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# POPLEY MATTERS

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December 2005

Issue 46

## THINKING OF BUYING A MINI MOTORBIKE AS A PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS?

Mini motorcycles cannot be ridden on paths, play areas, public owned woods or opens spaces. There are no places in the Popley area where mini mopeds are allowed legally.

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## Message From the Editor:- December already, where has the year gone?

Christmas is such a happy time for most people but it can be a lonely time for others. The weather forecast is that it will be a cold harsh winter this season, so spare a thought for the elderly and vulnerable. Please keep a lookout for your neighbours.

The Christmas event definitely not to miss in Popley this Christmas is the Christmas Show starting at Popley Fields on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 o'clock. I am on the committee that has been organizing this mammoth event; Santa Claus, Mother Christmas, children singing carols, Tales of Narnia, trees decorated with styles from other countries and people dressed in their national costumes and fancy dress, Santas Grotto and so much more. The wardens, police and residents have put hours of their time to organize this and some really good people in Popley have been busy making items for the very special show.

On page 9 there is some sound advice from our beat officers Matt Deery and Paul Thorne on how to make Christmas a safer happier time for all and advice from the Fire and Rescue Service on page 7.

Happy Christmas Season to you all. It is a time for celebration and being good to one another. It is just a shame that the good side of Christmas could not last all year. **Jane Frankum Editor**

*Hits on [popley.matters.org.uk](http://popley.matters.org.uk) website for month of November 743*

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke.RG24 9EL email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk) The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

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# Letters to The Editor



**Dear Editor;** After returning home from the boot sale at John Hunt not long ago, my scooter stopped I was about a hundred yards from my house. Two young lads from John Hunt School came up to me and asked if I needed help I told them it has just stopped. They said they would push me home, now I am a big man and the scooter is hard to push as well but they put every bit of effort they could do and got me home. They would not take any reward but just said great number plate you have. As I said in last months issue not all of our young are ignorant I know many children at John Hunt and the school should be proud of them. Thank you boys you saved the day. George Potten

**Editors reply;** *it is good to know that there are so many good youths it is such a shame that a few badly behaved ones can get a bad name for all youths.*

**Dear Editor;** Who is this Councilor Stephen Reid is he a teacher? Does he live or teach in Popley? With what authority does he profess to speak on behalf of John Hunt School or Popley? I know the results were disappointing and we all hoped for better but measures have been put in and a lot of extra work is going into the school from a lot of angles. Has this man contacted the school? Has this man EVER visited the school and spent any significant time at the school, has he met the Head, staff parents or children . It is so easy to just look at figures, but they can hide so much that is so good about John Hunt School. In 2007 there will be a new replacement school it must be recognized that one is desperately needed or the Council would not be spending over 20 million on a new school. What is this mans motive. It can't be for the children because what these children need is encouragement not negative remarks. Mrs B Abbey Road

**Editors reply;** *I will invite County Councillor Steven Ried to come and spend*

*some time at the school where he may get a better idea of how things really are. I went to the prize giving and I was so proud of how the children were so enthusiastic and polite well done John Hunt.*

**Dear Editor;** I had a young man call at my door he said he had come to check my water pipes. I was not sure if I should let him in, so I said you can't come in. I was so scared but he was so polite and showed me his card and gave me a phone number so that I could check if he was genuine. He said he would wait outside till I had checked and that if I was still not sure then I could phone the police station. He checked out OK I said I was so sorry and that I was embarrassed. He surprised me by saying he was just so pleased that I had checked and that he wished lots more people did, because if it was checked more, then the criminals would have to give up because they would know that they would be checked. There could be a policeman waiting just around the corner .

**Editors reply;** *I have had messages put in the magazine quite a few times because, it is important that we should all feel safe and certainly not make it easy for these horrible people to commit such scary crimes. There are quite a few residents that have come forward to be on Neighborhood Watch schemes more about this in a future issue but if we all look out for each other the criminals wont win.*

**Editors Note** We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we can not accept letters that are sent anonymously.

**Please send your letters to :**  
**The Editor, Popley Matters,**  
**405 Abbey Rd, RG24 9EL or**  
**email:**  
**[editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)**



The autumn season seems to have flown by and already we find ourselves in December busy in the middle of preparations.

One of our highlights in November was the Young People's Achievement Awards ceremony which was held at The Anvil on 21 November. It was amazing to see young people from all over the borough being rewarded for all they have put into the community. Here in the Community Wardens Office we're in the last stages of preparing for the Magic of Christmas, events which we are organising they will be taking place over five evenings, one evening in each of the different Community Warden patrol areas in the borough.

**The Magic of Christmas event will be coming to Popley on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 5pm – 9pm.**

It's open to everyone, so come along and join the festivities with hundreds of Popley residents.

**5pm Procession starts at Popley Fields Community Centre** It then heads along Carpenter's Down turning into Maldive Road towards Madiera shopping parade where there will be a carol singalong.

After the carols we'll make our way down the footpath leading from the shopping parade towards Falkland Road. After circling Falkland Road we'll then return to Carpenter's down and back to Popley Fields Community Centre for the Festival at 6pm.

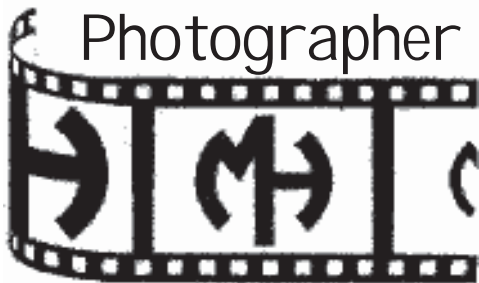
The festival will include carol singing, entertainment, performances from the local schools, Santa's Grotto, Festival of Trees where trees of all shapes and sizes will be decorated and raffled off on the night and free seasonal refreshments will be provided. The festival finishes at 9pm.

May we remind everyone to take care over the Christmas season of good will. It's a time when there's lots of partying going on, but let it also be a time of helping others and strengthening our community. Also, please note the rubbish and recycling collection dates change over Christmas. There will be no collection on Boxing Day Monday 26 December, and any collections due on this day will move forward to Tuesday, Tuesday's collection will move to Wednesday and so on. Friday's collection will be on Saturday. Don't forget to recycle as much of your rubbish as possible and dispose of all your Christmas rubbish responsibly.

Remember that you can call us any time, or why not pop in to meet us at **Melrose Hall any Tuesday afternoon between 3-4pm.** Please note that we won't be there on the 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> December, but we'll be back on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Best wishes for a great Christmas and a happy, safe and healthy 2006.

Stephen and Sarah Community Wardens for Popley.

Michael Herod  
Photographer



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Why not phone and arrange to come and see us!

## **Longfellow Parade Regeneration Update**

Outline planning permission was granted for the regeneration of Longfellow Parade on 21 September 2005. This allows demolition of the existing Longfellow Block and the construction of 89 new homes. The detail of the types of homes and their location will be determined in a detailed planning application to be made next year. There will be further consultation with tenants and local residents with regard to the detailed design before this planning application is made. In relation to design, Sentinel has a Design Panel consisting of Residents, Board Members and Officers who consider the design of new schemes. The Panel currently has two Popley residents attending, if you are interested in joining them please contact me, Lynne Thomson, Regeneration Liaison Officer on 01252 788730. Courses are available for Residents on the Panel who are interested in learning more about design issues.

Outline planning permission was also granted on 21 September for a retail scheme on Shakespeare Road (next to the Marlow Surgery and Chemists) to replace the existing shops at Longfellow Parade. With regard to funding for the regeneration, the deadline for the bids to the Housing Corporation was extended to October 2005. We should find out if we have received funding for the regeneration to go ahead early in 2006.

## **Popley Councillor Surgery**

A Popley Surgery is held once a month at St Gabriels Church, Tewkesbury Road, Popley. The next one is on Saturday 3 December 2005 between 1 - 2 pm. Please come along if you have any questions to ask Lynne Thomson and she will do her best to answer them. Councillor Andy McCormick will also be in attendance to answer any questions you may have.



My name is Nicola Fremond, I have recently taken up the role of Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for Sentinel Housing Association and I will be covering most of the Popley area (with the exception of the Poets).

Until recently I worked for Test Valley Borough Council Housing Service, managing the Housing and Transfer Registers and allocating Housing Association properties. This has given me a broad knowledge of housing issues and the needs of Housing Association tenants and I am very happy to be bringing my experience to the residents of Popley.

As Neighbourhood Co-ordinator I can help Sentinel tenants with any housing related problems or queries they may have. I am your link to your Landlord and want to be part of your community. You will see me out and about on the estate and at community events such as the Magic of Christmas.

Hopefully I will meet many of you over the coming months but if you have a problem you think I can help with please don't hesitate to contact me on 0800 195 5515. I would also be happy to come along to any community events you are planning, or regular gatherings or groups if you think your members would like some advice or just a chat.

For those residents who live in the Poets area of Popley, your Neighbourhood Co-ordinator is Lynne Grimshaw and she can also be reached on 0800 195 5515.

Before I go, a word about Sentinel's opening times over the festive period.

Our offices hours are as follows:

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Close at 1pm
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Open from 9am – 5pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Open from 9am – 5pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Closed
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Open from 9am – 5pm

If you have an out of hours emergency please contact us on our usual number, 0800 195 5515 for assistance.

I would like to wish all the residents of Popley a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

Nicola Fremond

Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Sentinel Housing Association

## Diaries from the Old Codger

This is it the big one DECEMBER Now Her Indoors has got most of the Christmas presents, I know this for a fact as I can't get in the small bedroom without them all falling out of the door. When I say MOST of the presents, she has been buying from last January, yes eleven months of shopping. God knows what is at the far end of the room I can't see that far, now this is the thing that I cant understand with women, why is it that if you have five or six sacks to put presents in for the little ones, we have to sit on the floor for two weeks wrapping each one of the things before putting them in the sack? The kids must think "Oh no not more wrapping I just want the presents". Then the big day comes and it is World War Three, paper flying all over the place as they have to open each one, at the end of the session you have a mountain of paper to clear up. Lets go on to the paper, it has to be the right stuff for girls and boys Barbi or Thomas the Tank all the edges must line up. I get tape stuck all over me, my fingers are tapped, my mouth is tapped, that is only because I keep saying WHY. Now Her Indoors has put the right amount of presents in each bag and I sit down in my chair and have a puff on my pipe. Wait a minute she is tipping them out again! I say the inevitable words that get me in trouble each year."Why are you tipping them out dearest one?" (I don't say that but it just sounds good) What do you think I am doing? I have missed three presents out and I need to go and get some more. My pipe drops from my mouth. To think she is going to drag me in town again, thousands of women all thinking the same as her, they are like soldier ants. It is manic but, like last year I fall for it. In and out of every shop you can think of. How many presents do we buy (sorry her in doors buys). There you sit or stand in most men's cases saying. That's good as she shows you the present not giving a hoot. Then the penny drops, three presents four hours in every shop in town and about ten bags later. Now I went to school and three presents do not add up to ten bags! Yes you men out there have got it, Her Indoors says so. I saw this in the shop or that in this shop and I just had to have it, the old jumper or blouse has worn out! After three months worn out.!! She has two double wardrobes full of clothes the second bedroom is full of clothes and all the drawers are full up, AND THEN OUT COMES THE MOST SPOKEN WORD FROM A WOMANS MOUTH, WELL I HAVE NOTHING TO WEAR!!!. Us poor men have to make do with a single wardrobe and one draw for all our stuff. Still it is Christmas. When the children open the presents under the tree the faces say it all, they do not know what to play with first, we are fortunate in this country to be able to give like this but at the same time other parts of the world children have never known Christmas and do not have the money to buy presents. Now this as it is a celebration of Christ's birth and the time of year for giving think of them, I know a lot of single families find it hard in this country but I do get cross when you see some of them get giros and then buy cigarettes and see them in the pubs and they say they have no money so the kids go without presents at Christmas. I am not going to finish on a bad note but to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I wonder which present is mine I think I will have to have a feel of them under the tree when Her Indoors is out. As for you men out there look out the JANUARY sales start soon  
Keep well PUT YOUR CAR KEYS AWAY. dont drink and drive, keep safe. We don't want the hospital telling relatives bad news.

# Basingstoke Air Scout Group



Everyone took part in the 'Scouts on Fire' event in October and made great efforts to raise funds for the Fire Service Benevolent Fund. The Beavers had a very noisy evening enacting Disney characters such as Baloo the Bear, Kaa the python and playing games like the 'bandalog' not to mention pretending to be The Dawn Patrol – 'up, two, three, four ....!' The weeks are flying past and the colony is starting the 'count-down' to Christmas and making gifts. Eighteen members joined the Hampshire Beaver scout visit to Paultons Park on 12<sup>th</sup> November to see Father Christmas. Everyone had a lovely day and came home clutching a present. Our last meeting of this session is on 13<sup>th</sup> December. There may be a few vacancies in the New Year when some older Beavers 'swim up' on to the cub section. Contact - Eve Alexander on 01256 346510



Two members of the pack have qualified for the Chief Scouts Silver Award by completing a personal challenge. Everyone listened intently to a very interesting talk by Simon on bee-keeping - a hobby which he enjoys with his mother - and watched Lucy demonstrate tap dancing steps and dance a routine. Their certificates and badges will be awarded at a later date. The whole pack visited the fire station and enjoyed an evening with a member of London Transport Police recently and are about to embark on a course of Emergency Aid. Others have achieved Equestrian, Camper, Animal Carer and Musician badges. Four cubs have 'chalked up' over 20 nights away on camping/residential experiences to gain the Stage 4 Nights Away badge. Everyone enjoyed a very gruesome Hallowe'en Party – some of the outfits were stunning! Christmas outing for this year will be to the ice skating rink. New recruits welcome – both boys and girls aged between 8 and 10 ½ years of age - come along to Base 2000 or contact Cub Scout Leader, Elaine Devenport on 01256 323453



Despite the more wintry weather one member of the troop went to Lyons Copse Activity Centre for an overnight 'survival' experience. A number of scouts joined in from all over Hampshire to practice building survival shelters, bivouacs and trying out backwoods cooking skills. Paul came home tired but pleased with his achievements and eager to try more.. The troop visited Old Basing Scout HQ with three other troops from the District to enjoy a BBQ and Bonfire evening in November. Each troop had made a large guy which was consumed by fire in a wooden boat (also made by the scouts). Next year they think might try to make a wooden aeroplane just to be different. The Christmas outing will be to JJs this year by popular request. New recruits welcome come to Base 2000 on a Monday or contact Scout Leader, Colin Karlake on 01256 410559

**Group News** Pat Brown, Group Scout Leader 07716 855474

'Scouts on Fire' resulted in a donation of £125 to the Fire Service Benevolent Fund thanks to the efforts of Beavers, Cubs Scouts and leaders. Well done and thank you all for your support. We hope to do even better next time!

2006 is a special year for Scouting - it celebrates both the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Cub scout section for 8 to 10½ year olds and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Beaver section for those aged between 6 and 8 years. Members will wear special anniversary badges on their uniforms and special events are expected to take place in and around the county.

2007 will be an even more celebratory year as it will be the Centenary Year of Scouting in the UK as well as the UK being the host country for the 21st International World Scout Jamboree. Ideas for celebrating are already being planned and will include a 'Sunrise' event and a 'BIG' party.

Sunday Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest School continue with each sale run by volunteers from a local Popley charity and (weather permitting) are always well supported by 'booters' and buyers alike. 'Booters' are reminded that they must not obstruct the highway at any time and must remove any unsold goods, boxes and litter before leaving their 'pitch'.



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Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9AE

Mon-Fri 9:15am-11:45am  
Mon & Thurs 12:30pm-3:00pm

# Councillors Page

There is so much going on around Popley as the new building of the school and new homes it is really noticing now. I was disappointed that there is so much mess on the roads with a lot of mud. I have spoken to the Highway officers who paid a visit to the sites and reminded the contractors of the building conditions and their duty to keep the roads clear of mud especially with the cold winter that has been forecast. I will also monitor the sites.

On a much more pleasant note though was my visit to John Hunt School prize giving. The hall was packed with very proud students and their families and a lot of cheering and encouragement came from the students. Well done to you all, you did yourselves and the school proud.

Parking is a big issue around the estate and I am sorry to say that some people are being unreasonable. No one has a right to park directly outside their house on the public highway. You park at the courtesy of the police and they can take action. In some parts of Popley it has meant disputes amongst neighbours and got quite ugly. Whatever happened to just being neighbourly and talking to each other to come to a reasonable compromise?

I have been asked if Hampshire County Council is ready and prepared for the very cold and icy winter that has been forecast, so I made a point of asking what preparations have they put in progress. I have been assured that the county has 13,000 tonnes of rock salt ready and stored in six salt barns in Hampshire. The budget for the winter is 1.8 million pounds and the cost for a twenty four hour snow clearing run is £250,000. In an average winter there are around forty "frosty nights". As we have been given prior warning about this winter being a bad one it is a good idea to have made sure you have your battery fully charged, anti freeze in and to carry a few extra things in the boot of your car like: blanket, torch, de-icer, and a pen and paper in case you have to abandon your car then you can leave a note. If you are going on a long journey make sure you have a hot drink in a flask and some food and warm weather proof clothing, Finally make sure your mobile is fully charged. Let's hope no one gets stuck or breaks down in the really bad weather.

I hope to see at least some of you at Popley Fields on December 19th from 5 o'clock for the Christmas show. It will be bigger and better than last year with lots of fun for all ages.

Finally can I wish you all a Happy Seasons Greetings and a great New Year. *County Councillor Jane Frankum*



## POPLEY HEALTH WALK

"To start with I was always at the back as the slowest walker and out of breath. Now - 1 year later - I am always at the front and never out of breath!

As a result, I meet with 3 friends (made through walking) on 2 other days to walk for a minimum of two hours and at a much faster rate so that we do get ever so slightly out of breath, but still able to talk, as

recommended! I have noticed that my fitness has improved overall and consequently I am able to undertake all other activities (work and leisure) for longer and with less tiredness!

As a bonus I have lost 10lbs in weight, with no change in diet. I know that I am now going to be a lot fitter for a lot longer - I did not take any regular exercise until starting the Basingstoke & Deane Health Walks"

*Written in September 2005*

*Popley Health Walk –11am every Friday morning from Popley Fields Community Centre*

## Homeheat Helpline

Funded by Britain's biggest power companies, the 'Home Heat' helpline - **0800 33 66 99** - is a concerted effort by energy suppliers, and the Government. The helpline will be a one-stop service for customers and their representatives.

As the clocks go back and a colder than normal winter predicted, the Home Heat helpline gives callers essential information about tariff and payment options, energy efficiency and heating measures and helps you claim all of the benefits available to you.

You can get advice on the "Warm Homes Scheme" and others. With recent price increases we all need proper and affordable heated homes.

**The helpline is open from Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm and at the weekend it is open on Saturdays from 10am till 3pm.**

The helpline will be operated by the Essentia group, which has 20 years experience of operating similar help lines, having worked for the Government and the NHS. Essentia operates the Department of Health's Keep Warm/Keep Well line, which provides health advice to vulnerable householders in the winter months.



Dear Friends,

Crumbs! Has another year really passed by already? I guess by the time you're reading this I will have rummaged around in the loft amid what's left of my hoard to find the boxes with the Christmas decorations and lights. Having struggled out of the loft and down the stairs I will then unpack the lights and set about testing them. How is it that they work when you put them away but don't when you take them out twelve months later – that's always a mystery to me!

I love Christmas lights, and I love the way many families plaster the exterior of their homes with them – although it has to be said, some do go a tad over the top! What's also special is candlelight. Last year at St. Gabriel's we had our first candlelit carol service. There was something magical about singing those traditional Christmas songs in a church lit only by candles; it really does make it feel like Christmas. We're repeating that this year on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm so why not come and join us.

In the run up to Christmas we will be observing the season of Advent. Advent runs for the twenty eight days before Christmas and covers four Sundays so Advent Sunday will be on November 27<sup>th</sup>. On each of those Sundays we will light one of the candles in our Advent wreath to signify the growing light of Jesus Christ coming into the world. The fifth and final candle we will light on Christmas morning as we celebrate his birth.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventur* which means 'coming' but it isn't about the coming of Jesus Christ as a baby in a manger but His second coming when, as Jesus himself said "*you will see God's Son coming on the clouds of heaven in all his glory and with his angels.*" Advent then, is a time of preparation for that event. Similar to the season of Lent, it is a time for taking a good look at ourselves and those attitudes of our hearts and minds and lives that cause hurt to those around us and to God and to repent of them. To repent means to have a change of heart and to change direction – that is to turn away from that which we know to be wrong. It can take a mighty effort to accomplish that, but, once we do we feel cleansed and renewed, refreshed and ready.

Amid all your Christmas preparations and as you're putting up the Christmas lights I hope that you will take time to consider the baby in a manger who came as '*the light of the world*' and will one day return in majesty and power to draw us all before God. May the light and peace of Christ be with you and yours this Christmas season and in the year ahead.

With warm Christian greetings  
Arthur  
Vicar, St Gabriel's.



## Have a Safe and Happy Christmas!

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, hope that you do not have to invite us round during your festivities and offer these guidelines for a safe, enjoyable and fire free celebration.

- Always put candles in suitable holders on a firm surface and away from furniture, curtains and Christmas decorations.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Before going to bed or leaving the house ensure all candles, oil, incense burners and smoking materials are properly extinguished.
- Before hanging festive lights ensure they are working correctly.
- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Check that plugs have the correct fuses fitted.
- Check the condition of the wiring. If the insulation is worn or the wiring damaged, get new lights.
- Never use indoor lights outside even if you think they are safe from the weather.
- Fit smoke alarms on each floor of the home and do not take the battery out for any reason.

The recent Electric Blanket Safety Campaign run from Popley Fields Community Centre demonstrated the positive effect such events can have. When Basingstoke is compared to the rest of Hampshire, we had the lowest percentage of failures (30% for Basingstoke with the worst being 51%) The testing that was conducted, resulted in 15 electric blankets being condemned or repaired. This partnership scheme has therefore prevented 15 potential fires occurring.

Do you want to test your child's knowledge on fire safety?? Let them have some fun whilst learning about Home Fire Safety, go to <http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/kids.htm> Here you will find online games that will test their knowledge, and is fun at the same time.



In September I made a return back to Popley and I am excited to explore all the programs that have occurred this past year. I am located in the school full time and have started working on a variety of projects in the school.

My first project I would like to introduce are my year 10 pupils who participate in a project called the Princes XL club. This club is formed to develop self-esteem, improve decision making skills and explore leadership abilities. This term we are working on our citizenship module which is called the "Festival of Trees Project". This is our opportunity to do something for the local community. The aims of this project are to create 30 decorated trees, plus wreaths and stockings. All of these items will be raffled during the "Magic of Christmas" celebration at the local community centre in Popley Fields. Extra money made will be used to develop the club and to plan for future activities for team building.

We have sent letters out to the local community and any people wishing to support the club may contact me at the school. These letters will be used as a piece of course work for effective communication. I appreciate your support to the club and your gestures will be openly displayed in front of each tree.

It's great to be back in Popley  
Shola Cameron

Inclusions Officer John Hunt of Everest Community School

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## **Basingstoke Voluntary Services**

**Charity Fayre**  
**Station Mall**  
**Malls Town Centre**  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005**  
**10:00 am to 4:30 pm**  
**Come and support your local**  
**Voluntary & Community Groups**  
**and**  
**Buy your Christmas Gifts**



You are warmly invited to  
**WORSHIP WITH US**



at

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:

Graham and Barbara on (01256) 363692

New Testament Church of God

[www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk)

# **Apple Blossom Catering**



Planning a wedding, party or any special occasion?

Yes...you could do it yourself, but why bother when we can do it for you

We will book the hall, decorate it to suit, provide a beautiful buffet and best of all clear up afterwards.

We can provide experienced security and bar staff if required.

We can also arrange the cars, the flowers, the photography, the disco and much much more!

Call us to discuss your requirements and relax

01256 841996 or 07734 499193 email: [appleblossom213@aol.com](mailto:appleblossom213@aol.com)

**Nothing for you to do but enjoy your day we will do it all for you!**



Carers Together  
6 Chequers Road  
Basingstoke  
P.G217PU

01256 3 53290  
Jane@carerstogogether.org.uk  
Charity No. 1051879

### **Oakridge Carers Cafe**

Would you like to meet other people who are caring for someone? There is a new Carers 'cafe' meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, from 10.30-12.30 at Oakridge hall for All, Forsythia Walk, Basingstoke. Call in for a cup of tea and talk to other Carers and people who understand and can offer some help and advice.

**Tuesday 6th December, 10.30** Come and make a Christmas table decoration!

**Tuesday 3rd January 2006 10.30**

Happy New Year.

Bring a plate of something to share and enjoy a late New Year's party.

**Tuesday 7th February 10.30**

Planning for the Spring and Summer. What do you want to do in this Carers group?

## **Quit Smoking 0845 602 4663**

Free specialist help for those who want to quit across North and Mid Hampshire

### **Benefits to stop smoking**

- Feel richer Quitting 20 cigarettes a day =£1500 to spend every year
- Look younger Circulation to skin improves within a few hours of quitting
- Feel fitter Lungs begin to work better within 3-4 days
- Feel calmer Blood pressure returns to normal in just one hour
- Be free from nicotine addiction



**Go for it phone now**



The recent cold weather snap has not deterred problems with young people causing problems in the shop areas. Particularly Maldiv Road shopping parade. As parents you have a responsibility for your children and therefore please ensure that your loved ones are not part of the ongoing problems during the evening. The Police are committed to reducing this type of Anti-Social behaviour and reports of poor behaviour will be acted upon and offenders prosecuted. If asked to buy alcohol by a youth outside the shop then this should be reported either to the shop staff or the Police. Any adult found purchasing alcohol for under 18's will be prosecuted.

As Christmas approaches I have included some crime prevention advice that should help your festive season pass without incident.

### **Safer Homes**

- Keep your Christmas presents out of view, and do not leave valuables, like your TV, hi-fi or video, where people can see them.
- If you buy new items for Christmas like DVD players or video recorders, don't leave the empty boxes near the bins as an advertisement.
- If you're going away for Christmas, make sure your home looks occupied by using time-switches on lights, radios and other appliances. Get a friend or neighbour to collect your post and draw your curtains to make your home look lived in, over the Christmas period.
- Shut and lock all doors and windows. If you have an alarm, make sure it is set and someone you trust has a spare key.

### **Safer Vehicles**

- Don't leave any Christmas presents or shopping on display when you park your car, if it's not there, then it can't be stolen.
- Don't hide Christmas presents or valuables under the seat or in the glove box, chances are someone will have watched you. If you can't avoid leaving something in your car, put it in your boot before you begin your journey.
- When parking outside always try to park your car in an attended car park or in a well-lit area. Try to look for a public car park which is part of the police-approved Safer Parking scheme - [www.saferparking.com](http://www.saferparking.com)
- Always lock your car and put your windows up, even if you are away from the car for just one minute. It's very easy to lower your guard, during the Christmas period.

### **Safer Streets**

- When celebrating this Christmas, don't drink too much and ruin your night. Drink a few soft drinks to pace your drinking and to avoid a hangover the next morning.
- Do stay with your friends and make sure they're safe when you're out. Avoid confrontation and walk away from potential fights.
- Always organise how you're going to get home before you go out to Xmas parties.
- Crowds increase at Christmas - make sure handbags and wallets are carried securely. Don't carry large amounts of cash and keep cheque cards and cheque books separate.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you at the Community Wardens "Magic of Christmas" event on 19th December at Popley Fields Community Centre at 5pm

PC3126 Matt Deery, PC20054 Paul Thorne



# MELROSE HALL NEWS

Our ever popular Grand Christmas Bazaar was on November 19th, thank you to all who came to support us. There were some good bargains and the Hamburgers and Hot Dogs were delicious.

Don't forget our Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest Community School every Sunday throughout 2005 starting at 9am.

Melrose Coffee morning is now called The Friendly Cafe and it is open to all residents of Popley. Every Monday 9.30 - 12.00 and every Thursday 9.30 - 12.00. They serve Teas, Coffees, Biscuits, Bacon Rolls etc, at very good prices. They also have weekly raffles, board and card games, occasional outings and a foot clinic twice a month, which is also very good value. Please come along, meet new people & make some new friends

## TINY ACORNS CHILDMINDERS.

Not a childminder? Please don't be put off by our group name. We are mostly childminders but all carers with preschool babies and children are welcome.

No one person is in charge, but this isn't as chaotic as it sounds. Everyone's input is welcome Anyone who wants to takes a turn at organising our weekly craft. At song time we sing the children's favourites, old or new. We are always willing to try out your ideas, as long as they are safe and fun for the babies and children. As a small group we need to charge £2 a session at the moment. No joining fees, just pay if you turn up. Why not pop in one Tuesday to see if your little one enjoys themselves?

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY	9.30 -12PM The Friendly Cafe	7.30 - 10.30 Healing & Holistics
TUESDAY	9.30am - 11.30am TINY ACORNS CHILDMINDERS	4-8.30 PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE OF DANCE
WEDNESDAY	9.30 -11.30 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP 9-45AM-11-30 STOP SMOKING CLINIC	12PM - 2PM OASIS LUNCH CLUB
THURSDAY	9.30-12PM The Friendly Cafe	7PM-8.30PM WEIGHT WATCHERS
FRIDAY	10AM 3PM LODDON ALLIANCE	6.30PM YOUTH CLUB
SATURDAY	9AM -1PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE	
SUNDAY	10AM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	6.30PM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

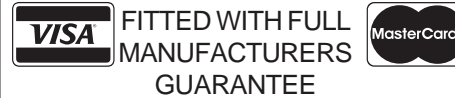
For information on any type of booking please call, we apologise that you may get a answerphone reply until we employ a new administrator as Coo Cook has left for a new job. Good luck Coo Call 01256 420676 for information or booking or Email melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk

## HOOVER APPLIANCE REPAIRS SAME DAY SERVICE

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BASINGSTOKE 398600

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### GENUINE HOOVER PARTS



### INC. RENT-A-WASH WASHING MACHINE HIRE

GAYTHORNE NORTH WALTHAM BASINGSTOKE

## STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

● Sheena Brown is available for Chiropody treatment in the comfort of your own home.

● Please telephone (01256) 336853 for more details or to make an appointment.



## Young's Chinese Food

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(Off Popley Way)**

**Popley, Basingstoke  
Telephone Orders**

**841540**

**Opening Times  
Sunday**

**5:00pm - 10:30pm  
Monday To Saturday  
12pm - 2pm & 5pm - 10:30pm**

**Tuesday Closed**

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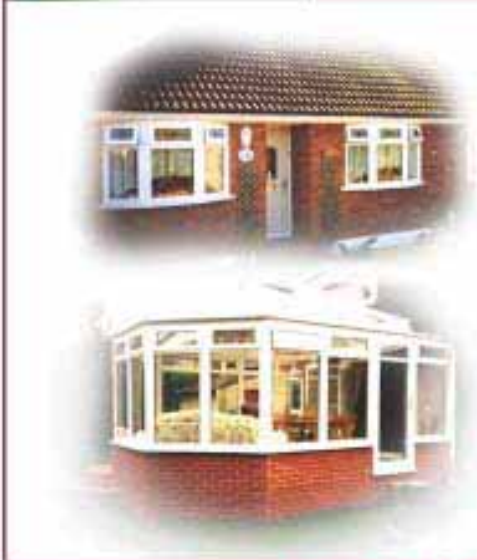


## Safe Driving for Life

48 TINTERN CLOSE POPLEY  
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POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE, CARPENTERS DOWN, POPLEY, BASINGSTOKE HANTS RG24 9AE  
**POPLEY FIELDS XMAS BAZAAR & DISCO**



THE BAZAAR

10am—4pm

£1 entrance includes raffle ticket

Santa & his grotto

Refreshments

Last minute gift ideas

Various sellers include The Body Shop, Tulip Jewellery, phoenix Cards  
 and many more

Raffle

Face painting

**FOR MORE  
 INFORMATION**

**CALL THE  
 CENTRE**

**01256 414494**

A DAY OF XMAS  
 FESTIVITIES

SATURDAY

17TH

DECEMBER

THE DISCO

7.30PM—11.30PM

PROFESSIONAL DISCO

BAR

ALL WELCOME

Reg Charity No 1052133



## Merton Rise and replacement John Hunt of Everest School – Project Update

By the time you read this the formal launch for the Merton Rise site will have been held at the Apollo Hotel, Popley Way to which local Members, County Council and Borough Council Officers, and representatives of key house builders and architectural practices were invited. The purpose of the launch was to introduce the development industry to the Merton Rise site and to outline the County Council's design-led strategy for its development. The event was well attended and I believe successful in providing opportunities for networking between developers and designers and to also meet the Merton Rise project team.

I hope also you have received (and attended) one of the 2 days identified for the Community Launch of the Merton Rise site. Members of the project team will be (were) at the following venues (10am-4pm) to share the vision for the Merton Rise site and answer any questions you may have in relation to the project in terms of programme, form of development, the design-led strategy and so on.

**Friday 9 December 2005:** Melrose Hall, Abbey Road, Popley

**Saturday 10 December 2005:** Base 2000 (behind Popley Fields Community Centre)

I very much hope that many of you will be able to attend one of these two days.

In terms of progress on the wider project, the contract for the Main School works has now been let to Wates Construction Ltd. The contract is due to start early in the New Year with completion in 2007, probably now September in time for the new academic year.

Additional structural planting within the school site has also been undertaken with the remainder of the ridgeline planting to be done before the end of March 06 subject to the outcome of archaeological investigations in this part of the site.

The second phase of the spine road and servicing arrangements will start in the Spring and for both these works. The Main School works, it is proposed to close Sherborne Road again with local diversions in operation via Chineham Lane.

The first phase of disposal on the Merton Rise site (approximately 160 dwellings) will commence in January with a developer's launch on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Phase 2 disposal on Merton Rise and the existing John Hunt of Everest site (all of the remaining site) are programmed to be marketed in Autumn 2006.

In addition to the community launch, for which a brochure will be available, a community magazine is planned for the New Year. In the meantime updates can be found on one of 2 websites: for community information view: [www.hants.gov.uk/mertonrise](http://www.hants.gov.uk/mertonrise); and for development and design related information please view: [www.mertonrise.co.uk](http://www.mertonrise.co.uk).

This year has seen tremendous progress on these projects and we have now reached a very exciting stage with the start of the school on site and the prospect of new homes and community facilities in the near future.

I would like to thank the community of Popley for their continued support of these projects.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Louise Hague Merton Rise Project Manager



# Christmas at St Gabriel



We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate the reason for the season.  
St Gabriel's is your parish church in Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way.

## Christingle for all the family

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5 p.m.

## Carols by Candlelight

a service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.

## Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m.

## Christmas Celebrations

A Service for all the Family  
Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m.

Please contact the church office on 324734 for further details or information on these or any of our services.



Here at the Pre-school we held a sponsored Pyjama Party on 18<sup>th</sup> November to raise money for Children in Need. All of the staff and children wore pyjamas or nighties, we had bedtime stories and related crafts, and milk and cookies. It is not known yet how much was raised but we will know by the next issue. The person

who raised the most will win a Limited Edition Pudsey Bear.

We are holding our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at Base 2000, with many activities and stalls.

We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.