

# POPLEY MATTERS

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January 2013

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Issue 131



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-01-13) [editor@poppleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@poppleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** Popley Matters readers have been asking about opportunities to do voluntary work and things to do, or groups to join, so we have put in your magazine several choices for you to look at.

It will be a tough year for many people with the changes to a lot of the benefit system starting in April, so we have also put in some agencies you can contact and that may be able to help. My parents taught me that you should always be tolerant as you don't know the circumstances of other people and you never know what fate has

waiting for you around the corner.

Page 1 is an article from Natasha who visited Popley last year from Russia and she hopes to spend a few more weeks later this year in Popley, On pages 12 and 16 there are reports from Marnel Infant and Merton Junior Schools. There are also some tips about keeping warm and there is information where you can get help if needed. It affects a lot of us of the older generation and you are entitled to ask for help. Please don't sit in the cold and be too proud to ask for help you and your family have paid tax for years. We have a vacancy for a youth to write for Popley Matters. You choose your subject and can write about what is good or otherwise, or what you like to do in your spare time. The contact details are below. We welcome anyone that would like to write an article or advertise with us.

Thank you to the wonderful people who have come forward and offered to help deliver Popley Matters, we still need more helpers, and some that will step in to help if people are sick or on away holiday.

If you want to write an article or be one of our wonderful volunteers contact 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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Thank you for the support

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year  
from Natasha Suruntovich (our Belarusian Correspondent) Orsha,  
Belarus.*

*Christmas and New Year in Belarus.*

Christmas is celebrated in Belarus on the 7<sup>th</sup> January as this is the Russian Orthodox Gregorian Calendar. A large minority of Belarusians are Catholic and they celebrate Christmas on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December.

Of the two holidays, New Year is the larger celebration. This is, in part, due to the Soviet communist era when celebrating religious holidays was *not* encouraged!

On Christmas Eve 'Father Frost' delivers presents for the children. He leaves the presents under the Christmas tree. The type of presents 'Father Frost' brings tend to be more practical than the presents our 'Father Christmas' delivers. These presents would be clothes etc.

The Presents that are exchanged at New Year are similar to the kind of presents we give at Christmas.

For both holidays special foods are prepared. Typically, this would include traditional tangerines, red caviar (I keep telling my friends in Minsk that caviar is black! Red caviar is salmon roe, it makes absolutely no difference, it's still red caviar!) and a special salad I won't even attempt to spell!

The most commonly eaten meats are chicken and pork. Occasionally beef is served but other than in the more swish restaurants I have never seen lamb on the menu.

When Natasha was here with me last July, it was the first time she'd eaten lamb.



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**Councillors Page:** A new year has begun and it will be one of big changes in Popley. We had a meeting with the developers, Charles Church and Sentinel, who will be developing phase 3 and 5. We were pleased to see that they had listened to the concerns we had, and there are no buildings higher than 3 storeys, there are 16 allotments and 3 bungalows though we would have liked to see more. We will continue to press for more bungalows in the other phases. The shops will come in the later phases. There is more parking proposed and they have designed out the courtyard system so prevalent in Marnel Park so parking is much more resident friendly. We asked for an exhibition so that residents can see what is being applied for, and they were happy to arrange that for January 17th in Popley Fields Community Centre from 3:00-7:30pm. We are distributing the leaflet so that as many residents as possible can attend if they want to. You can also view the plans on the Basingstoke and Deane website, the application number is BDB/77170. The outline was approved in 2010 so was a case of working to get the best design and community friendly development as possible. While we wait for the start of this development we hold our area open to more applications on the few bits of green we have left. We live in Popley and care passionately about the great area with its fantastic people and will always be here to fight for the very best we can get. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk)

**Popley West:** We wish you all a happy and healthy new year. This year will be a tough one for many people and tougher than I have experienced in our nearly fifteen years as Councillors. There are more severe cuts especially to people who have to claim benefits and services for the disabled and vulnerable.

Merton Rise was Hampshire County Council land and was sold to developers. It now moves a step further to being built. You can view the proposed plans for phase 3 and 5 are on the Basingstoke and Deane website. Application BDB/77170 is for the first 238 dwellings. We have been going through the plans and we will keep you as informed as possible. We Labour Councillors are working together, along with Sherborne St John, as David Wilson Homes have now officially lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate that is against the unanimous decision of the Development Control Committee to refuse the applications for an outline for 450 dwellings and the first of the two phases for 200 dwellings in the Kiln Farm Fields.

***Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924***

***Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924***

**Popley East:** Happy New Year – We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas celebrations. As the new year begins Kiln Farm rears its head again. David Wilson Homes have put in an appeal against the council's decision to refuse planning permission for 450 new homes. All 4 Popley councillors will continue to fight against this planning application.

Housing Benefit changes in April 2013 – This may affect you!

From 1 April 2013, the Government will reduce Housing Benefit for tenants of 'working age' who have one or more spare bedrooms in their homes. If you receive Housing Benefit and have one or more spare rooms, this may affect you from April 2013. Further information about these changes can be found by visiting Basingstoke and Deane Civic Offices or online at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/browse/advice-and-benefits/changes-to-housing-and-council-tax-benefit](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/browse/advice-and-benefits/changes-to-housing-and-council-tax-benefit) or <http://www.sentinelha.org.uk/housingreforms/benefits>

**Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801**

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088**

# Hello...

## From your Community Safety Patrol Officers

We hope you have had a great Christmas and would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

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.

Popley has a relatively low number of neighbourhood watch schemes and over the next year I would like to see more new schemes in Popley. Neighbourhood Watch is a great way of staying informed about local issues happening in the area you live. Many new schemes are run on an email basis, without the need for meetings at someone's home. Some insurers also offer a discount if you are in a scheme. If you would like more information on how to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, please get in touch.

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](mailto:safetypatrolservice@basingstoke.gov.uk).

## Dan, Paula & Paul



## HWS Befriender Course

Hampshire Wellbeing Services (HWS) is looking for Befrienders who can usually visit the lonely or isolated, or a person who needs support for a few hours per day once a week. Meetings are arranged to suit the person's needs, either at home or at a neutral venue. Unlike professional carers, such as associated workers and care agency staff, Befrienders are able to engage at a much deeper level, which often results in a more positive outcome for the client. Having a Befriender can help people to re-connect with their community. Anyone can become a Befriender. They need to: have CRB clearance, receive training and be prepared to undertake continual professional development. Some befriending relationships include social events, creative classes, or the development of self-help groups. In addition, HWS Befrienders can give information, advice and guidance and promote healthy lifestyles. The next 10 day Befriender Course will start on 14th January, ending in February 2013 (5 weeks). Sessions will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays between 9:30am and 2:45pm. If you would like to attend the Befriender Awareness Day and/or the course please contact either Annie Noble on 07956 959157, email [annienoble@hantswell.org](mailto:annienoble@hantswell.org) or Jayne Morgan on 07855697897, email [jm@hantswell.org](mailto:jm@hantswell.org).

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**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:**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30am-12.00pm	Little Rainbows (child minders)
	7.30-10.00am	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9.30-11.00am	Popley Little People
	<b>AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9.00-11.00am	Slimming World
	9.00-10.45 am	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm	Oasis Lunch club
	5.30 and 7.30pm	Slimming World
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	<b>AVAILABLE FOR HIRE</b>	
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>DAY TIME HIRE AVAILABLE</b>	
	6.30-7.45pm	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00- 9.15pm	age 11 plus.
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>AVAILABLE FOR HIRE</b>	
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	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)

You can also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

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## **Everest Over 50s Group**

Everest Over 50s Group meets during term time on a Friday afternoon, 3-5pm, at Everest Community Academy.

We enjoy a wide range of activities, mainly suggested by the members at the beginning of each term. These have included, to name a few, Zumba Gold, Body Balance, Yoga, Pilates, Drama, Walks and Health Talks. Table tennis and badminton can be played most weeks in the sports hall, and also the use of the gym after an induction. If you'd prefer something more sedate, there are board games which can get competitive, or simply relax with a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat.

So why not come along and enjoy some social time, you will be made very welcome! Just turn up at the Community Department of the Academy to register. There is a small charge, which currently stands at the £1, very good value! Please ring the Community Department on 01256 337573 for more information.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**





DECEMBER was a fantastic month for MFC Popley Youth.

On the pitch, Andrew Mark Hopley's Under 7s continue to make rapid progress, and it is good to see these young players playing a passing game, which is the ethos that underpins the whole Club.

Andrew Williams's and David Gambrell's Under 8s are continuing their sensational progress while Jo Dawber's Development Team are astonishing everyone in a very positive way with their progression.

At Under 9s, Warwick Sear Jarvis' squad are beginning to find their feet in their Division and at Under 10s, Lee Austen's Knight and Tom Bartlett's Panthers are holding their own.

At Under 11s, Russell Graves' and Glenn Taylor's boys are having another good season and are progressing, while at Under 12s, Danny Oates' boys are in the semi finals of the Peter Houseman Youth League cup following an 8-1 demolition of Sherborne St John in the quarter finals.

Paul O'Shea's much-improved Under 13s remain strong candidates for promotion to the Premier Davison with a scintillating First Division campaign so far, and Dave Wright's under 14s are doing well too.

Off the pitch, the Club stages a very successful Christmas outing to the local Basingstoke Town v Staines Town Conference South Fixture at The Camrose and the players, parents and Club coaching staff and officials all enjoyed their day out, which was free for the players as the Club funded their entrance fees.

Many of the players got to be mascots, while others entertained the Christmas crowd with a half-time match out on the pitch.

---

## **Online Searchable Funding Database**

There are over 2,500 funding schemes available in Basingstoke and Deane that support local voluntary, community and faith based groups. These include lottery, trust and government funding sources. [www.open4community.info/basingstoke](http://www.open4community.info/basingstoke) could help you find these schemes for FREE. To discover which grants your group may be eligible for, visit this funding search facility or visit BVS at [www.voluntaryservices.com](http://www.voluntaryservices.com). You can browse for general information or use the simple search facility. If you need any assistance accessing the information ring BVS on 01256 423816.

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### Tuesdays @ Everest in Popley

Junior Street Dance	4.30pm
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### 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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# LADIES, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ANOTHER INTEREST?

## WHY NOT CONSIDER JOINING

## THE BASINGSTOKE MORNING TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.

We meet once a month at Sarum Hall, Sarum Hill on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 10.00am

We have Speakers of varying interests, plus an Arts and Crafts group, coffee morning and lunch group. We also have outings during the year. These groups give you a chance to meet and get to know your fellow members with similar interests. Also many other activities are held during the year with our local Federation.

Before deciding, why not come along as a visitor to our next meeting. You will be very welcome.

To find out more about the Townswomen's Guild and their history and achievements you can visit: [www.townswomen.org.uk](http://www.townswomen.org.uk).

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### **Disability Signpost Service**

Ever found yourself lost in an unfamiliar area, not knowing which way to turn? That feeling of being lost and vulnerable is familiar to many people who are suddenly affected by disability either personally or through friends and family. It is not always easy to find the right place to go for advice and information and many people are often left feeling alone and isolated. Basingstoke and District Disability Forum is pleased to announce that they are piloting a new Disability Signpost Service that will help guide disabled people, their carers, friends and family to the right source of information and advice. The first session of the pilot was held on 6 November and information was given out on a range of topics including transport, benefits, housing and volunteering. The Signpost Service is being provided by the Forum in conjunction with the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and will be available on **the first working Tuesday of the month in the Discovery Centre between 10am and 1:30pm**. The next session is on **8th January**. If successful, the service will continue throughout 2013 when it is hoped to take it out to other areas of the Borough to reach people who find it difficult to get into Basingstoke. The Disability Signpost Service is being delivered by Disability Forum volunteers and the Forum's Coordinator. The Disability Forum would like to extend its thanks to the Disability Forum members who inspired this initiative and to the Discovery Centre for their generosity in providing the venue and assistance. For more information contact Anne Gray, Disability Forum Coordinator on **01256 423869** or email [disabilityforum@voluntaryservices.com](mailto:disabilityforum@voluntaryservices.com).

# Marnel Infant School

This half term Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London in their project 'Fire, Fire'. The outcome of this topic was a dance/ drama presentation for their grandparents who were served rock cakes baked to an authentic 1600's recipe.

Year 1 children have been learning about light and dark and their families were invited in to take part in a range of activities that included making shadow puppets, investigating reflective materials and exploring a dark room using torches.

Christmas is always a busy time in school and December started with the Year R children performing 'Away in a Manger' for their families. This was a play with lots of animals all trying to use the manger and they had to be shooed away. The children sang all the songs beautifully and there was some excellent acting. This week Key Stage 1 performed 'Time Travellers' for their families, a play about finding out the true meaning of Christmas. Along the way Dr When and Dr What meet elves in the cracker factory, toys in the shop, they visit a pantomime and see lots of turkeys. Again there was some excellent acting to be seen.

We have also held 3 mini Christmas fairs where the children could enjoy the lucky dip, the tombola and have their faces painted.

Before the end of term the children are looking forward to a disco and Christmas Dinner.

We would like to wish all our families a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2013. We would also like to thank you for your support throughout 2012 and look forward to a happy 2013 in school.

Mrs B Cole Head Teacher Marnel Infant School

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## Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (Age 16 to 24)

The National Apprenticeship Service will provide up to 40,000 Apprenticeship grants with a value of £1,500 aimed at helping to small and medium-sized employers with less than 50 employees in England who are able to offer young people employment through the Apprenticeship programme, by providing wage grants to assist them in recruiting their first apprentice in England. Deadline for applications is March 2013. Go to <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Partners/Policy/AGE-1624.aspx> for more information

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## Hampshire Good Neighbour Award Scheme 2013

This Award Scheme has been set up by HCC in partnership with Age Concern Hampshire, Brendoncare Club Hampshire, Carers Together, the Good Neighbours Support Service and the WRVS. It provides an opportunity to recognise publicly the support of neighbours and volunteers who give people a 'that bit of help' which can often make the difference to them being able to continue living in their own home. The **closing date for nominations is 25th January 2013**. Forms can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/cgqcfxs>.

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# Family Lives

Family Lives is a leading parenting and family charity, providing a range of services to parents and families across the country. Every day there are challenges and demands and sometimes with all these pressures it is difficult to know who to turn to. Family Lives is a national charity set up to respond to the needs of families, particularly parents and other adult carers. Locally there are Family Support Workers in your area who are able to offer: up to 6 individual face to face sessions for anyone caring for a child, either in the family home or local community, workshops and courses on a wide range of issues to support family life, access to online parenting courses such as Triple P and Parents together. For more information please email on [hantsinfo@familylives.org.uk](mailto:hantsinfo@familylives.org.uk) or if you would like further information about our services please call our local office on 02380 557130.

## Hitting the Cold Spots – Helping You to Stay Warm in Hampshire

Are your heating bills going through the roof? If they are, much of the heat you are paying for could be going the same way. Hitting the Cold Spots, a Hampshire County Council scheme funded by a grant from the Department of Health, can help and advise you on ways to keep warm and healthy this winter. Cold weather not only makes life uncomfortable but can also lead to serious health problems such as respiratory diseases, asthma, depression, heart disease and strokes. Hampshire County Council has been developing new and innovative ways to help people keep warm and reduce bills. The easy way to find what you need is to call a dedicated FREE Advice Line 0800 804 8601 where your call will be answered by a member of the Hampshire based, friendly and knowledgeable team from the Environment Centre. Experienced advisors can visit you at home to offer practical advice on how to keep your home warm and to assist with reducing your energy bills. This winter, we are offering (some of the below services and emergency relief are subject to availability and conditions apply): help with heating and hot water system repairs; urgent support with alternative heating measures (electric oil filled radiators) if you are without heating; small grant support to cope with winter fuel emergencies; carbon monoxide detectors – provided free with a home safety visit; tariff change advice to help you to save money on your fuel bills, and practical support and assistance with debt, money and benefits; access to free loft and cavity wall insulation, including for solid wall properties; free assessment for connection to mains gas supply. The visiting Advisors offer practical and financial support, and can be with you when any works are being undertaken within your home. Mrs T from Farnborough contacted the project for support and said: “The Advisor was brilliant. She came to see me and we sorted out my hot water tank, it had been broken for 6 months. Thank you”. For free and in-depth advice contact the Environment Centre office on 0800 804 8601 or email [staywarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:staywarm@environmentcentre.com). Hitting the Cold Spots services are available until 31st March 2013 – so call now!

# **Empowering Disabled People in Public Life**

Disabled people are currently underrepresented in all areas of public life. Empowering disabled people in public life can be a key lever for changing culture and attitudes. It can raise the profile of the different capabilities and strengths of disabled people. Standing for elected office can be a challenging experience for anyone, and particularly so for disabled people. As well as the negative attitudes and assumptions disabled candidates may face, many also incur significant extra costs in their election campaigns as a result of their condition or impairment. Disabled people who have previously been prevented or put off from running for elected office, due to the additional costs they face, can now receive financial help to meet these costs from the Access to Elected Office Fund. The Fund was launched by the Government in July to help level the playing field for disabled people who want to become an elected representative. The Fund is an important step forward in increasing disabled peoples' visibility and participation in society. It is hoped that by removing some of the disability- related barriers of standing for elected office, the Fund will help disabled people to realise their potential to contribute to the political environment, putting them in a strong position to influence change on the issues that affect them and their communities. The Fund provides grants that help meet the additional support needs a disabled person has that are associated with their disability. If this support were not provided, a disabled person may face an additional barrier in the selection and campaign processes compared to a non-disabled person. To find out more about the Fund go to the Access to Elected Office Fund website at [www.access-to-elected-office-fund.org.uk/](http://www.access-to-elected-office-fund.org.uk/).

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## **Hampshire 'Making a Difference Award'**

The Hampshire 'Making A Difference Award' is awarded by the Chairman of Hampshire County Council to pay tribute to the young person or group of young people who have demonstrated exceptionally good, active citizenship. Glyn Wright has initiated this new award which is open for any member of the public for their personal nominations. The closing date for receipt of completed nominations is 31st January 2013. The information is also due to be published in 'Hampshire Now' to raise public awareness and announced on the Hampshire website. The nomination form can also be downloaded from [www.hants.gov.uk/hpdw](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hpdw).

## Merton Junior Marches Onwards and Upwards...

As I write this just 2 weeks from the end of term, I find I am humming along to traditional Christmas Carols sung by our beautiful choir. This time of year in school is truly magical and anyone who has visited us recently would, I am sure, agree Merton Junior is 'full swing' into Christmas celebrations and preparations.



Our Choir have been out and about singing in many places around the community recently, including Tesco, Melrose Hall and our very own Carols on the Playground. Thank you to everyone who took time to stop, listen and pass on some truly lovely comments to our children.

Year 3 have been hard at work learning their lines and song words for their nativity 'The Good, The Bad and The Donkey', which they perform next week. We are taking our children to the Anvil to watch Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and there is great excitement over Christmas lunch, lots to do with crackers and joke sharing... Christmas crafts, parties and a Christmas Celebration Assembly will



round off our busy term.

There have been so many great activities this term. Year 3 designed their own wellies and cooked biscuits, as well as going on a wellie walk! Year 4 have been learning the clarinet all term and will play a concert recital to parents next week. They have also been on an exciting trip to 'James Bond In Motion' at Beaulieu National Motor Museum (won in a competition by Jordan Lewis, he designed a 'gadget' for James Bond to use). Year 5 and 6 recently designed their own pizza and have tried to persuade national Pizza chains to stock them! They have also had opportunities to visit Everest Academy to get a 'taster' of secondary school.

I can hardly believe this term is almost over. We started in September with building work causing some significant, but manageable issues: classes here, there and everywhere, the staffroom, office and store areas all being moved-not once, but three times!! Our hall was finally completed in October; alongside the formal announcement of our school's expansion. Throughout this 'upheaval' the staff and pupils 'kept calm and carried on', it was fantastic to walk round school, joining in all the great learning experiences our fantastic staff offer our children. We were pleased this was reflected by visits from educational consultants who praised the school for its '...positive and happy learning atmosphere', '...obvious rates of progress which can be seen in pupil books' and '...good teaching'. The building work is still ongoing and is due to be completed in February; we are planning a big official opening, so watch this space!



I am very lucky to be the headteacher at Merton Junior School; we have amazing staff, who go above and beyond to make sure all the children in our care have the very best experience at our school. Teachers all run clubs, which they are not paid for, and give up lots of their own time to organise fantastic events, projects and trips. I was very proud to receive the results of a Hampshire-wide Year 6 pupil attitude survey in which Merton did exceptionally well. Over 6,000 pupils took part and our pupils rated us very highly. We were significantly above the Hampshire average in many areas. This reflects the great work done by all my staff, working alongside and with parents and pupils to make sure every child succeeds and is happy.

The future of Merton Junior School looks very bright and we look forward to 2013 with lots of energy and excitement. Happy New year to everyone in Popley.

Keep up to date with everything that is going on in school at our website: [www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk). **Helen Palmer, Headteacher**



## Sentinel homes get a new look for the New Year

The appearance of Sentinel homes, surrounding our Popley Islands regeneration area, will be greatly improved in the New Year thanks to an extensive, exterior makeover.

Following on from the asbestos surveys, which took place in December, Sentinel homes will be transformed with the addition of thermal, through-colour render to brickwork, the replacement of the white cladding with a modern composite cladding material, the repair of gutters and drainage pipes and the replacement of bin cupboard doors.

The new design will look something like this:



Proposed Front Elevation

Internal works will include increasing loft insulation, which should lead to lower energy bills and, where necessary, removing redundant water tanks from lofts.

The works are expected to start in January 2013, with several properties being completed every two to three weeks.

Homeowners will also have the opportunity to have their homes improved in the same way. This will be a private arrangement with our contractor, but we can still help and advise you through the process. If you're interested please contact Stacey Eveleigh on 0800 195 5515 from a landline or 0300 666 5515 from your mobile or email [customer@sentinelha.org.uk](mailto:customer@sentinelha.org.uk)

For more information, or to see the design plans, please visit our website at [www.sentinelha.org.uk/pip](http://www.sentinelha.org.uk/pip)

# Pancreatic Cancer UK

I was given a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in June 2009, and was told then that I had 3 months or up to a year to live. This prognosis is common on diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, and many of you will know of folk who have had this diagnosis and who did not live very long afterwards. The five-year survival rate is about 3%. As you may know I am one of the lucky ones with a less severe form of cancer and with two operations and state of the art treatment I have now a much better prognosis and indeed after 3 years I am still here and putting on weight.

However I am well aware that for most of those who are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer the outlook is bleak and the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK is working hard to improve their situation, and we are planning another walk around Old Basing to raise funds for them. Our walk last year raised over £1,000, and we would like to beat that this time.

We would like to invite you to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK in a sponsored walk around Old Basing. We propose to hold a sponsored walk around the village, based on the Basing Trail, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013, starting about 12 noon from the Millstone Pub. The walk is about 2 miles (1½km). It could be muddy; dogs on leads are welcome.

Please let me know if you would like to join in this walk. I have a supply of sponsor forms available and can email them out if you would like one. My email address is [tgray91278@aol.com](mailto:tgray91278@aol.com). You can also call me on 465821 and I will get one to you.

A diagnosis of pancreatic cancer is cruel and usually life limiting. Pancreatic Cancer UK will put any money we can raise to good use. Information about them will be found on their website [www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk](http://www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk).

Liz Gray 465821

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## Children's Services Young Children's Community Support Grant (YCCSG)

Hampshire County Council has established a new grant programme using funds generated from savings through the recently awarded Children's Centres contract. The YCCSG grant programme will take over from and widen support previously available through the Children's Services Children's Centre Grants. The YCCSG grant programme aims to support wider provision for children under fives and their families/carers and will be available to any community organisation which can demonstrate that the services it provides make a tangible difference to the lives of young children and their families. Applicants will also have to show their projects do not duplicate existing services provided by children's centres but complement and promote those services. Organisations bidding for funding under the new programme will also have to show they are working in partnership with children's centres. Round 2 **applications can be made until midnight 20th January 2013**. Go to <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/childrens-services-grants/young-childrens-grant.htm> for more information.



#### 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

It was a very busy end to the autumn session making Christmas angels, cards and visiting the Planet Ice Christmas Show. The Beavers have been merrily working hard to gain activity badges and the Colony has seen some particularly creative models of fire engines (beautifully painted), lego vehicles, poems, prayers and carried out IT investigations. On the last evening of the session they presented an 'unrehearsed' nativity play which was enjoyed by parents and invited guests. Sadly there are no vacancies in the Colony at the current time. Parents of potential new recruits are advised to contact Eve by e-mail [alexander.yvonne@sky.com](mailto:alexander.yvonne@sky.com) to add a name to the waiting list.



A party of Cubs and parents attended a performance of this year's Planet Ice Christmas Show 'Keep Calm – Santa is coming'. Several of the cubs have already paid their deposit for District Cub Camp at Longbridge next summer. Contact for new recruits is Douglas - [baloo@thescoutingpages.org.uk](mailto:baloo@thescoutingpages.org.uk)

The Scouts have been finding out about aircraft cockpit instruments; how they work and what they show. Some are starting to come to terms with the computerised flight simulator programme with potentially disastrous results in some cases. (It is not a good idea to try to land a plane vertically 'in' the runway; especially if it's a Boeing 747!) However, practice **will** make perfect. The section plans a 'sleepover' with Old Basing Scouts in the New Year.



Meetings recommence on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January for the Scout section).

Plans to open a new Air Scout Explorer Unit section based in Base 2000 continue, with the first meeting expected in late January/early February 2013. Anyone interested in joining the unit which will be open to both boys and girls aged between 14 and 18 years of age, should contact Colin Karlake on 07796 772 500.

More adult leaders would enable the group to expand its provision. No previous experience necessary as a full training and support programme exists. It is a requirement of the Scout Association for leaders to hold a valid CRB clearance. Contact Group Scout Leader Colin Karlake on 07796 772 500 for more information.

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# Hitting the Cold Spots Warms the Hearts

Cold weather not only makes life uncomfortable but can also lead to serious health problems such as respiratory diseases, asthma, depression, heart disease and strokes. Hampshire County Council's 'Hitting the Colds Spots' scheme is building on last year's initiative with another campaign targeted at older and vulnerable people who may struggle to keep warm and pay the bills during the cold winter months.

Older and vulnerable people of any age can 'fall beneath the radar', because they are unaware of the range of options available or find it difficult to access help. Hitting the Cold Spots aims to give them immediate and practical advice on reducing energy bills, increasing available income and keeping warm. This advice is available through a free advice line (0800 804 8601). Depending on the situation, further help may also be on offer with free home visits by Hitting the Cold Spots advisors, access to efficient, oil-filled radiators and grants to assist with hot water and heating repairs using Buy With Confidence traders. In addition, information packs on how to keep warm at home are available via local voluntary community organisations - these include a room thermometer, cosy snood, children's activity pack and useful information.

The scheme, funded by the Department of Health, has already helped 300 Hampshire residents this year with issues such as switching to a cheaper energy tariff, accessing grants to cope with winter fuel emergencies, debt and benefit advice tailored to individual circumstances and assessment for mains gas connection. A third of these callers benefited from a further follow-up visit to their home by a Hitting the Cold Spots advisor who was able to offer them practical assistance with obtaining heating and hot water repairs. One of the advantages of the scheme is that it provides a one-stop shop for many different problems which together may seem insurmountable for an individual. As one satisfied customer from Gosport said about the Hitting the Cold Spots advisor's help, "He sorted everything out. I would have been overwhelmed by it."

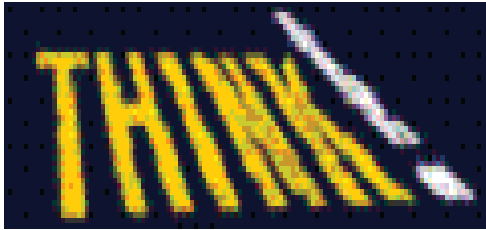
Councillor Felicity Hindson, Executive Member for Adult Social Care at Hampshire County Council said:

"I'm very pleased that our Hitting the Cold Spots scheme is helping people to keep warm and addressing winter fuel poverty among older and vulnerable people. The scheme offers a dedicated free advice line with a 'real person' to speak to who can give immediate, practical advice and follow up on the tougher problems.

"When people have had long-term problems with their heating systems or with paying their energy bills it can sometimes take a lot of courage to make that first call and it is encouraging that more and more people are finding the confidence to call our energy advisors."

The easy way to find out more information is to call the dedicated freephone advice line 0800 804 8601 where one of the Hampshire-based, friendly and knowledgeable energy advisors from the Environment Centre will be able to give immediate, impartial and practical help.

Community groups can get more information on how to become involved, and on all aspects of Hitting the Cold Spots, by calling the freephone advice line.



[www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk)



## Road Safety.

- ❄️ **Wet Roads & Icy Roads:** Be extra vigilant during the winter months. Beware of black ice, taking extra care in shaded areas as the sun won't have melted it. Try to use major roads rather than smaller, quieter roads which might not have been gritted. In wet and icy conditions brake gently to avoid skidding and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front - give yourself time to react. Don't forget: the braking distance is twice as far on wet roads and increases 10-fold on icy roads!
- ❄️ **Low Sun & Glare:** Now the winter is approaching, the sun is lower in the sky and wet roads will reflect glare which can temporarily blind you to potential hazards.
- ❄️ **Dark Mornings & Evenings:** Now the clocks have gone back, evenings and mornings are drawing in. Be extra vigilant for pedestrians. As a pedestrian always use a pedestrian crossing where possible. Help others to see you by wearing fluorescent or reflective clothing in poor light conditions.
- ❄️ **Motorcyclists:** Look out for motorcyclists. They represent less than 1% of road traffic but account for 18% of deaths and serious injuries and are 40 times more likely to be killed than a car driver.

### Top Tip:

Don't use water to defrost windows - warm water can crack the glass and cold water will just re-freeze. Ensure you leave plenty of time to fully defrost your car in the morning. A squirt of WD40 in the door locks will prevent them from freezing.

### Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)





## Everest Health & Leisure Club

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\* Terms and conditions apply

# **ELS (Emergency Lifesaving) Course**

Heart Start Basingstoke and Deane is providing a FREE ELS (Emergency Lifesaving) course underwritten by the British Heart Foundation. Lifesaving skills important skill in life and Heart Start Basingstoke and Deane is trying to get as many people in Basingstoke and Deane to attend this course. They run the on the last Thursday of every month at the Innovation Centre in Basing View the next course is being held on 31st January 2013 between 5pm and 8pm Innovation Centre, Basing View for anyone aged over 10 years old. Heartstart@direct-firstaid.co.uk or telephone 07891 929857 to book a place a life with these skills.

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## **Foodbank**

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. In 2011-12 foodbanks fed 128,687 people nationwide, 100% more than the previous year. Rising costs of food and fuel combined with static income, high unemployment and changes and delays to benefits are causing more and more people to come to foodbanks for help. At the beginning of October, the Basingstoke Foodbank opened its doors on Wednesday and Fridays to provide emergency food aid to local people in crisis. Based at the top of Sarum Hill, the foodbank is part of the managed process of helping people out of crisis by providing emergency food and support when people need it most. People will be referred by front line agencies including Citizens Advice Bureau, Money Lifeline, Basingstoke and Deane Adult Services, Health Visitors and Social Services using a pre-authorised voucher system. More than 30 churches from the Basingstoke area have signed up to support the initiative. This harvest they also had generous support from 20+ schools and local companies and have 25+ referring agencies who are now issuing vouchers to their clients. They do have enough food stock for the rest of this year but are looking to place collection points in local businesses, offices and shops where staff and the public will be able to donate non-perishable foodstuffs. They are also looking for local businesses to support the initiative by contributing towards their ongoing costs including transport and premises, and in the future help with the costs of the part time administrator. For more information and contact details go to <http://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/>



Dear Friends,

2012 has been one of those years that are so hard to define! As a nation, the highs have been very high, the lows very low and I wondered, as the year ended, if that had been the case for you. Among the highs in the news this year has been Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the staging of the Olympics, and the happy news of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge expecting a baby. Among the lows have been the austerity measures that have affected so many families, the tragic death of Whitney Houston, and once again, some severe weather conditions. We've had the premiere of Skyfall the new Bond movie, seen the launch of the iPhone 5 and iPad Mini and watch a man fall from space!

This past year for me has been one of celebration and commiseration. There have been so many weddings and Christenings where I have had the pleasure to officiate and also, sadly, many funerals where it was my privilege to be alongside the family.

As a church family, St Gabriel's continues to be a lively and active church that keeps on growing as we welcome more and more families of all ages into the congregation. In these austere and difficult times and through all the events of the last year it seems to me that folk are increasingly seeking a solid foundation on which to build their lives. There is a growing desire to satisfy that spiritual hunger that comes from within and completes us as human beings.

In the Bible I read this: *"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not to harm you.."* One of the first things I discovered when I became a Christian was the truth of those words and that God has the most amazing plan for my life. God doesn't promise to take away the stresses and strains of daily living but what he does promise that whatever happens he'll be there right in the thick of it with us (have you ever read that well known verse 'Footprints'?) and he promises to fulfil that longing that is deep within our hearts.

Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year I'll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: *"May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit."* Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year's resolution to discover God's plan for your life – you won't regret it!

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing more of you, and sharing with you in 2013.

**God's blessings.**

**Arthur**

**(Vicar of St Gabriel's)**

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# The New Year - A Challenging Time for Some Couples

By Hayley Eachus, Solicitor in Family Law at Phillips Solicitors

Christmas holidays are over but the New Year can be one of the most challenging times for a troubled relationship. Many couples whose marriages have reached breaking point may have stayed together for one last Christmas for the sake of their children. It is a sad fact that more relationships break down in the New Year than at any other time. The current economic situation is adding to the stress for many and money worries can push a relationship to breaking point. The first week after children return to school in January is very often one of the busiest for starting divorce proceedings.

The breakdown of any relationship is painful for everyone involved and there are also many couples experiencing heartache who are not married – these are co-habitees living as a married couple and they are equally likely to separate but these relationship breakdowns do not show up in the statistics. Separation for such couples is equally complicated, especially if children or property are involved, because co-habiting couples have different rights and responsibilities.

Couples don't always have to go through costly court proceedings, however, as there are cheaper, alternative ways of finding a more amicable resolution, such as Mediation. The courts are increasingly advising couples to use this service, as it can provide a more beneficial and less acrimonious way of finding a solution that both partners agree on. Most important, it can enable a couple to have an ongoing relationship afterwards and in most cases this is vital if children are involved.

If you would like more information about family issues, please call Hayley Eachus on her direct line 01256 854633 or email [heachus@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:heachus@phillips-law.co.uk). Visit our website for lots more information at [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk).



# Welfare Reforms

The Government's welfare reforms propose changes to the level of benefits and the way they will be paid from 2013.

If you or any member of your household claims any of the following benefits you will be affected:

- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance
- Employment Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credits
- Child Tax Credits
- Disability Living Allowance
- Pension Credits

Final guidance on how these changes will affect residents in receipt of benefits is expected soon but proposals include:

## **Social housing changes**

If you are a social housing tenant, are under the qualifying age for State Pension Credit and have a spare bedroom your housing benefit will be cut from April 2013.

## **Council Tax Benefit**

If you currently receive support to pay your Council Tax this could change from April 2013.

## **Capping benefits**

If you are unemployed the government will assess your benefits and cap the amount you receive to £500 per week for single parents and couples with or without children. For single people without children the cap is £350 per week.

## **Universal Credit**

From October 2013 a new Universal Credit will be phased in. Instead of claiming several types of benefit you will claim just one, covering all current benefits.

## **Advice and guidance**

Those people affected by the changes will be informed as soon as more detail is known. A free fortnightly drop-in advice service is held at the borough council offices. The council is also working with the housing associations to look at additional ways to give people support and advice

## **Need Help?**

Residents affected by the welfare reform or in need of money advice can attend a free fortnightly drop-in advice service held at the Council Offices between 10am and 2pm. Sessions will be held **every two weeks** from Monday 12th November 2012. For more information go to [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/benefitchanges](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/benefitchanges) or telephone 01256 810680  
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# DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER



By the time you read this it is another year, so much was celebrated in the UK in 2012, the Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics etc. and a small earthquake! It was on our wedding anniversary. My beloved, ha, ha, had to go to the Merton factory for the day. According to the news there was a tremor felt, the usual services arrived only to find it was Her Indoors! She had fallen over smashing her glasses had a big bump on the head, and hurt both hands and cut both knees. Well you would think they would at least pick her up but three men tried and then just left her there. How she got away with just bumps and cuts I will never know. I was the last person to find out as usual. She did not want to panic me, but she did as I felt so sorry for her after all these years of marriage her pain is mine and she feels the same about me,

As I write this I am thinking about the spinal injection I am having on 22nd December and the aftermath. I hope it will stop the pains I have had for 50 years now on and off. Fingers crossed they work and I can then have further treatment.

I want to say a few words about a person I have called "Sis" for many years now. She works non stop helping people and our communities of the Popleys along with Paul and the other members of the team of our council members. The editor of this magazine, Jane Frankum, has massive shoulders and she will lend one to anyone if needed. Jane, I hope I speak for all your Popley friends as we wish you all a Happy New Year.

We still need so much done in Popley as old and new housing makes it look like a patchwork quilt, with the different shapes and sizes of houses and the way they look so crammed in. When we first came to the town we only needed to do a short walk to see so much open space and many different animals and birds. Now we are fighting to stop 450 more houses being built in Kiln Farm Fields. Not only on Popley but just drive up the Reading Road, houses everywhere you go. The River Loddon, like many others is now polluted. I can remember lots of us going up to the river and the kids would swim in it. It was a lovely day out for them. As many of you know I have had several strokes now, the last one at the end of last year. We always say things will be different next year but over the last few years they have not been. Do I care? Well of course I wish things were different, but NO is the answer. I have a fantastic family around me and Her Indoors. So I have to say thanks for what I have as so many people are much worse off than me. Well, except they don't have you know who nagging all the time. If it's not her it is my sister-in-law, daughter, and daughter-in-law, I just don't know how I survive it! Another person that gives me a good telling off now and then is dear old Sis.

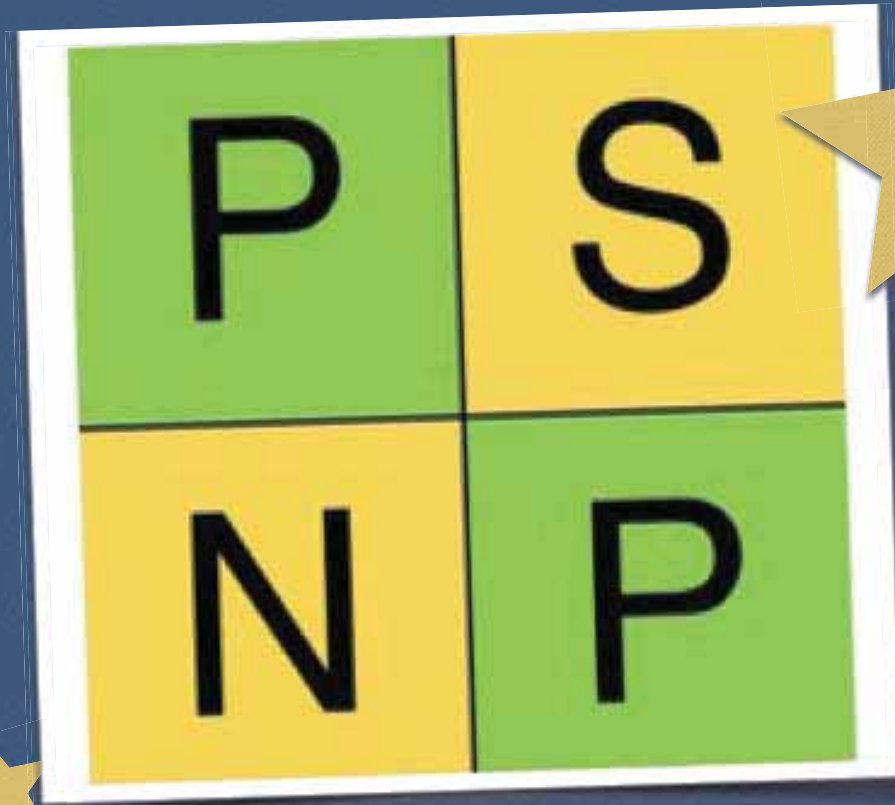
In the coming summer keep your eyes out for the buzzards over the fields where they plan to build on by Kiln Farm, have a look also to see how many skylarks there are. It would be nice to see the local schools go up there and the teachers show children all the beauty around them and the sounds. Well I do hope your year will be fruitful and healthy.

**Take care until next month**  
**The Old Codger**



# PSNP

## Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel



2012

### 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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The showroom is located on Onslow Close, and stocks a great range of quality used furniture including sofas, dining tables, bed frames and book cases all at fantastic prices. We can arrange the delivery of purchased items with our team of retail drivers who will also schedule free furniture inspections and collections. All goods must comply with current legislation which will mean that all our stock will need inspecting prior to collection or receipt.

If you have furniture you no longer require then please contact the furniture store on 01256 471191 to book an inspection/collection or email [furniture@stmichaelshospice.org.uk](mailto:furniture@stmichaelshospice.org.uk). Collections will be arranged by the transport team so look out for our Hospice delivery vehicle when you are out on the road. Alternatively you can drop off your furniture to us!

The store is located near Chineham Shopping Centre, just off Wade Road at Unit 7 & 8 Onslow Close, Kingsland Business Park, Basingstoke, RG24 8QL.

\*\*\* Anyone and Everyone Welcome! Join in the chatter \*\*\*

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

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**THE COMMITTEE HOPES THAT EVERYONE HAD A FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS  
AND WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013**

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