with the AGM, then followed by guest speakers from the from the Hawk Conservancy (Andover), Colin Godfrey with his Olympic Torch and talk and Carnival Chorus singing Christmas carols. Refreshments will be available with a mince pies, and a buffet lunch to finish the morning.

Coach trips for 2013 will be announced. Selection of trips are, visit to the Poppy Factory, National Memorial Arboretum, Waterperry Gardens, Poole and Brownsea Island, David Austin Gardens Roses and many, many more.

All are welcome to come and join this splendid organisation for the benefit of older people.

Gerald Merritt

gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com 01256 412119 www.bdoover55sforum.btck.co.uk



## **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-

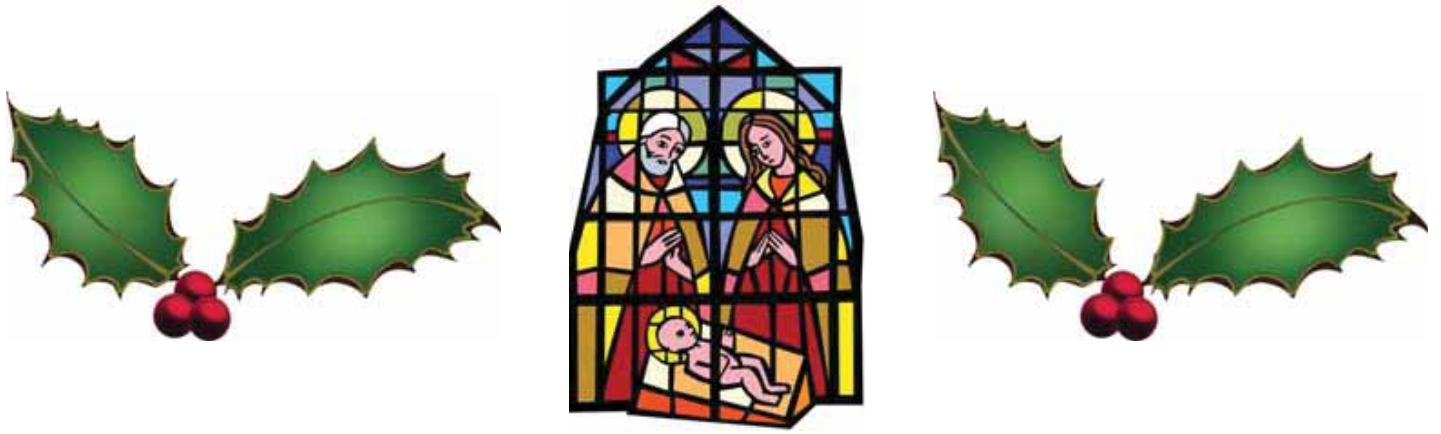
Friday Club (children) 5:00-6:30pm

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

For details ring 01256 363156.

**A GREAT SUCCESS.HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT ONE.**

We would like to thank all the companies who donated prizes. Duct Clean UK, Wayne Simpkins who owns the Sunbed Shop and the new Hairdressers in Popley. The Entertainer in Basingstoke. The Trawlerman in Chineham. The Burger King in Basingstoke. Tesco in Chineham, Sainsbury's in Basingstoke, Fastfare shop Abbey Road, Youngs Chip Shop, Supreme Clean, Lloyds in Basingstoke, Bowlplex at the West Ham Leisure Park, The Cinema and the Aquadrome. Once again thank you to all these companies from us all of the three associations in Popley.



## **CHRISTMAS AT ST GABRIEL'S.**

Sunday 9th December

### **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

4pm and again at 5pm

Sunday 16th December at 6pm

### **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

a traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

### **Nativity Service at 4pm**

Children Come dressed as a Nativity character

### **Midnight Communion at 11:30pm**

CHRISTMAS DAY

### **All Age Service at 10am**

Followed by a short service of Holy Communion.



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*Come into the store and see our many special offers*

Seasons Greetings to all our customers from The Fastfare Staff



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For further details ring ☎357637

Opening Hours

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



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