

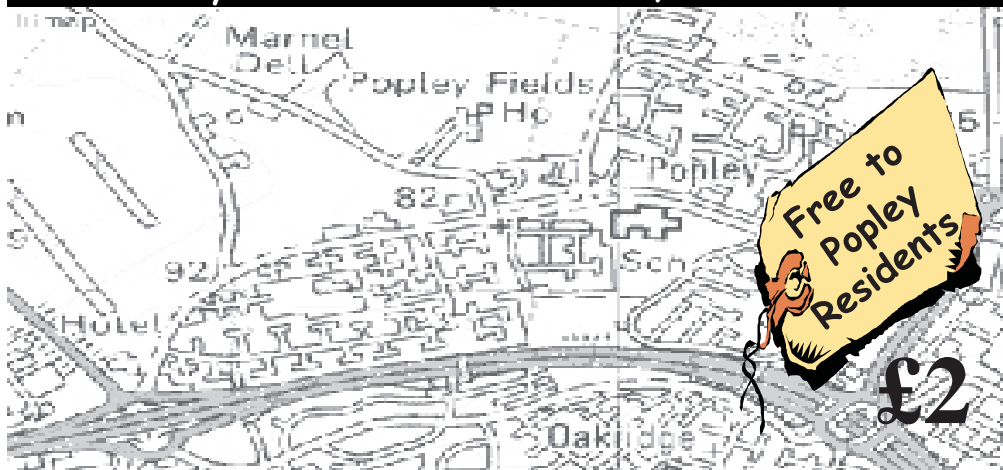
# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

January 2014

Distribution of 5,000

Issue 143



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 18-1-14) [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:**-I hope this is going to be a good year for you all, I don't know if you have made any new year resolutions but I made the only one I ever kept some years ago and that was to not make anymore! I can see it is a good opportunity to make changes, and have new beginnings so perhaps I do but just don't call them New Year resolutions. Our new writer Debbie on page 17 writes on this subject. On page 25 is information on where to dispose of your real Christmas tree and an environmentally safe way too. Year on year you see the odd tree just dumped and it can be seen for months while sometimes blocking a pathway, so please if you have a real tree dispose of it in the right way.

Terry Jones visited Minsk in October/November and told me of the very different lifestyle there. I know it is hard for many in these times of the recession but in other parts of the world it is even tougher. Terry's article is on page 3. Page 9 has a report on the progress of the access improvements in Popley Islands through to the school. The next phases will be Popley Poets and Popley Abbeys. Thank you to the County officer and contractor for their help with the Community Garden by Bermuda Hall; it was great to see the community coming together to transform the once untidy area.

Our longest writer Old Codger writes on page 26 about the war and this year being 100 years since the start of WW1. I will plant some poppy seeds in my own garden. The council are planting seeds in several of the municipal areas too so it should look really good around the borough.

I know I keep asking for volunteers to help to deliver Popley Matters but we really do need some more help. We have three roads in Popley Poets that need a deliverer as George can no longer manage due to ill health. George is around 80 years of age and one of our original deliverers from all those years ago when we first started. Thank you George from the bottom of our hearts for all your wonderful help delivering over so many years. Details are below if you want to be one of our great volunteers.

You can email me at [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk) call me on 01256 819924 or write to me at 405 Abbey Road, 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 your support

# Hello...

## From your Community Safety Patrol Officers

We hope you enjoyed the festive period and would like to wish you a happy new year.

As Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPO) we identify and tackle local issues, reduce crime, prevent antisocial behaviour and deal with environmental crimes, to make residents feel safer and happier about their neighbourhood.

An environmental crime we frequently deal with, particularly following the Christmas break and run-up to spring, is incidents of fly-tipping.

Fly-tipping is the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land or a highway that has no licence to accept it'. Illegal dumps of waste can vary in scale and the type of waste involved.

Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish in the street causes a local nuisance, and tipping household items and small-scale building or garden waste in open spaces is unsightly and costs the borough a substantial amount to clear away.

If you have bulky household items these can either be taken to the household waste recycling centre on Wade Road, or you can arrange with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to collect these items for you (an applicable fee will be charged based on your collection requirements). Basingstoke and Deane can be contacted on 01256 844 844 or via the website [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk)

If you know someone who regularly dumps rubbish illegally, we would be pleased to hear from you so we can investigate further.

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)

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# Minsk Trip

I've just returned from my autumn visit to Minsk and I'm exhausted!

We think we've got problems?

Well, when I was in Minsk just over two years ago the rate of exchange was just over 3,000 Belarusian roubles to the US dollar. Everything from abroad, with the possible exception of imports from Russia, is paid for in US dollars. The rate of exchange is now just over 9,000 Belarusian roubles to the US dollar so anything from the rest of Europe has increased by 300%! The wages haven't increased by anywhere near this 300%!

Despite this everyone is still optimistic that things will improve!

Anyway, I'm exhausted as I now visit 6 universities plus Radio Belarus!

One of the universities I went to at least 7 times is where Natasha teaches, and she sends her love to all her friends in Basingstoke.

Natasha graduated from the prestigious Linguistic University, where I spend most of my time meeting students, helping post-graduate students and making recordings for them, and she wanted to go to the phonetics department to meet her teachers and professors so I took her along on one of my visits.



In this picture, Natasha and I are helping Professor Inna with some text she was working on!

They all seem to think I'm some kind of expert!

It may be of interest to the readers that in Minsk the staff who clean the Universities earn more than the University teachers!

Despite all the problems, I still enjoy visiting Minsk and hope to

spring. During one of my numerous visits to the Linguistic University I was asked to talk to some first year students who, in the opinion of Katya their teacher, weren't very good and didn't deserve me! However, after a few minutes well over half the students were asking endless questions and having fun!

At the conclusion of the 1 hour 20 minute lesson, one of the girls wanted to shake hands with me and she said: 'Thank you so much; I feel so much more confident now!' I replied that her English was very good, whereupon she threw her arms around me and kissed me!

That's why I go to Minsk!

*Terry Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013.*

**Councillors Page:** We wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year. Again “Popley” looks like there will be yet more changes.

As you can see on page 9 the Popley Islands access routes through the estate to the Marnel schools is near completion. The next phase to upgrade the paths will be in Popley Abbeys and Popley Poets, hopefully starting next year.

You may have noticed at the entrances to Popley, after a lot of campaigning by Cllr Paul Frankum and myself, that there is a gateway feature that will display a 30MPH speed limit. The intention is to remind drivers that this is a residential area and not a rat run through the estate. Developer money has enabled this as we have had many residents contact us about the confusion on the speed limit and their concerns over the speeding and volume of traffic that travel through the estate instead of using the dual carriageway.

We continue to monitor and meet with Borough and County officers to try to get Marnel Park and Merton Rise adopted. It was so near then faults were found in the roadways so the developer has to address these first. *Cllr Jane Frankum 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

**Popley West:** Early in December we visited The Chill Out Zone for girls at St Gabriel’s Church Hall. We met many of the girls and their families. We were really impressed with how much this very new club has evolved in such a short time. The girls learn about everything from health issues to craft making in a fun way. It is aimed at girls from 8 to 15 years old and meets on a Thursday night from 6-45 to 8-15pm. We met families from Marnel Park, Popley Poets, Popley Abbeys and the Popley Islands wards.

We are happy to visit any of the clubs and groups in Popley, and can be contacted by email, phone or letter.

In this coming year work will start on the expansion of Merton Infant and Junior schools and we want to thank all the residents who came to the exhibitions and gave their opinions and suggestions on how to improve on the plans. They helped to shape it to work better with the community than it would have done otherwise.

**Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924**

**Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924**

Page 4

**Popley East:** We have been working with colleague Popley Councillors and County Highways to secure a number of improvements to roads and footpaths throughout the area. In Popley East, terms schemes are being worked up which should see positive improvements to the areas listed below. This isn’t a complete list but gives a flavour of the proposals and all are subject to limits in spending within agreed budgets.

- Remaining section of paved footway on western side of Shakespeare Road north of the shops;
  - Footways within Keates and Byron Closes, together with landscaping work;
  - Improvements to the crossing provision to bus stop on western side of Shakespeare Road opposite Lawrence Close and provision of bus shelter;
  - Improvements to the subway approach path north of the shops in Shakespeare Road;
  - Provision of off road parking on the south east corner of Shakespeare Road;
  - Parking provision to improve pedestrian sight lines along Shakespeare Road between Milton Close and Keats Close; and
  - Improvements to the uncontrolled crossing between Milton Close and Keats Close to Chineham Park Court to provide easier access to the park.
- Work is continuing on finalising schemes and we will keep you informed of developments within our own leaflets as appropriate.

We hope you had a nice break leading up to the New Year and hope 2014 is a good year for the people of Popley.

**Cllr David Potter tel. 07941507801**

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel. 07900890088**

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# Silver Sherpas at Everest

This is now well established and welcoming over 50s social group offers a great mixture of activities throughout its termly programme. To kick off 2014 we have some exciting sessions coming ranging from a talk by the RNLI to a dynamic fitness class.

The Silver Sherpas meet up every Friday during term time between the times of 3-5pm at the small cost of just £1 per session. If you would like to get involved or just receive some more information please contact Carl on 01256 337573 or alternatively email the following address, clemmer@everestcommunityacademy.org

**JOIN IN JANUARY AND GET YOUR FIRST SESSION FREE!!!!!!!!!!**

---

## Over 55s Forum

We have had another record breaking year with a membership of over 624.

### **Proposed trips for 2014.**

Stourhead House and Gardens, and Saftesbury - Houses of Parliament - Aylesbury and Cruise on the Grand Union Canal with a cream tea. Sandingham House, Museum and Gardens - Bletchley Park Heritage Tour WW2 Codebreakers - **Mystery Trip** - Highgrove and Gardens (Prince Charles) 4 day trip to France and Belgium to visit the War Graves, Flanders Fields and Menin Gate to Commemorate the Centenary of the First World War. 1 Thriplow Daffodils and Baldock.

### **The following may be added to this programme.**

Swindon Shopping and Birmingham Christmas markets.

### **Open Forum dates for 2014 are.**

12th February - 16th April - 11th June - 13th August - 15th October and 10th December.

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# **Popley Access Improvements draw to a close**

December marked the completion of the wider North Popley Access Improvements, which has made it easier for people to walk, cycle and drive more safely, both locally and onwards towards destinations further afield. Around £1.5million has been spent on improving the main access routes and road crossing points, widening them to more safely accommodate cyclists and walkers as part of a push towards more sustainable transport in Popley. This is as well as making them easier to maintain in the future.

All of this work reflects the opinions expressed at the public exhibition and consultation exercise completed in March 2010, at which the ideas presented attained over 90% public support. The proposals were modified following this event and meant that a more sympathetic and appropriate set of improvements could be delivered, allowing the people of Popley to prove they care about where they live. This event allowed the construction to commence in the following few months.

The first phase commenced in summer 2010, completing crossing points and enhancing safe foot access to key destinations, including a new crossing in time for the expansion of the Marnel schools in the autumn of that year. The second phase brought improvements to the two main roads of Popley Way and Carpenters Down during 2011 and 2012, helping people move along the roads more safely and cross more easily, as well as introducing a new speed limit of 30mph. This second phase was the main part of the programme to transform the local environment for residents and visitors, encouraging slower vehicle speeds and people to travel through the estate on foot.

The third phase is approaching completion now and has seen an overhaul of the key routes on the main foot and cycle-network, replacing the old concrete slabs with modern tarmac and widening to more safely accommodate all users. Working with key local stakeholders, the intention was to aid movement towards the key local destinations, including shops, schools and the hospital, as well as the town centre.

Future work will focus on the area to the south of Popley Way, in the Abbey Road and Shakespeare Road residential areas. Feasibility work on this is nearing completion and further details will be available soon, along with a timeline towards implementation. Hampshire County Council will use this opportunity to invest further in the infrastructure of Popley, working closely with the elected councillors of County and Borough to deliver more needed enhancements.

If you have any further comments or questions about the improvement programme, then please contact Tom Robison via email at [Tom.Robison@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Tom.Robison@hants.gov.uk) or by phone at 0845 6035633. Alternatively, please contact the editorial team of Popley Matters in the normal way who will direct the comment/question as appropriate.

***Tom Robison, Client and Stakeholder Manager***

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# First Switch Hampshire scheme

Following the first Switch Hampshire scheme which ran earlier in 2013, the County Council is again leading a partnership with the Hampshire District and Borough Councils, and Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils to run a collective energy switching scheme which aims to help residents save money on their gas and/or electricity bills.

The scheme offers consumers a hassle free way to switch energy suppliers to take advantage of the best tariffs available to them. It is completely free to take part, people only need to register, and the rest will be done for them.

The scheme opened for registration on 10th December and will close on 17th February 2014. An auction with the energy companies will then take place on 18th February and residents will be contacted during the following weeks with their offer. There is no obligation to switch supplier but if they decide to take up the offer the switching process will be managed for them.

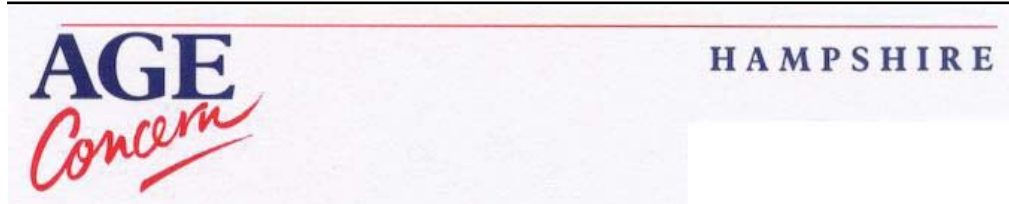
Residents who participated in the last scheme said:

“It was a simple process and does the job of searching for you”.

“90% of the hassle of switching is done for me by the scheme”.

“It did exactly what it said on the tin. Great”!

Residents can find out more or register online at [www.hants.gov.uk/switch](http://www.hants.gov.uk/switch) or call 01962 846828 (lines are open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday).



Age Concern will be in Popley again on the following dates offering an enjoyable social afternoon with information and advice for local older people.

The Popley Roadshow takes place in Melrose Community Hall from 2 to 4pm, every 2nd Tuesday in the month.

Sometimes we have speakers as indicated below:

Tuesday 14th January – A talk by Alan White from Diabetes UK

Tuesday 11th February – A talk by Rob Chapman our Information and Advice Coordinator.

Everyone is welcome, just come along. You are welcome to just pop in with a question if you do not wish to stay for the whole session.

For further information call Mark at Age Concern on 01256 423874.



**Headquarters:**

**Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE**

Group Scout Leader:	Colin Karslake	01256 410559
Scout section:	John-Paul Keetch	07899 087 275
Cub Scout section:	Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Beaver Scout section:	Eve Alexander	01256 346510

Cubs saw three Beavers “Swim Up” ready to start their adventure in the Cub Section recently. The Pack is also preparing for the next group of Beavers who will be moving up after the Christmas Break.

Akela has started looking at ideas for activities for the Cubs to do in 2014. One of these is to work on the Cub section Air Activities Badge and which involves visiting an air field, air museum or something similar so various locations are being considered.

Both Beavers and Cubs finished off the autumn session year with customary celebrations and lots to eat and drink! And the Beavers have another invitation for the New Year,

The Scouts took part in the District Cooking completion in December.

Weekly meetings for all three sections will start week commencing 6th January.

New recruits are welcome (though you may have to wait for a vacancy in the Beaver section which is often oversubscribed) – for more information, contact the leaders or use [www.facebook.com/ BasingstokeAirScouts](http://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts)

Base 2000 is available for use by any community group at special rates either for ‘one-off’ or regular bookings. It can also be used for childrens’ parties or family gatherings. Hiring rates range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall to up to £10 per hour for the larger hall. Enquiries to [bookings@base2000.co.uk](mailto:bookings@base2000.co.uk) or call Colin on 07796 772 500 / 01256 410559.

We hope you all had very good Christmas with friends and family to support and love. All best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2014.

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# Everest Health and Leisure Club

Hi, my name is Aleisha Jones and I will be the Managing Fitness at Everest Health and Leisure Club.

First of all, I would like to thank Dean Ridgers for his support and advice over the past year working with him and especially the training for my new role; it has been a pleasure having him for a boss and a mentor.

I am a former student of Everest Community Academy where I was Head Girl; this is where I found my passion for sport and fitness. I then went on to study sport and become qualified in fitness instructing at QMC.

After completing work experience at Everest Health and Leisure Club in January this year and getting my qualifications, I was offered a job as a part-time Fitness Instructor. This is where I started to thoroughly enjoy working alongside my colleagues and getting to know the members better and meet some great people.

I am now honoured to have been offered this role and I have all the confidence to make sure that I continue pushing the health club in the right direction.

I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

*Aleisha*





# EVEREST HEALTH & LEISURE CLUB

Lettings Availability January – March 2014



Please call John Perrin 01256 337573 or email [jperrin@everestcommunityacademy.org](mailto:jperrin@everestcommunityacademy.org) for up to date availability and prices.

Summer requests now being taken (April-August 2014).

## **SPORTS HALL**

5.00-6.00pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

8.00-10.00pm Tuesday

9.00-10.00pm Friday

12.00-4.00pm Saturday

## **DANCE STUDIO**

5.00-6.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

6.00- 7.00pm Friday

8.30-10.00pm Wednesday

8.00-10.00pm Thursday

8.00-10.00am & 1.00-2.00pm Saturday

8.00am-4.00pm Sunday

## **3G PITCH**

5.00-6.00pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

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## STEP into the New Year and a New Career

Sentinel's Support Towards Employment Programme (STEP) is here to help you into work or training. So far a magnificent seven people, who've taken part in STEP, have found a job or an Apprenticeship.

In the New Year we'll be holding taster sessions on a range of different careers.

### Date

Friday 17 January 2014

Friday 24 January 2014

Friday 31 January 2014

Friday 7 February 2014

Friday 14 February 2014

Friday 21 February 2014

Friday 28 February 2014

Friday 7 March 2014

### Subject

Setting up your own business

Health and wellbeing at work

Information and communications technology (ICT) tuition

Administration

Working in housing

Volunteering

Local labour markets

Care and support work

All sessions are **FREE** and will be held at **57 Kingsclere Road, Basingstoke, RG21 6XG** from **10am - 12pm**. We'll also pay for your travel expenses and childcare costs, if you have little ones at home.

For more details, or to book your place, please contact Sam Taylor on **0800 195 5515**, or **0300 666 5515** from a mobile, or email **customer@sentinelha.org.uk**. You can also get more info by visiting our website at **www.sentinelha.org.uk/step**.

# Allthings Human-UK

As a new contributor for Popley Matters, I thought it fitting to start my first editorial with what matters to many of us in January. Yes, all those New Year's resolutions and good intentions we feel compelled and inspired to start the beginning of each year with.

While a few of us may actually succeed, the vast majority of us will have forgotten or failed by as early as February. For some of us, the same resolutions crop up annually. And that is perfectly normal. Yes, I did say normal.

Entire industries are based on this perverse quirk of human behaviour. No... there will be no naming and shaming of these industries from me. Most of us are aware of the largest that benefit and that is as it should be. It is all determined by our own choices.

First and foremost, understand a fundamental principal. **Like attracts like.** It is the things we think about most that we will do or attract. So the trick to succeeding is to keep the desire of what we want to achieve foremost in our minds.

Notes on the mirror, alerts on our mobiles, pictures on the fridge or elsewhere in the house as a private reminder. Whatever works for you. Just aim for something that encourages you to keep your resolution in mind.

What I'm really saying is...**keep your attention on your intention!** And don't dangle it as a mental carrot. If you keep thinking of your achieving it as being somewhere in the future, it will stay out of reach and you are less likely to succeed. Use present tense thinking.

For example, I am my perfect weight; I am: a non-smoker; non drinker; non gambler; super fit; gloriously healthy; treat people wonderfully; love myself; master of...you fill in the blanks. All our wants, needs and desires are different and it is for this reason that I am proposing the following.

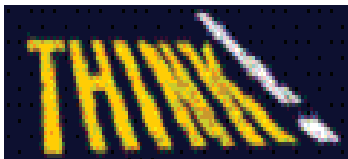
I have started a Facebook page specifically for assisting us all to stay on track with what we want to achieve. I would like all who are interested to visit the page and tell me what their resolutions are for this year. If you would like to remain anonymous, don't do Facebook, or would prefer your intentions to remain private, then simply email me at [allthingshumanuk@gmail.com](mailto:allthingshumanuk@gmail.com).

It can be as simple as quickly mailing "lose weight" or as in depth as you desire. What I'm trying to ascertain with this request is to find out what topics would be most beneficial to cover as we continue though the year. What's more, it can be about anything. It's not only for resolutions.

What I do ask is that the Facebook page doesn't turn into a haven for people wanting to market their website links on. For that reason I will remove all links that are placed in comments. If you feel that you have something of value to offer people, please email me first.

The Facebook page is Allthings Human-UK. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as we all have something to offer and something we want to achieve. I will also ensure that it is constantly updated with relevant tips and tricks to keep us on course and information on living happier lives.

***Wishing you a successful 2014***  
***Debbie Wilson***



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



## Road Safety.

- ❁ **Wet Roads and 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 and 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 and 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)



# Celebrating Good Neighbours Young and Old - Awards 2014

Do you know someone who makes a difference to you or your community?  
Would you like to nominate them for an award?



**The Good Neighbour Awards were first introduced ten years ago. This year we are especially keen to ensure that the awards celebrate the contribution of both young and older people. The awards give you the opportunity to pay tribute to a person or a group who have demonstrated exceptional and outstanding achievements within their local community during 2013.**

Perhaps you know a neighbour or volunteer(s), of any age, who gave that extra bit of help to you to make your life or the life of others easier, or who makes your community a better place in which to live. **In fact, any regular act of kindness for someone else could qualify.**

This is your chance to say thank you to them. Here are some comments from last year's nominations:

**"For years Bill has helped everyone in our neighbourhood. He ensures everyone is safe and well, regular gardening and fixing problems for his less able neighbours".**

**"The committee do a very good job at organising trips and beautiful raffles or coffee mornings, they make you feel welcome".**

**Aged 19 years – "He devotes his free time each week working for young people with disabilities and special needs".**

**Ages 6-15 years – "This team of young people give their time to host a monthly social outing for local older residents".**

This award has been created by Hampshire County Council in partnership with Age Concern Hampshire, Brendoncare Club

Hampshire, Carers Together, the Good Neighbours Support Service, RVS, The Children's Alliance and Community Development Facilitators. The winners, and those who nominated them, will be invited to a special ceremony in The Great Hall, Winchester on Thursday 20 March 2014.

Please use the form below and send your nominations to:

**Civic Events Office  
Good Neighbours Award 2013  
Hampshire County Council  
The Castle, Winchester  
SO23 8UQ**

Alternatively, email the information to [civic.events@hants.gov.uk](mailto:civic.events@hants.gov.uk) or download a form from [www.hants.gov.uk/goodneighbourawards](http://www.hants.gov.uk/goodneighbourawards)

The closing date for nominations is **Monday 20 January 2014**. Please remember that individuals and groups cannot be nominated more than once for an award and this award is not open to residents of Portsmouth and Southampton.

## Your details:

Title: Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel no:

## Individual volunteer's details:

Title: Name:

Or group name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel no:

Age if under 19 years:

Please describe why you are nominating this person or voluntary group and what they do to help you or your local community (maximum 40 words):

Dear Friends

2014! Wow! Where did that decade go? It seems hardly credible that on 1st March it will be ten years since I arrived as vicar at St Gabriel's.

I arrived in Popley and was licensed by the Bishop of Basingstoke on 1st March 2004 and the coming year will be one of reflection and review of all that God has accomplished both in me, and through me during my time at St Gabriel's as this first decade of ministry here reaches its end. For me personally, the time has passed so quickly. There have been many joys and sorrows, many successes and failures! St Gabriel's has flourished and grown in many different ways as God has been at work among us as a fellowship. The buildings are a focal point for many community activities and it is a joyful place to worship and to be on a Sunday with friends and family. There is a very powerful sense of being the church in, and for, Popley with a commitment to its continuing growth as indeed the community continues to grow.

Much has been accomplished; much more needs to be done. The year ahead looks to be a very exciting one. As we continue to welcome new families' young and old(er) we will be fund-raising more and more so that we can continue the work of Maggie and Debi our Young Families and Youth Workers. We now have a Lay Minister who together with our visiting Lay Minister, Ian are growing in their leadership roles in our church; new parenting groups and a new cafe where all are welcome to share a cup of coffee; there are new youth initiatives like the Chill Out Zone and there are more and more opportunities for greater involvement in the new developments in our community; many of these are in the hopes and plans room. Hopes are high!

Most exciting is the prospect of St Gabriel's becoming an independent parish in its own right for the first time. This means we will no longer be part of the wider parish of the Basingstoke Team but still very much a part of our wider community. By Easter we hope to become known as 'The Parish of Popley with Limes Park and Rooksdown, St Gabriel.' It will mean we have come of age but with that will come added responsibilities in both the legal (as a registered charity) and spiritual sense as we continue to seek what God is calling us to be and do here in the heart of our community.

I could be anxious about what the future holds, but I'm not! I trust and hope in God. In the Bible it says 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.

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.

**God's blessings.**  
**Arthur**  
**(Vicar of St Gabriel's)**

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## DIY Will or DIY Disaster?

Date: December 2013

**By Sheila Glyn-Owen, solicitor specialising in Wills and Probate**

Direct line 01256 854637 email [sglyn-owen@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:sglyn-owen@phillips-law.co.uk)

When everyone is counting the pennies, it's all too tempting to try some DIY to save a few pounds. That may just work if you are handy around the house but beware if you are thinking about a Do It Yourself Will pack; you need to know the risks to you and your family. You may see initial savings but when you die your DIY Will could become a DIY disaster and a nightmare for your family.

Sheila Glyn-Owen, a solicitor specialising in Wills and Probate at Phillips Solicitors, advises 'The errors in DIY Wills can be wide ranging and at worst an error can result in a Will being invalid and your assets passing to someone unexpected – this can even be the case if you are married with children!'

Wills are subject to a wide range of rules and laws, and one of the main problems with the DIY approach is that a badly drafted Will can render it completely invalid. Sheila also warns of the risks of being exposed to unregulated, unqualified and uninsured Will writers having seen examples of shoddy, badly written Wills that are not legally binding and have hidden charges which inflate the advertised price of the Will. In Summary Sheila advises 'DIY is good for the occasional bit of decorating, but when it comes to protecting your loved ones, don't go for a false economy – speak to a professional.'

For professional legal advice when preparing your Will please call Sheila Glyn-Owen on 01256 854 637.

[www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)





Firstly, apologies to anyone who may have been trying to contact the Club regarding our Allstars sessions. Unfortunately the number given was slightly wrong. So, if you know a Year R or Year 1 child who wants to get into football, please text 07884 185 693 and arrange to bring them along to our rapidly growing MFC Allstars.

There was a very proud moment for the Club in late November as a selection of players from MFC Popley Youth U9s were invited to play against a Southampton FC Academy side, at Queen Mary's College.

A MASSIVE congratulations is in order for Glenn Taylor and his MFC Popley Youth U12 side as they set a new Club record when beating Aldermaston TWENTY-TWO-nil, at the beginning of the month. Well done boys!

MFC Popley Youth U13' continue their impressive run in the PHYL Cup by beating Shooters 8-2 to progress to the semi finals.

As a club, MFC Popley Youth continues to go from strength to strength with all of our age groups, from Under 7s right the way up to our Under 15s, showing passion and commitment on the pitch whilst playing some sensational football.

On behalf of the Club Committee, we would like to thank the parents for all the help and support they give the Club, ranging from getting the players to training and matches on time, to helping set up goals and RESPECT barriers, to refereeing and running the line and engaging in fundraising activities.

We are always looking to get more parents involved actively in the Club so, if you are interested in helping out, please make yourself known to either the Club Chairman, Ian Davies, or to your Manager.



T: 01590 677854

E: [events@actionforcharity.co.uk](mailto:events@actionforcharity.co.uk)

## Race the Sun Lake District 2014

Race the Sun is a hugely popular team challenge set in the stunning Lake District. Teams of four are challenged to cycle 50 miles, climb Helvellyn and canoe Lake Thirlmere. Starting at sunrise and finishing by sunset - Racing the Sun!

All funds raised by the challenge will support the work of Action Medical Research and will make a huge difference to the research the charity is able to fund offering hope to the many thousands of families across the UK who are dealing with the trauma of a baby born too early, striving to support a child affected by disability, or facing the challenge of caring for a child with a rare and devastating disease for which there is no cure.



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Monday To Saturday

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Tuesday Closed

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Page 24 E-mail: [sue@suesdrivingschool.com](mailto:sue@suesdrivingschool.com)

# Turn Your Tree to Compost after Christmas

Once the festivities are over residents can leave their Christmas trees at one of the 21 allocated sites specifically set up by the council across the borough from Friday 3 January 2013 until Sunday 26 January 2013.

Every year, around eight million real Christmas trees are thrown away in the UK, this creates about 160,000 tonnes of additional waste. If the trees are recycled instead they are then transformed into ProGrow soil conditioner and wood chippings, which the council then uses for the borough's parks.

Christmas tree drop-off points from Friday 3 January to Sunday 26 January 2013:

- Basingstoke Town Centre, War Memorial Park (Crossborough Hill car park)
- Basingstoke, Homebase, Winchester Road
- Brighton Hill, Gershwin Road, Sports Pavilion
- Burghclere, Harts Lane, Sports Club car park
- Eastrop, Eastrop Park (Boat House car park)
- Hatch Warren, Community Centre, Long Cross Lane
- Headley, Darling Buds of May, Newbury Road
- Kingsclere, Fieldgate Centre
- Lasham, Avenue Nurseries Garden Centre, The Avenue
- North Waltham, Wyevale Garden Centre
- Oakley, Oakley Lane (school lay-by)
- Oakridge, Upper Sherborne Road playing fields
- Overton, Overton Hill Car Park
- Pamber End, Elm Park Garden Centre, Aldermaston Road
- Popley, Carpenters Down Open Space
- Sherfield on Loddon, Wyevale Garden Centre
- Silchester, The Pavilion car park
- South Ham, Russell Howard car park
- Tadley, Hangar Road (parking bays next to Wigmore Park)
- Whitchurch, Winchester Road car park
- Winklebury, Winklebury Way playing field

If residents miss the collections at these locations, they can take their tree to the recycling centre on Wade Road. The opening hours at Wade Road are 8am to 4pm (closed 1 Jan 2013).

Cabinet member for The Environment, Cllr Robert Donnell, said: "After all the festivities are over it can be a real pain to dispose of the tree. By taking it to one of the locations across the borough it can then be turned into soil conditioner which will help our gardens to bloom."

For further information please contact Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 844844 or visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/recycle](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/recycle)



# Diaries from the Old Codger

## A Happy New Year to You All



2014 this year is very special to us all, as many countries will remember the start of WW1. In December of this year Britain declared war against Germany. Over the next months leading up to November the 11th I will tell you what part we in Basingstoke played in the war effort. I hope that the children that read about this historic event will say to themselves “What was it all for?” So many people being killed in Europe; France, Belgium, Poland, Russia etc, the first bombing of England by air ships; infamous Red Baron; how trench warfare was fought, and the Christmas Carols both sides singing just yards from each other but that is all to come. The men that went to war at the start of it volunteered and many landed gentry formed their own regiments to fight. All of that was soon to change; on Popley Fields were stables for the thousands of horses that were sent to the front. Men trained how to use rifles in these fields too. If you would like to research more you can find out how Basingstoke did their bit.

Well Christmas is over, all the Christmas trees will, I hope, have been taken to a local depot for recycling and not just dumped. I hope you all had a great time. Now is the time of year when we must take extra care to look out for the vulnerable in our community. We are having some cold weather, so we are told, and by the time you read this we could well have snow. As I have said before there are many small things you can do to help. You may know a person that could do with help by clearing snow to their houses, make sure your older relatives and friends have a way of contacting their relatives or some help if necessary. I have a mobile phone that has an SOS button, not expensive to buy and pay-as-you-go, you can store three numbers in it. On the back of the phone is the SOS button, if you press this it sends a message to the three contacts and rings one of them. Lets hope local community will reach out to these people.

I have been taking a great interest in the Dell’s progress and the feature has now been erected, I hope children will enjoy it. I have asked if the council could spread poppy seeds in the shrub beds for this important year and I also call on all the residents of Popley to buy seeds and plant them in March. It would be fitting to see thousands of poppies across all the gardens of Popley. Red is the usual colour because of the Flanders battlefields but they come in other colours and sizes and they are not too expensive. As I have said it is a year to remember so let us all show it for the men and women that gave so much to give us a life we have today.

I know that the council is already planning to do this on Thorneycroft roundabout and a few other areas. Perhaps some local companies or shops could “adopt” a roundabout and sow some seeds? I am sure across the country there will be many things planned wouldn’t it be great to arrive in town from the M3 to see the Black Dam roundabout and side verges covered in poppies in the summer. Lets make Basingstoke proud of what we did for the country in WW1.



*Take care have a safe New Year  
The Old Codger and Her Indoors*

## BERMUDA COMMUNITY CENTRE

To all the people of Popley I would like to tell you about the great things that are happening at the Bermuda Community Centre.

We have Popley explorers pre-school Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 3pm .They also do a breakfast club, for full details ring Elaine on 01256 363156.



We also have lots of exciting things going on in the evenings; Monday night is kick boxing which is from 6.30 until 8pm, and kickboxing again on a Thursday night from 7 until 8.30pm. Come along and join.

Tuesday night is BINGO NIGHT doors open at 7pm and eyes down at 8pm. New members are welcome; come along, meet and make new friends, refreshments are available and it finishes usually around 10 pm.



The hall is available for hire on a Wednesday night, for details ring Janet on 01256 363156.



If you like to dance we have Street dance and ballet classes on Thursdays, for two and a half year olds to adults - 4.30 till 5.30pm. For full details ring Samantha on 07811299484.

On a Friday evening, come along and join the Friday Club for children which is from 5 till 6.30pm.



The hall is also available to hire for parties etc at reasonable rates for more details ring Janet on 01256 363156 .

Over the last two months we have been having prize raffles at our Tuesday night bingo. Out of the money we raised we purchased gifts for a prize bingo which we held on the 30th November to raise money for St.Michael's Hospice Basingstoke. I would like to thank all our members for attending and helping us to raise £450.

Bermuda hall also donated an extra £50 to make the final total £500. We look forward to helping other charities in the future and having as much success as we did on this occasion.

## **Dear Readers,**

I hope you have had a happy Christmas and New Year. Have you made any New Year's resolutions? I have, mine is to try and help more around the house with chores etc to help Mum and Dad.

Thinking about my resolutions got me thinking about New Year traditions in all countries. Such as, did you know that in China there is something called Shou Sui which is where after the New Year's dinner a member of the family stays up all night on the lookout for a mythical beast called Year. In It comes to harm properties, animals and people but people have found out that Year hates the colour red and loud noises so that is why the Chinese set off fireworks to scare the Year away. Also the Chinese pass down a red envelope with money inside to a child and it is meant to keep them healthy and live a long life.

We have the 'out with the old and in with the new' where people open the back door to let out the old year and open the front door to let in the new year.

Visitors are meant to bring a piece of coal, bread, money and greenery. They bring the coal to keep the house; warm the bread to keep the family fed; the money to make sure the family have enough money; and greenery to make sure the family has a long life.

The Americans gather in Times Square we gather in Trafalgar Square and there is a big firework display, and big celebration parties. It is a time of reflection where you can choose to change something that has gone wrong or didn't suit you the year before. You learn from your mistakes. If someone has died you can take the time to think back to how they played an important role in your life and that now they are happy and well.

I want to wish each and every one of you and your friends and families a very  
Happy and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes for 2014

**Until next month**  
**Ellie**

# Choosing the right care home for Mum was made easier.



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

- Nursing Care
- Residential Care
- Dementia Care
- Respite Care

*Thank you,  
Marnel!  
Lodge*



Please contact us for further  
information or to arrange a visit

**Call 01256 441 459**



**Marnel Lodge Care Home | [www.barchester.com](http://www.barchester.com)**

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

(If using a sat nav please enter RG24 9DR)

# **FASTFARE**

Your Local Family Convenience Store

Abbey Road (Shops) ☎(01256) 323679

Open seven days a week

Monday–Friday 8:00am–9:00pm Saturday 8:30am–9:30pm Sunday 9:00am–9:00pm

Grocery | Stationery | Off Licence | Fresh Fruit & Vegetables

Fresh Flowers | Fresh Sandwiches | Pies

**Ethnic, Polish & Indian Groceries**

Faxing and photocopying available

We Accept Milk Tokens

**Recharge your Paypoint services including Gas Card, Electric Key,**

**BT Bills, VIRGIN, and TV Licence and many more**

**We now Provide Western Union Money Transfer Services**

**International Calling Cards**

If you don't see what you want in the store, Ask and we will try and get it.

**Seasons Greetings to all our customers from The Fastfare Staff**

## **FASTFARE PHARMACY**

**UNIT 3 ABBEY ROAD SHOPS ☎/📄357637**

**FREE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE**

We fill your prescriptions at Fastfare Pharmacy from most surgeries.

There is also a free collect and deliver service. We also take your repeat prescription, collect and deliver FREE OF CHARGE. NHS or Private.

Among our many services we offer:- Blood pressure, Diabetic, Cholesterol check-ups and monitoring. A Private consultation area for patients. We advise on medication and treatment of minor illness by our qualified Pharmacist. Pregnancy advice and morning after pill available. We hold a comprehensive stock of Motability Equipment for hire or purchase. Just ask and help us to help you.



**For further details ring ☎357637**

Opening Hours

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



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