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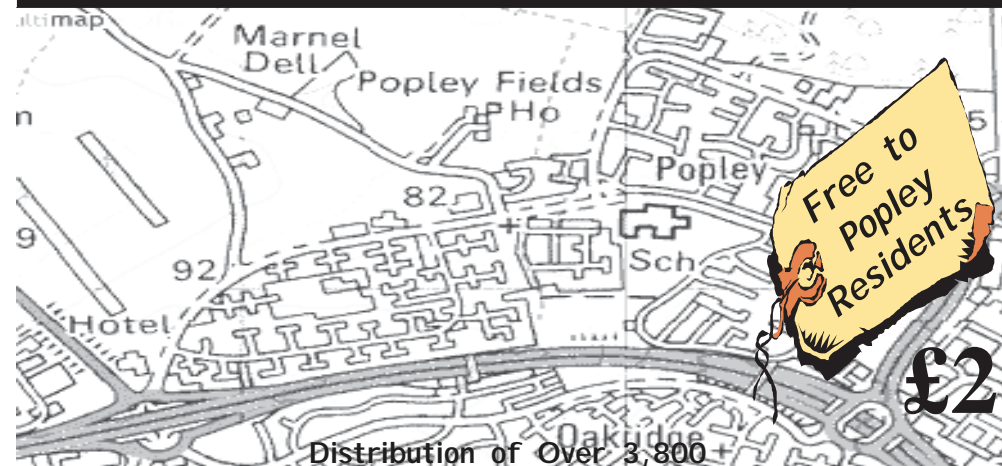
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

March 2008

Issue 73



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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Don't Forget [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk)

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-03-08)

**Message From the Editor:-** It was disappointing to see that some of the daffodils have been destroyed in the new raised garden outside Melrose Hall. Many hours have been put in by some dedicated residents of Popley. Simone's Column is missing this week as she has been very busy with her school work, we hope she can find time to write next month but I think we all understand how important this time in her life is as regards exams etc. Good Luck Simone.

Popley looks like a building site at the moment but to see the families moving in and the excitement of having their own homes just reminds me of how I felt nearly 38 years ago when I moved in to my Abbey Road house. I love Popley and still live in that same house.

We have some more handy tips for in the garden on page 7 and how to save energy and those spiraling utilities bills on page 28, also advice from CAB on page 10 on the same subject. The Fire Service are reminding us to check our smoke alarms to make sure the batteries are not too low.

On page 23, congratulations to Chineham Park School for getting a National Healthy Schools Award, and for the outdoor learning project that will be of benefit to the whole community.

Page 14 is the first report on the pilot project of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Popley is first again to get things up and running, that's because we are already a great community that works together well, including Police, Community Wardens, Housing association, schools, and Councillors.

Hits on [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) website for month of January: 3892

## Urgently Required

Volunteers to assist in running a lunch and social club for people in the local community.

The club takes place at Melrose Community Centre, Popley, on Fridays from 10am-3pm. Please contact John Houghton on 07738457700 or 01256 816215 for further information.

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, PO.Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk). The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

**Editorial Team:-** Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Acting Treasurer/Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;

**Distribution Team:** Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Iris King; Colin Karlake; Simon Leadbetter; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Judy O Connell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes Naomi Laffoley, Angus Miller, Elaine Dennis  
**Youth Volunteers:** Joseph Doran, Matthew Stokes.;

### More Volunteers Welcome

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I'm on a low income and I'm really worried that I'm not going to be able to afford my gas and electricity bills this winter. Don't turn off your heating or self-disconnect and be cold - contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau to talk about other options. If you are a pensioner, you are entitled to the winter fuel payment on top of your pension. You may qualify for some extra help such as cold weather payments depending on your circumstances. Even if you're not eligible for any extra help of this kind, there may be ways to cut down on your costs by switching your gas and electricity suppliers, paying by direct debit or getting advice on fuel efficiency, including help with the costs of home improvements like insulation, a new boiler or double glazing. A CAB adviser can also check to make sure that you are getting all you are entitled to by way of benefits and tax credits. [www.basingstokecab.co.uk](http://www.basingstokecab.co.uk)

### Heating Tips From a Single Mum

Anyone else had a shock with their heating bills? I am finding it increasingly difficult to find the money to pay for heating, so I am making a few adjustments to try and help out. I hope some of these tips might be useful to other people in the same situation and maybe some elderly people too.

**1.** Keep curtains pulled across windows that don't get sunshine pouring through them. This holds heat in the room rather than letting it hit the cold windows. It is cheaper to pay for a light bulb than the heating. Any window that has sunshine coming through should have the curtains pulled back. Its surprising how much warmth you get for free. As soon as the sun goes down from that window close the curtains.

**2.** Try to 'live' in one room during the day, and make sure you close doors behind you. Wrap up in a blanket, sleeping bag or duvet when you sit down for any length of time.

**3.** If you have to go out, do it while its daylight, and make sure you get everything you need in one go.

**4.** Make use of free heat from your cooker and open the oven door after you finish cooking and turn the oven off. Why waste the heat? This is particularly useful if you have a kitchen diner. Better still, push the dining table to one side and bring a tv and sofa into the diner so no heat is wasted from cooking.

**5.** Make sure your windows actually close properly. Many of us have draughty windows. If you need to, use masking tape to tape around the draughty sections, making sure any necessary vents are left uncovered.

**6.** Get long curtains put up across your back and front doors, and draught excluders too if they are needed. An old pair of tights stuffed with rags, or a rolled up old blanket will do the trick.

**7.** Make sure you get at least one hot meal a day. If you only have one hot meal, have it in the evening when you can make the most use of the extra heat from cooking it.

**8.** Make sure any portable heaters are safe to use and in a safe position. Too many house fires are still caused by portable heaters!

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



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[popleyfields@hotmail.com](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)

### Popzone Youth Club Monday Nights

Youth club is still very busy with an average of 40 to 50 children turning up every week.

If anyone is interested in joining the club then please contact Tracey Judge at the Centre.

We run 2 sessions 5.30pm to 7.00pm and 7.15pm to 8.45pm.

### Easter Family Fun Day

We are holding a Easter Family Fun day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 12.00pm-4.00pm There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Craft Activities, Tombola, Lucky Dip, Easter Raffle, Music, Food and Refreshments. Cost is £1.00 per child and free for adults.

Come and enjoy some Easter Fun.

Computer Courses – New courses will be available from January at the Popley Fields Community Centre. There will be courses in Digital Photography with Desktop Publishing; Internet and Email; learn how to help your children, or yourself, by revising basic grammar (in a fun way!); Basic Maths with Spreadsheets (useful for helping Junior school children); Trace Your Family History Using the Internet; Writing a CV with Interview Practice. All classes run for a 10 week period and take place on one morning or afternoon per week. For a full list of classes or to enrol, please contact Queen Mary's College on 01256 417517. Classes are free to anyone who does not have 5 GCSEs grades A\*-C.

Mad Academy– This is a new opportunity for toddlers and will run on Tuesdays 9.15am-11.15pm – Mad Academy will be holding high-energy music and dance classes combined with learning for babies from 3 months to 5 years.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and kids' parties at very reasonable rates.

Call us now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the centre every week!

**Tel:01256 414494 or email:[popleyfields@hotmail.com](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)**



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## Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor, Today I walked to town and was shocked at the state of the area around the underpass in Abbey Road. Rubbish everywhere and in the bushes on either side and also on the Oakridge side too. It's the worst I've seen it. What has happened to the Litter Pickers? Regards Abbey Road Resident

*Editor's reply; I got straight on to the officers at the council and was told that it was due to be done the next day. There had been some sickness with the staff but it should improve now and in the future. Call 844844 if you want to report flytipping or general rubbish that needs removing. I know its boring but the bins being left away from where they should be is still a problem and does make the estate look untidy every Wednesday on bin day. We went and had a look and it looks much better there now.*

Dear Editor, why is it that the lights always seem to be on at the new John Hunt school. In these days of conserving energy and lowering our carbon footprint surely these should be switched off when school is over for the day. Yours sincerely Mrs M

*Editor's Reply: Everest Community College is so much more than just a school. There are so many activities going on for our comunity from Salsa dancing, keeping fit, sports, evening classes and so much more. Some classes and functions go on till late so the lights will be shining in this busy building. I grant that all the lights are not needed at all hours of the day and night there should only be a few overnight for security reasons.*

Dear Editor, I am totally confused. Is Popley Way a 30mph road because there are signs for 30 mph and signs for 40mph, which is it?

*Editor's reply; I agree it can be confusing because the signs, I am assured are right at the moment as the speed limit does change along this busy road. I have brought this up at every oppertunity and have now been promised that Popley Way and Carpenters Down are both to be brought forward and it is about time too. However it will still take a little more time. I get so frustrated with red tape getting in the way of what is just plain common sense.*

Dear Editor, Why do so many vans and cars park right up to T junctions in our estate roads? I was coming out of Dryden Close into Shakespeare and I just could not see around all the cars and vans parked there. I had to pull right out into the road to be able to see if the road was clear and I narrowly missed having an accident. Resident of Dryden Close

*Editor's reply: I am assured that according to the Highway Code it is illegal to park within 11 metres of a junction and that it then becomes a police matter. I asked for that junction to be looked at as a matter of safety. After speaking to the officer he has told me that he went out and inspected the area and indeed it does need attention and it has now been put on the list of works programs to be done in the 2008/2009 Highways budget.*

*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 cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.*

Please send your letters to:  
The Editor, Popley Matters,  
PO Box 6727, Basingstoke  
RG24 9GG or email:  
[editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)  
or phone 819924





What a busy month we have had here at the hall. We have now had a major refurbishment of our 'LOOP' system thanks to a grant from Hampshire County Councillor Jane Frankum. This will make using the hall a much more pleasant experience for our hearing impaired users.

Our weekly mother and toddler group Popley Little People were also awarded a grant from Hampshire County Council and are updating all their toys and

equipment.

Our Gardening Club will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1-3pm so please come along and help make our gardens look beautiful refreshments and tools provided. All ages are welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

**MONDAY:**

9.30-12pm Friendly Café

7.30-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistic

**TUESDAY:**

TBC - Molly Moocows Moosic

4.00-7.30 Petite School of Dance

8.30-3.00 Marnel Early Years

**WEDNESDAY:**

10.00-11.30 - Popley Little People Mother and Toddler group

10.00-11.00 NHS Quit Smoking Clinic

12-2pm Oasis Lunch club

7.15 - Slimming world

**THURSDAY:**

9.30-12PM Friendly Café

**FRIDAY:**

10-3 Together

6.00-7.45 MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years 8.00- 9.15 - age 11 plus.

**SATURDAY:**

9.00-12.30 Petite School of Dance

**SUNDAY:**

Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, Conferences and all your private hire needs. We take bookings for both occasional and regular events.

Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at [Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk).

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**Councillors Page:** We can expect some disruption over the next months around the Aldermaston Road Roundabout, however I have worked closely with all the agencies to try to keep any problems to the minimum. It is important that we do with the hospital, Ambulance Station and also one of the main hubs for travelling. If you have any problems the number to call is 0845 603 5633.

As a County Councillor I had £10,000 to be able to give to groups and projects in Popley and Oakridge. It was the first year and a trial. I am happy to say I was able to nominate all the groups that applied who all received a grant. I was able to help upgrade the hearing loop system in Melrose Hall; a grant to "Little People" (a Mother and Toddler Group); a grant to help set up a pilot scheme where the homeless can get a meal, wash, wash their clothes and get help to find a place to live and a job; let the youth group in Popley Fields buy a camera, laptop, and printer so they can print their own newsletter and other things. The scheme hopefully will continue for the next financial year so if you know of a group that would like to apply contact me on 819924 [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk) or write to Popley Labour, 405 Abbey Road, RG24 9EL. **Jane Frankum County Councillor Basingstoke North**

**Popley West:** Both Jane I and I signed the form to do a "Call In" on the decision to get rid of the Community Wardens. They do a valuable job, no not police work, they work with the youth and community to stop things getting to a stage where police are needed. They do work with the police when required, and many other agencies to make life better and safer. Yet another decision that affects the town areas the most!

The renewing of electric cables in Abbey Road is nearly finished and though there were some teething troubles in the beginning where we had to complain they were all sorted out eventually. If you have problems the number to call is 02089000203.

Welcome to all the new residents in Merton Rise and Marnell Park. Contact details are Cllr Paul Frankum 472496 [cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk) or write to Popley Labour 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL Paul Frankum ☎472496

**Popley East.** Longfellow Regeneration - Phase 1 has started at Marlowe Close where new houses are being built. If you experience any disruption please let us know.

Flats - the Gresley Road proposals to build 448 flats have been abandoned by the developers and this has come as a huge relief. We have too many flats in Basingstoke.

Flooding - last month I met with officers at Basingstoke Council regarding a strategic flood risk assessment and put forward 11 areas in Popley which were affected by flooding after the heavy rains of July 2007. We hope to raise the issue again at the HATS meeting next month and get some money set aside for better drainage in parts of Popley. Mary Brian ☎322108 [cllr.mary.brian@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mary.brian@basingstoke.gov.uk)

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# Hampshire County Council

## The Hampshire County Council Coat of Arms

HAMPSHIRE County Council received its grant of arms from Mr. Henry Paston-Bedingfeld, Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms, on 13th July 1992. The presentation took place in the 13th-century Great Hall in Winchester.

SHIRE counties have existed as territorial and administrative units for over a thousand years, and loyalties to the historic counties run deep. The first mention of Hampshire in written records dates from the 8th century. Hampshire's borders today are very little different from those of 1086, when the Domesday Book was compiled in Winchester, the county town then as now.

THE County Council is the representative body for the county. As arms may only be granted to individuals and bodies corporate, the arms of Hampshire County Council represent the county and its people.

## The Hampshire Rose

THE question of an official emblem for Hampshire County Council first arose soon after the Councils establishment in 1889. At that time, the rose surmounted by a crown was already established as representing Hampshire; variants on this theme had been used since the reign of Charles I, notably in legal documents and on the seal of the Custos Rotulorum (the keeper of the county's records and chairman of Quarter Sessions). After research and discussions, the County Council adopted the former county badge in 1895. This consisted of the rose and crown with a cap surrounded by a wreath of laurel leaves; the first use of this form of the device appears to have been in 1842.

THE red rose had been used as a symbol of Hampshire for much longer. The rose is that of Lancaster, but the story behind its adoption by Hampshire is lost in history. One account holds that the red rose was granted to Hampshire soldiers by Henry V for their valour at the battle of Agincourt, but there is no record confirming this. Another theory traces the link to Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, the brother of Edward I. It was Edmund who brought Somborne Hundred into the Duchy of Lancaster in 1283, creating the Hampshire - Lancaster connection. When the Duchy of Lancaster was joined to the Crown by the accession of Henry IV in 1399, the crown would have been added to the red rose of the royal duchy. The crowned rose is featured on the Stockbridge borough mace, dated 1681.

THE Hampshire Rose is widely used in the arms of Hampshire people and places. Southampton's arms show three roses; so do those of William of Wykeham, from whom Winchester College and New College, Oxford derived their arms and roses. The arms of Petersfield show a red rose. The rose in the centre of the Round Table in the Great Hall is a Tudor, not a Hampshire, rose, representing the union of York and Lancaster; but the Table was repainted in the reign of Henry VIII, and we do not know what was there before.

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## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

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Group Scout Leader: Jerry English 07921 107 359 / 01256 331175

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The Cub Pack was delighted to win the District Inter-Pack Cub Scout Mastermind competition after a nail biting "sudden-death" final round. Nathan and Billy were quick and knowledgeable and should do well in the County Finals later in the year. The Pack also enjoyed a visit to the fire station recently. They were lucky to pick a time when the unit received a 'shout' and to experience the thrill of flashing blue lights and a 'real life' fast departure. We hope that no-one was hurt in the incident. More help is needed with the Cub section as there are currently only two leaders whose hands are too full at times!

The Beavers have been their usual busy selves and are looking forward to Easter Fun Day when all Beaver Scouts in the District join together for an afternoon of fun, games, food and friendship. The crocus bulbs they planted are in full bloom as I write and make a cheerful sight.

All members of the Scout Troop were presented with Fire Safety badges recently and are now working on First Aid. Some Scouts will attend Hampshire Scouts' Winter Camp during half-term and we hope it will not be too cold or wet for them. The troop will be holding a 'sleepover' for the less hardy. Plans are in hand for summer camp. Colin (Apache) runs the Troop but would like to pass the reins to someone else and have change of role within the Group. Please contact Colin if you feel you can help.

The Group is also looking for a new Group Scout Leader to replace Jerry. The role is largely one of management and coordination with responsibility for making sure leaders complete the required training and to oversee the Group as a whole. The District Commissioner, Andy Cullen, would be pleased to hear of anyone willing to consider the position on (01256) 422725 or [andy.cullen@eu'effem.com](mailto:andy.cullen@eu'effem.com). All potential leaders are required to complete CRB enhanced clearance before being confirmed to an appointment.

We have vacancies in all three sections and new recruits are welcome, simply come along to Base 2000 and speak with the Section Leader or give them a ring to discuss the opportunities.



Boy and girls 6-8 years  
Meetings: Tuesday 5.30-6.45p.m.  
Eve Alexander 346510



Boys and girls aged 8-10½  
Tuesday 6.30-8.15p.m.  
Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15  
Monday 7-9p.m.  
Colin Karlslake 410559

## News from Chineham Park Primary School

A number of our children visited The Guildhall in Winchester on 29th of January to proudly accept the National Healthy Schools award. The school has also taken part in a Teachers TV documentary scheduled and repeated a number of times. The next one is during the week beginning 3rd March. The programme investigates links between nutrition, exercise, brain development and readiness for learning, and features some of the many things Chineham Park Primary are doing to improve children's learning. For National Science Week the school is taking part in a whole day science event with THALES Basingstoke group. Finally, our huge new outdoor learning developments are underway. This project has been designed to support the whole community, schools and other organisations, so look out for further updates.

### Over 55's Forum

Just before Christmas, Daniel Garnier at the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council set up a singing group with a professional instructor for all the Over 55's in the Borough. It is going very well (even my wife is having a go and thoroughly enjoying it) with up to 28 people attending sessions at the Carnival Hall every Tuesday 1.30 to 3pm. Anyone interested can turn up and have a go.

Due to the success of my last Music & Dance Concert in November 2007, several people have asked me to organise another one, so I said OK. It will be called Music & Dance Extravaganza to be held at Queen Mary College on Sunday 27th April 2008. I have booked the Everest College Steel Pan Band, Basingstoke Academy of Dancing, 2 local singers, Bob McGhee and the Singing Group of Over 55s.

Tickets £5 Adults—£2.50 Children under 12.

All the proceeds will go to the Template Biopsy Equipment for prostate cancer at Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust.

### BASINGSTOKE HARD OF HEARING CLUB

We are an informal group of people who enjoy getting out and meeting people, but are hard of hearing. It is sometimes difficult to make conversation with others who do not understand what it's like. Come along to one of our monthly meetings. Have a chat and a cup of tea. We have a variety of speakers over the coming months and have information on products and services that are available locally.

We meet the FIRST TUESDAY of every month.  
2pm Church Cottage, behind St Michael's Church.  
Call or text Yvonne on 07789 915040 For further information.





# PULL YOUR OUT



## Smoke Alarms.

### Positioning/Siting:

- ✓ The minimum recommended number of smoke alarms in the home is one per floor.
- ✓ Smoke alarms shouldn't be situated in or near bathrooms and kitchens as the steam and cooking fumes sets them off.
- ✓ Where possible, they should always be mounted on the ceiling not the walls as they don't work so effectively on the walls.
- ✓ Smoke alarms should be fitted at least 12 inches from walls, corners or light fittings.

### Testing and Maintenance:

- ✓ You should test your alarm once a week by pressing and holding the test button until the alarm beeps for approx 2-3 seconds.
- ✓ Once every six months when vacuuming, use the nozzle to clean in and around the detector to remove dust and insects.
- ✓ If the smoke alarm beeps intermittently, this means that there is either a fault or the battery needs replacing (refer to manufacturers manual).
- ✓ You should change the battery every year. Pick a date that's easy to remember, i.e. an anniversary or birthday

### Useful contact points and further information:

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

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

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

## Spring Gardening

These bright sunny days are very welcome, but don't get too carried away in the garden just yet. Now is a good time to do any structural work; laying patios and fixing fencing, ready for the planting later on. If your garden needs digging over, pick a dry day and don't worry too much about leaving large clumps of soil on the surface. The rain will soak into it, and the ice crystals from frost expand to break the soil up for you.

Try not to walk on the grass while it is frosty or frozen as it breaks the blades and can damage the roots enough to leave bald patches later. Rake off any excess leaves as they stop light getting to the grass and will kill it. Sweep paths and patios clean to stop them getting slippery and algae developing. It is still too early to cut the grass while there is a high risk of frost. Exposed root systems will easily be killed off and again leave bald patches.

If your fish pond freezes over, don't break the ice as the shock waves can kill small fish. Float a small plastic ball on the pond which will prevent the whole surface freezing over. Scoop as much debris as possible from the bottom of the pond as it rots there and fouls the water.

If you have spring bulbs planted, they should be starting to show now, with the early daffs and crocuses flowering alongside the snowdrops. Your winter pansies may well benefit from a trim on warmer days, encouraging them to branch out and produce more flowers. Summer bulbs are now appearing in the shops, and can be planted on a frost-free day, and some spring bulbs can still be planted although they may not flower until next year.

Don't be tempted to buy the young seedlings in the shops now, unless you have a heated greenhouse to grow them on. The natural daylight on the windowsill is not strong enough yet to stop them getting tall and lanky, and breaking off. Seed companies need their orders for seedlings now, so check them out too. It is a good time to look in seed catalogues and shops for your seeds now. Some have special offers that you can take advantage of. Take the time to plan what you want to grow and where you will put it. Clean those used pots, empty patio tubs and baskets, putting old compost in your compost bin if you have one, or the garden waste bins at recycling centres.

Don't forget to treat your patio furniture, sheds, fences and decking with wood preserver. Follow the instructions on the tins carefully. That should be enough to keep you going for a few weeks until the weather improves enough to do more.





Hello Folks,  
 I trust you are all sticking to your New Years resolutions. Mine was to go to the gym more amongst others which I am doing!  
 This year has started busy for the Team and I and it seems to be getting faster. I am enjoying my new challenge of being the Chair of the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods

Team (PSNT) as well as the Beat manager for Popley West. The PSNT are tackling the three core tasks set by the community and have already achieved some good targets. As previously mentioned the core tasks are; 1) anti social behaviour outside Abbey Road stores; 2) general juvenile nuisance; 3) help to establish more youth provisions. Please contact me to find out more about the PSNT on: 0845 045 45 45. Every quarter I will publish the results of the Team's work. I have placed a number of related posters in prominent places in Popley that give information on the PSNT. There has been lots of talk about the Community Wardens of late! Let me just tell you where I stand on the matter. I have worked closely with the Wardens ever since I started. First with Sarah Ratcliff and David Mason and now with David and Vikki Lonie. I have found that they are an asset to Popley and the community. They have always provided help to my team where needed and they are a much loved addition to Popley. I will continue to enjoy working with them on various projects and Team work. By the time you read this it will have passed but on the 21st, the Wardens arranged a football day for the youth of Popley. This is another example of how they have engaged with the community for the good. I am very interested in what you have to say about Popley and semi interested about all other matters :). So please get in contact to discuss Popley good or bad. Alternatively please visit the Popley Matters Website and get involved that way.

Hope to see you all this year!  
 Regards  
 Dan Carter  
 Popley West Beat Manager



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Dear Friends

'Spring is sprung and the grass is green!' so the old nursery rhyme goes. As I write this in February we've been enjoying several days of blue skies and sparkling sunshine and even though the temperature has been just a few degrees above freezing it has been a real joy to be able to get out and about – an added bonus, the days are slowly getting longer and the lighter evenings are just over the horizon. The rhythm of life (a powerful thing – so I've heard) is beginning to pick up again after the long winter days. Already there are many crocuses in flower and, surprisingly, daffodils too and it does somehow lift the spirit to see all these new signs of life – even if they are a tad early this year!

New life is what our Christian faith is all about. For some, that new life will mean early flowering for others, a gentle growing and unfolding as one season of life gives way to another. Nowhere is this more apparent in the Christian year than at Easter – which coincidentally is really early this year.

Easter, for so many, sadly will only be associated with eggs, particularly those of the chocolate variety. Why do we have Easter eggs? Well, doesn't an egg represent all the potential for new life, new beginnings! And why are Easter eggs hollow? Because the empty egg is symbolic of the empty tomb of Jesus when he rose from the dead to resurrection life on that first Easter Day and a whole new life for all who would be his followers.

St Paul wrote "*If any one is in Christ they are a new creation, the old has gone the new has come*" (2 Cor 5:17). If we truly want a fresh start for our lives, if we truly want to leave the mess of the past behind, then as a Christian I believe there is only one place to start, or rather only one person to turn to and that's Jesus. And this new life is not just for the now but for all eternity; Jesus himself said "*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life eternal.*" (John 3:16).

So as the new life of Spring begins to emerge all around us may your thoughts turn to the possibilities of new life for yourself and if, like me, you're a chocoholic then may your Easter eggs this year take on a new and added meaning. Hope to see you soon!

With God's blessings, your friend and Vicar  
Arthur.

## Services at St Gabriel's in March

Sunday 2nd March Mothering Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 16th March – Palm Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Good Friday 21st March

Family Service at 10.00 a.m.

Three hours by the Cross from 12 noon – 3pm

Easter Day is Sunday 23rd March – 10.30 a.m.

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# Sentinel

Sentinel's Neighbourhood Action Plans

As the main provider of homes in the Popley area, Sentinel is continually working to make sure that your neighbourhood is clean, safe, and above all a place that we can all be proud of. That is why we are working with partner agencies and local residents to write a Neighbourhood Action Plan to address any local issues.

It is an exciting time in the area with much development and investment in Popley and the surrounding neighbourhoods. Our action plan will assist the neighbourhood team and partners in prioritising work and through further consultation we will be able to make Popley an even better place to live.

If you would like to be involved by representing your neighbourhood, or if you have any comments on work being carried out by Sentinel, we would love to hear from you. Contact any member of the Popley Neighbourhood Team on 0800 195 5515 or e-mail us at [team1@sentinelha.org.uk](mailto:team1@sentinelha.org.uk).



## Travel Tokens

**RED tokens are not valid after 31 March 2008.**

Basingstoke Neighbourcare would be happy to receive any red tokens not used

**Please DONATE any unused ones to a local charity that helps older people and the disabled.**

Drop them into Melrose Community Centre, Abbey Rd or to Iris King 55 Tintern Close, Popley (tel 411113) before Monday 14 April 2008.

**Alternatively contact Basingstoke**

**NeighbourCare on 332424 or 423855**

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It gave his name. They had said how many were killed, personally I think that many were never found that were only working in the area and did not live there, this was common at the time. "The Silvertown Explosion" the ISBN (ISBN O-7524-3053-X) by Graham Hill and David Block. Going back on traditional life and the way we conduct ourselves stems from family tradition. The way you act if a friend or relative come to visit. A simple please and no thank you. These are the things that are now going out of families. Kids tend to come home shoes one way, bag tossed and coat thrown over a chair. They sit down, on goes the TV and that's it. You may be lucky to get a grunt out of them now and then. Eat food at the table. What's a table? I have my TV in the bedroom so they put it on. Try if you are lucky enough to get it out before they grab the plate and are gone into the depth of mess spread around the bedrooms. Why don't they sit and talk nowadays? Her Indoors gets home I make her hang her coat up clean her shoes, sit in the same room as me, then we chat about her day. Families need to bring back the family traditions in life because that way children's lives can have the discipline needed for them to move forward in it.

The Old Codger and Her Indoors are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their latest grandson George 11lb 2ozs. Congratulations to Mum & Dad, a welcome addition to our family. *The Old Codger*



### Shetland Road Sale by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

The land at Carpenters Down, Basingstoke was originally acquired in 1976 as a possible site for a second fire station to serve Basingstoke and the surrounding area. At that time, it was envisaged that plans for the major development at Chineham might lead to an operational demand for firefighting and rescue resources to be located in the north-east of Basingstoke. This was based mainly on the assumption that the resources based at the existing fire station at West Ham Close (on the western side of the town) would eventually become stretched both in terms of increased numbers of incidents and also in terms of potentially unacceptable response times to the north-east of the town.

Back in October 2001, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority considered a feasibility report on the potential to build a new fire station on the site and this was to be the subject of a detailed project appraisal to the Authority as soon as it was considered possible to include the scheme in a future capital programme. In the event, this was not pursued and the Authority embarked instead on an initiative involving a trial to relocate a pumping appliance and crew at the Popley Fields Community Centre (close to the Carpenters Down site) from 1500 hrs to 2200 hrs during the working week. This arrangement has been in place since April 2005, and it has demonstrated that deploying a pump and crew in the Popley area achieves only a marginal improvement in overall response standards. Their main benefit derived from the community safety activities that were undertaken from the Community Centre.

It was therefore considered that the retention of the site can no longer be justified on operational grounds. It is most unlikely that it would be capable of facilitating any longer-term aims to improve emergency cover in Basingstoke and the surrounding area. The Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority therefore declared the site surplus to operational requirements and agreed that it should be sold.



We are desperate for U11's players, especially those who are keen and reliable. We have got use of the new Everest Community School Junior football pitch, and it doesn't seem as if any year 6's are interested in using it. What a waste. It doesn't matter what area of Popley you live in, we train at Marnel and play at Everest, which keeps some people happy, I hope. And keeps them from moaning about activities being held down this end of Popley.

Any info on any of our age groups, please contact the managers underlined.

M.F.C Popley Dynamos U7's

Justin Taylor: 07876684981

M.F.C Popley Spurs U8's

Kevin Rush: 07951228754

M.F.C Popley Tornadoes/Whirlwinds U9's

Lee Austen: 07810444995 Dave Wombwell: 07982875870

M.F.C Popley Renegades/Hurricanes U10's

Danny Oates: 07765341679

M.F.C Popley U11's

Adam Gouldthorpe: 07796922005



Any info contact lee on: 07811167791 or 01256332124

***mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk***



## Green Bowling - That's for the Elderly People, isn't it ???

Well! We at Marnell Bowling Club are here to prove it is not, our club was started in 1988 under the name of De La Rue. We became Marnell in 1993 since then we have gone from strength to strength. We have a modern clubhouse, complete with a very reasonably priced bar. The clubhouse was funded by The Lottery Fund, Hampshire CC, Basingstoke & Deane BC, The Foundation for Sports & Art and of course, plenty of Members and local donations. Our Membership numbers continue to grow, we now have bowlers aged from 12 to 85, who enjoy the facilities of the clubhouse, and the excellent bowling green. We also have Flood lights, which we use in darker evenings. Some of our members even represent the county, we also have social functions organised during the year.

Now is your chance to join a friendly social & sporting club to play in various leagues, competitions & friendlies, all against equally enthusiastic bowlers in the area. One of our most popular events is our candlelight evening match, held at the end of the season, where we really do bowl by candlelight in the dark, it has to be seen to be believed. During the winter Month's, we also play Shortmat Bowls in the clubhouse. There are leagues and Competitions giving us all an outlet for those winter blues

### **Interested In Bowling (Green Bowling)**

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## Diaries from The Old Codger



Well readers I may have sounded a bit strange in the way I wrote The Old Codger last month. I was (ok I am going round the bend before any of you say it) The truth is, little did I know that I was on the verge of yet another stroke. This time it left me partially paralysed and very weak on my right hand side. I don't what triggered it. I have put it down to Her Indoors. She keeps spending my money, not only on herself but our newest member to the family, baby George. What a great name that is! Well it's got to be, after all it goes back six generations in my family. I hope it will be carried on in the same tradition in following generations.

Talking of traditions, how many of you can go back in time and remember the milk carts that would come up your road in the mornings? You went out with your jug and he would fill it up straight from the churn. He would bring the milk round from the farms, "pasteurised", what was that? "Sterilization-" never heard of it. What the cow gave, you drank\_ wonderful and fresh. No cows fed on junk food. We feed our kids today junk food and the governments say its bad for you. We now call a lot of our foods free range or organic. In my day organic is what you got out of the waste of horses, cows, chickens and so on., t was spread on the veg patches. Now they are going back to this old way but charging the earth for the products. Don't get me wrong, Her Indoors goes to the farm shop we know, and buys all our meat and other other products from them. Mainly because it is different and, it is not that much dearer than the bigger shops. Just one other tradition in foods I used to love, and that was the good old pie and liquor shops in London, or the Cockles and Whelk stands outside the pubs. Well that's enough about grub.

Not long ago I had an email from one of the readers asking about the Silvertown Explosion in the East End. There is a good book out on it and it is well worth a read. In 1917 a munitions factory was started up by the docks in a caustic soda plant. It was very close to the dense rows of houses and other factories. Near where it was were flour, oil, varnish, wood, and a load of other chemicals left around. A disaster waiting to happen. Lord Moulton at the time asked for the factory to turn it into a TNT purification plant and from that day the whole of the East End was doomed. On January 19<sup>th</sup> 1917 at 6.20 pm the melt pot exploded causing a chain reaction. The explosion could be heard all over London and the fire that followed could be seen as far away as Brighton. The blast damaged between 60,000 and 70,000 homes it was a wonder that more people were not killed. Luckily as it was a Friday night most people had left the works to go home. Only seventy-three people lost their lives. Several hundred people were injured and some were very bad. Now at this point I would like to show how people from the East End and across this country of ours can, and do, start to organise themselves in times of need. Within hours of its aftermath, centres were set up. People were being fed, clothes were arriving from all over the country to help people that had lost every thing they owned. They found schools for children in the countryside, and the council in the area started to help with finances for those that had no homes. Over the next few weeks the homes had been cleared and building started on rebuilding a very large community. The thought of this back then must have been immense but they were true to each other no one went with out. It is just a point I wanted to again go over because of this ladies email. I sent her an email back, but then received one from her again asking if I could find out was it true her grandfather was one of the people killed. I was happy in one way that I could tell her. I found his name amongst the people killed in the book.



# Sherbourne St Johns Parish Council

Following the recent spate of power cuts the PC were told by Southern Electric that the problem was caused by a cracked insulator and had now been fixed. We then had multiple power cuts during the night of 29 January and the loss of power for several hours during 31 January, affecting Bramley, Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne and parts of Popley. The Parish Council has been in contact with the power supplier Scottish Electric again for an explanation and have also suggested that a rebate on our bills would be appropriate. No response to that so far!

New proposals for the development of the Aldermaston Triangle site in front of the hospital have been presented to the Parish Council Planning Committee by the consultants responsible for the development. These are revised plans following comments received on the original application made early last year. It was pleasing to note that nearly all of the objections and observations we made to the original application seem to have been addressed in this revised plan. Whilst there is still going to be a total of 311 apartments (40% “affordable”) plus a 50 bedroom hotel and restaurant, the revised plan provides much more open space and play areas within the site, well defined boundaries and better pedestrian access. This will probably lead to a new formal planning application being made later this year with further opportunities for comment available then.

The PC is considering whether it is appropriate, or possible, to install some sort of lighting along Church Path. This would be something not too visually intrusive, maybe timed so that they are not on all night. We would welcome any comment, for or against, you may wish to make.

A number of people have commented about the loss of recycling facilities from the Village Hall. Please see the statement below from the Parish Council regarding the bottle banks. We will endeavor to get facilities reinstated once suitable alternatives can be found.

Web site: [www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk)  
Rodney Earthrowl

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\*Figures based on shared ownership at 50% share of a studio flat priced at £92,000 with a 100% repayment mortgage over 25 years from The West of England Shared Ownership Scheme. This figure includes rent at £26.30 per month and service charge of £8.40 per month.

## Basingstoke holds first ever Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting

Basingstoke had its first ever Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting on Wednesday 30 January for the community in Popley.

The panel, known locally as the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team (PSNT), gives local residents the chance to highlight and discuss the issues that matter most to them. They can also find out what their police Safer Neighbourhoods Team is doing to address them.

The meeting was attended by Community Wardens, Police Officers, Hampshire County Councillor, two borough councillors, a local vicar and head teacher, Sentinel, Basingstoke and Deane officers, community leaders and local residents.

First up, the panel voted on which issues to prioritise for the first quarter of the year. They decided on:

- General nuisance caused by youths;
- Anti-social behaviour around Abbey Road stores; and
- Providing more facilities for young people.

The police Safer Neighbourhoods Team will now work with the community to tackle these core issues, alongside many others that have been raised.

PC Dan Carter, Beat Manager for Popley West and chair of the PSNT said, "The evening was well attended and a great success. It was a great opportunity for people who live in Popley to have their say on the issues that matter most to them."

The next PSNT meeting for Popley is being held on Friday 28 March where results of the team's work for the first quarter will be discussed. The panel will also vote on the new priorities for April to June.

PC Carter continued, "Many of the issues raised at the first PSNT meeting were things people in the community have already been telling me about, either through street meetings, community meetings, word of mouth or emails.

"Members of the public can contact anyone from the PSNT to discuss issues they'd like the panel to take part in. I would stress though that any instances of crime should be reported in the usual way."

Details of the meeting will be published on the Beat Page of the Hampshire Constabulary website, [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk), as well as in the local newspaper and on the Popley Matters website, [www.popleymatters.co.uk](http://www.popleymatters.co.uk).

If there are any issues you would like to raise with the Safer Neighbourhood Panel, you can contact PC Carter on 0845 045 45 45 or email [basingstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:basingstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk).



### A340 Improvements and Merton Rise Access

Carillion Regional Civil Engineering, the contractor for the A340 Improvements and Merton Rise Access works, has now mobilised and set up their site offices. Their programme indicates that works will be carried out in three distinct phases, namely the A340 Aldermaston Road, the Aldermaston Road Roundabout and Merton Rise.

The first phase is programmed to start week commencing 28 January for a period of approximately 6 months. A temporary carriageway widening of a short length along the A340 Aldermaston Road will take place during the first two weeks. The widening will enable to maintain single lane traffic flow in each direction for the rest of the construction period. This widening work will be carried out during off peak periods and requires the use of a temporary traffic control measure.

Works to the centre island of the Roundabout will coincide with the above work and anticipated to involve no traffic lane restriction. All other works associated with the Roundabout circulatory carriageway and approach roads will take place between September and November 2008. No significant disruption to traffic is anticipated as a result of this work.

The third phase consists of the construction of Merton Rise Access Road between the A340 and Sherborne Road. This work is scheduled from March to November 2008 and will cause no disruption to passing traffic on the A334 Aldermaston Road.

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FREE admission, all welcome

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down, Basingstoke

10am till 2.30pm.

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