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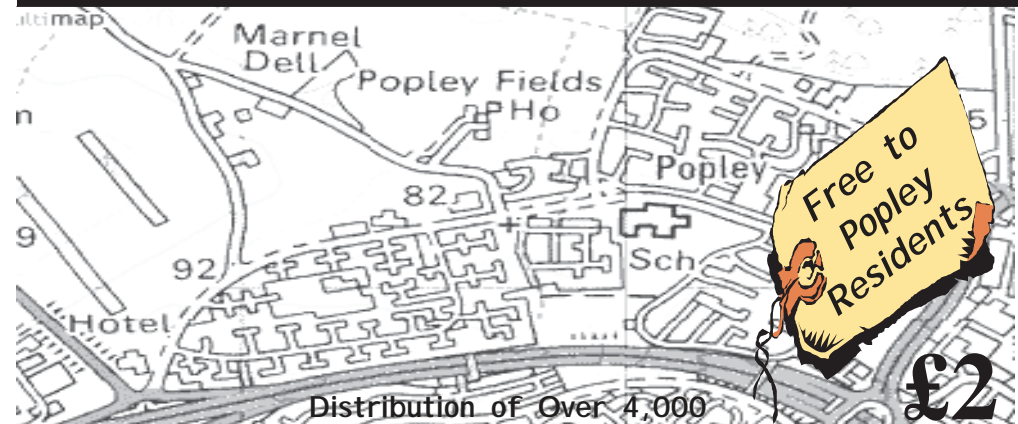
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

July 2008

Issue 77



**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 (20-07-08)



Editor Jane Frankum

**Message From the Editor:-** There is so much going on in and around Popley that we wondered how we were going to fit all the news and articles in this issue. Sorry to the people that we have not been able to include, we will carry their articles and letters over to the August issue. Unfortunately we can't make the magazine any larger or longer as we are constrained by how many advertisements we get. We have to have enough to cover the printing and stationery costs, all else is done voluntarily. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who do a wonderful job, but we are having difficulty with getting

enough volunteers for delivery especially since the massive new developments. If there are any more willing volunteers please call Iris King on 411113, or Jane or Paul Frankum on 819924. We would be delighted to hear from you.

I have a dream, a dream that is nearly 40 years old, one that over the years I have said in this magazine in letters to the council and to the press. A dream that at long last is coming true. What is that dream? Read about it on page 1. There is at last public consultation on a "New Park For Popley". Please come to the Melrose Hall and say what you would like to see in our Popley Family Park.

In the centre pages for the new "neighbours" in the new developments there is an introduction to your Parish Councillors in Sherborne St John, though of course you are in the Borough ward of Popley too. The parish precept (the extra council tax you pay) is spent by Sherborne St John Councillors. To find out more, why not attend one of the regular monthly meetings held in the Sherborne St John Village Hall? I am sure you will be made welcome.

There are articles on the progress of the new Pebbles Sure Start on page 13 and from Julie Rose, Head of Everest Community College on page 22. If you want to know what is happening next in Basing Wood try page 25. Read page 10 for those of us that are frustrated by the holes left by the utilities.

Next month there should be more up to date news on; the Maldive and Faroe regeneration. Also the piece of land owned by the Hampshire Fire Authority; and from the consultations on Aldermaston Open Space and Basing Wood.



Sub Editor Paul Frankum

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.

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**Youth Volunteers:** Joseph Doran

**More Volunteers Welcome**

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# Simone's Column

Hello again, I was talking with my mum the other day and she told me that she has a worrying concern about children crossing at the end of Shakespeare Road. Every day she drives past and she sees young kids standing right at the edge of the curb, and she fears that soon someone is going to have a serious accident. Another worry is that buses drive incredibly fast along this road every day, which makes it so much more dangerous, especially for little children. So she asks that parents who cross this road with their young ones, "Could you please keep them back from the curb until it is safe to cross".

I thought that I would say good luck to all of the new Year 7's that will be starting secondary school, especially at Everest Community College in September, one of them being my sister. I know this can be a daunting time, but seriously it really isn't that bad. I know lots of you will probably be worried about getting lost or meeting new people but although the older pupils in higher year groups may seem intimidating at first, there will always be older students that will help you, and your tutors are really great for helping you with any questions or worries that you have. So I hope you all

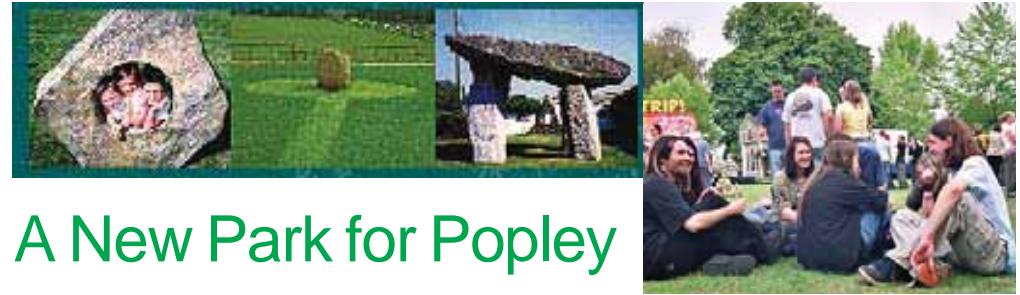


enjoy moving up a year, exploring a new school and making new friends.

On Sunday 22 June the race for life event is taking place at Down Grange so I would like to wish everyone who is taking part the best of luck. I hope that they all raise lots of money as this is all for a really good cause and I really hope that they reach their fundraising target of £226,000 and even go over. This target as every year so many people take part and put all their effort into helping support this very important charity. It is too late for any other applicants but it is something that I would love to do, so I think next year I will go and take part because although it is for a good cause it seems like a load of fun!



Thanks again for reading my articles and that's all from me this month, but don't forget that I am open to all suggestions to write about. Thanks again and don't forget next month's!!!



## A New Park for Popley

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is currently drawing up plans for the improvement of Aldermaston Road Open Space with the aim of providing a 'Neighbourhood Park' for Popley.

Improvements to the space have been made possible by funding provided by the developers of Merton Rise towards improvement of local community facilities.

Consultants for the council have produced some ideas for the park and would like to know your views. We know that many people in Popley will have views on the type of improvements they would like to see and this is your opportunity to share them. The aim of the park is to provide a link between the old Popley community and the new residents of Merton Rise, by providing an opportunity for people to both meet and relax.

The proposals will be on display at Melrose Hall on Wednesday 9 July from 1pm to 6pm and on Thursday 10 July from 1pm to 8pm. Please come along to get more information and talk to the consultants directly.



For further information contact Margaret McGrath, Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer, on 01256 845407 or email [margaret.mcgrath@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.mcgrath@basingstoke.gov.uk).



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What are you doing over the summer?

# GET WITH...

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Summer has arrived and we have been very busy here at the hall. Thank you to everyone who attended our Summer Fete. We raised £200 for the upkeep of the hall and £35 from the plant sale, which will be used for our garden improvement project. I hope you all had a good time and got yourselves plenty of bargains.

We have entered our garden into the "Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Award" competition. Judging will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> July, so if you can spare a little time to help with planting, digging, weeding, watering or litter picking either on the morning of the competition or before, all help will be greatly appreciated.

Our NHS Quit Smoking drop in clinic has doubled its hours! It is now open from 9.00am - 11.00am on a Wednesday morning, no appointment is necessary.

At this year's Popley Festival there was a stall which included The Willis Museum, Chineham Park School, and a display of 40 years of Popley. This was the start of a year long project to promote and record views and comments from the people of Popley, as seen through their eyes. Popley is just over 40 years old from the first house being built to today's buildings. Over 270 people visited the stall to view and comment and take part on the day. However I forgot to get people to leave their details to say who they were and that they had attended on the day. This information is needed to achieve more funding for future events. So, if you visited the stall please could you phone me on 01256 410992 so that I can phone you back and fill in a simple form over the phone. It should only take a couple of minutes of your time but could make all the difference to next year's funding.

Thank you, Louise.

Whats on at Melrose Hall

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30am-12pm 7.30pm-10.00pm	Friendly Café Peregrine Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	4.00pm-7.30pm 8.30am-3.00pm	Petite School of Dance Marnel Early Years
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	10.00am-11.30am 9.00am-11.00am 12noon-2pm 7.15pm - 9.00pm	Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group Quit Smoking Clinic Oasis Lunch club Slimming World
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30am-12PM	Friendly Café
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	6.00pm-7.45pm 8.00pm- 9.15pm	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years age 11 plus.
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	9.00am-12.30pm	Petite School of Dance
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.	

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, and Conferences. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.

# You are warmly invited to Worship with us

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**Councillors Page:** Many of our residents would have seen or read in the press about "failing schools" and noted that John Hunt (Now Everest College) was on that list. The league table does not show the improvements being made and it hardly gives the students and staff a chance for a school that has not even been open for one school year. Progress is being made and the students and staff have been working exceptionally hard together. I will do all I can to support the school and hope that we as a great Popley community will back and support the staff and the students to move forward with the education that is so vital for the future.

The Fire and Rescue land is still out to tender and as soon as I possibly can I will let you know what is happening there. I have made no secret that multi storey flats are not an option that I can support, and I will fight against any planning application that includes them. We need bungalows, houses with gardens, nursing homes or even some shops. All would be better than cramming even more flats that are just not wanted or needed.

I am on the board of the Pebbles Centre and am very pleased with the progress so far. After much complaining about the utilities seeming to be doing nothing and the holes being left for months I have received an update and apology. The full reply is reported on page 10. Jane Frankum County Councillor 819924 [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk)

**Popley West:** I hope that many Popley residents, old and new, will come to the public consultation on the new park at Aldermaston Open Space. This is a one off opportunity to get a fantastic family park that all generations can enjoy. It will be funded by developer money that has specially been put by for leisure facilities. We are also working towards getting some of the funding for the play areas in Abbey Road and Tintern Close. We have also asked for something as we enter Popley at both ends to show this is a residential area and not a rat run for non Popley traffic. We have also asked for a safe crossing for the residents of Magnolia and Abbey Court. The final word though is with you the residents which is why we are having the consultation. Full times and details are on page one. There will be further consultation and meetings on how to spend the developer money for Popley West. Please take care when driving on the Aldermaston Road roundabout. The markings have changed because vehicles were getting cut up on the roundabout. We were victims of this on one Monday and the driver stopped his car got out and waved his fist and was very threatening. You may have noticed some people on Popley Way a couple of weeks ago. This is part of the consultation to get the speed reduced in Popley Way and Carpenters Down. Paul Frankum Popley West 472496 [paul.frankum@basingsstoke.gov.uk](mailto:paul.frankum@basingsstoke.gov.uk)

**Popley East.** June has been a very busy month dominated by Longfellow Parade and Faroe/Maldives Close. There have been problems at Longfellow with lorries accessing the Phase 2 site, and with utility contractors digging up paths, then going away and leaving them mid-job, with no guaranteed resumption date. Our thanks to all of you for being so patient.

Residents have raised concerns about the Faroe/Maldives scheme, mainly the car park by the shops, the loading bay, green space, and through traffic. We've had two residents' meetings with Sentinel, and on June 10 Mary and I met the Chief Executive. This meeting was more productive - they are considering changes to the shops area but nothing is costed or finalised yet. The scheme will be in several phases, with the Maldives Road flats coming down in early 2009, and Faroe Close about a year later, with the work round the shops left until last. Any changes will require a second planning application. We expect the first one to be heard on August 20th. Elsewhere, the Sure Start Centre is now up at Chineham Park Primary School and work is progressing well extending Marnel Infants and Juniors. Andy McCormick Popley East

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“What are your children doing over the summer?”

Well from Monday 28th July right up until 22nd August Sentinel Housing along with Hampshire Constabulary, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Everest Community College and Hampshire County Council have decided to launch POPLEY’S first “Get With” scheme.

The Get With scheme which was set up a few years back by Sentinel Housing has recently enjoyed great success in areas such as Fleet. The activities which are aimed at youths between the ages of 11 and 16 cater for a wide variety of people. The activities vary from “body combat, archery, power kiting and cycling skills right through to nail art and dancing. Why not chill out at the inflatable beach party or get involved with hair braiding and body massages? For the musicians out there or simply the ones who just want to try, why not spin your hand and have a go on the fully set up DJ workshop. PCSO Phil Rapley and PCSO Steve Smith will also be running a football league on each Monday the “Get With” scheme is running over. All these activities take place over the summer holidays to keep everyone busy and entertained.

If any of this sounds interesting then please text your name and address to 0750 050 3865 for more information. Please note that the events and activities will be limited access and will be on a strictly first come first serve basis so arrive early to avoid disappointment.

All the events will be professionally run and organised and all of the involved agencies are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the youths involved. Bottled water is to be provided but we strongly suggest bringing a packed lunch with you.

All of the fun takes place Mon-Fri at Everest Community College with the first event, The Hampshire Constabulary Football League starting at 11:00 on July 28th.

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Charity number 267734

[www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk)

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 - Jan or Pete Saunders 01256 410514



The Air Scout Group has been registered since April 1978. It 'sprang' from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Basingstoke (Basingstoke Air Scouts) which opened in 1976 when it became too large to continue as one group and at one time met in Oakridge Methodist Church Hall. The group moved to Carpenters Down in 1977 having erected a wooden hut as its own very first Headquarters. Sadly, the first hut was burnt to the ground in 1984. Not to be deterred, the leaders found another hut and after a lot of hard work the group had its own Headquarters once more! By the mid 1990's the hut was way past its lifespan and the Group embarked on a new building project. It took five years to raise sufficient funds and obtain planning permission. The building cost £164,000; £64,000 was donated by the National Lottery Charities Fund; Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council donated £25,000 and Hampshire County Council £7,000. The Group itself raised over £65,000 to fulfil its dream. The remainder of the money came from charitable trusts and donations from local companies. Base 2000 was formally opened by Wing Commander D.Prowse, accompanied by the Group Scout Leader (Jan Saunders) and the Group Chairman (Ken Lane) in May 2001.

Today the Air Scouts have a Headquarters of which they are justly proud. It is used every day by a variety of community users and can be hired for private functions, meetings and fund-raising events subject to availability. Booking enquiries should be made to Pete or Jan Saunders on (01256) 410514 or [base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com](mailto:base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com). Hire rates start at £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall.

Over the years the air activity content of the programme within the Group has had to diminish due to increasing restrictions with regard to young people having access to flight aprons, airfields and aerodromes. Programmes still have a leaning towards flight and flying but the Group also offers the full range of badges and challenges to its members, and was unique in 2007 when every single member of the Group achieved the Environmental Challenge Award.

Recently, all sections enjoyed the Tri-District Scout Activity Day in June. Radar Speed Shot and inflatable Goalie proved very popular; the Climbing Towers, Batak, a 6-lane Scalextric track, circus skills and archery were fun and there were lots of other things to try out. Some members had a go on the 'zip line' even though it was a bit scary whizzing at alarming speed down the line! Arena events included falconry flying, martial arts and a tug-of-war competition..

The Colony will visit Moors Valley Country Park on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and the Cub leaders are hoping to arrange a Pack Camp near Reading in July/August in a Scout Headquarters not far from 'Douglas Bader country'. The Scouts section are going to Buddens in Dorset for summer camp. The annual meeting for parents will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July at 6.30 p.m. in Base 2000.

New recruits are welcome and we have vacancies in all three sections. Simply come along to Base 2000 and speak with the Section Leader or give them a ring to discuss the opportunities. All sections are open to both boys and girls. Membership fees are £1.50 per week which can be paid termly in advance if preferred.



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**If you have a few hours a week to spare and you have parenting experience or a proven interest in supporting parents with young children, give us a call to find out more.**

**Our next Volunteer Preparation Course will be run in Basingstoke in January 2009**

**Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.  
This voluntary work is unpaid but is highly rewarding.  
YOU can make a difference to someone's life.**

**We are also looking to set up a Friends of Home-Start group whose main role will be to organise 2 or 3 fundraising events throughout the year. Perhaps you would like to help us with this.**

**HOME-START NORTH-WEST HAMPSHIRE**

**Suite 20, Hart House, Priestley Road,  
Basingstoke RG24 9PU.**

**Tel: 01256 812333**

**Email: [homestart-nwhants@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:homestart-nwhants@tiscali.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk](http://www.homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk)**





## Cycle Safety On The Road.

Cycling is a fun, convenient and healthy way to get around - but if you don't follow basic safety guidelines you could end up a statistic:

- ⊙ In 2004 over 3,500 young cyclists aged 11-16 were killed or injured in the UK.
  - 90% occur in urban areas.
  - 75% happen at, or near, a junction.
  - 80% occur in daylight.
  - 80% of cyclist casualties are male.
  - About one third of the cyclists killed or injured are children.
  - Around three quarters of cyclists killed due to major head injuries.

Before you go out on the roads, stop and THINK! Here are a few basic safety tips that can help you stay out of trouble:

- First and foremost, wear a helmet.
- Get trained and keep control.
- Be seen and heard.
- Check/maintain your bike regularly.
- Be alert and plan your route.
- Stay legal.

An experienced trainer can help you get the best from your bike and the road. They know the dangers and how best to avoid them. They can also help you become safer and more confident when cycling in traffic, what's the best gear to wear, and how to check and maintain your bike.

Useful contact points and further information:

RoSPA website: [www.rospace.com](http://www.rospace.com)  
 Cycle Sense website: [www.cyclesense.net](http://www.cyclesense.net)  
 Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)  
 Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809  
 Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)



The Vyne Community School offers a wide range of community activities:



Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities - Netball, Football, Badminton courts  
 Halls & Rooms for Hire - meetings, parties, community groups  
 Fitness Studio - no membership fee, monthly or casual use  
 Dance Studio - sprung floor, mirrors.

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 & EVERY SATURDAY 2.00-5.00 pm  
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24<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
 £16 to 3:30pm / £19 to 5pm / £21 to 6pm  
 Arts & Crafts / Fun activities / Games Opens 8.30 am 5 - 14 yrs  
**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB** to 6pm term-time £8



**Adult & Leisure Learning: New courses w/c 21 September.** British Sign Language 1 & 2, Life Figure, Wood Carving, City & Guilds Floristry, Introduction to Floristry, Garden Design, Digital Photography, Guitar, Ballroom & Latin America, Dancing, Yoga, Tai Chi, Street Jazz, and more. **Family Learning and Parenting** courses include; English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Getting Back to Work, FEAT, Messy Play, Learning through Play and more.



For more information please contact the Community Office.  
 Tel: 01256 407037 Email: [community@vyne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:community@vyne.hants.sch.uk) [www.vynearts.com](http://www.vynearts.com)  
 (community)



The Vyne Community School, Vyne Road, Basingstoke, RG21 5PB.

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## Julie's Gardening Tips

All the forecasts are predicting a wet Summer. This doesn't mean we can just let the garden get on with it though, as too much water can do as much damage as too little. Some plants cope better with lack of water than others, but most will suffer if over watered. Make sure all your pots have holes in the bottom to allow the excess water to drain away to prevent this problem. If you are growing tomatoes outside, they need a consistent water supply to develop the fruits. Don't let them dry out between watering and rainfall or they will lose flavour and can have tough skins.

The sole purpose of all plants is to reproduce. Flowers then fruits or seed heads are what the plant has to make to do this. Once the seed heads and fruits are formed, they need to ripen off and then often the parent plant will die off. To keep your plants producing fruit and flowers for a longer season, pick them regularly. It only takes a couple of bean pods to swell and ripen for the plant to die off, but if you stop them from getting to that point, the plant will continue to produce while the conditions are right. Beans can be picked every other day and either cooked or frozen for future use, and the plant will merrily throw out more and more beans. Of course I am sure your family and friends wouldn't say 'no' to some fresh home-grown produce if you have a glut. Roses also benefit from dead-heading, and apart from preventing the mess of dropped petals, you may well find that they will have another flush of flowers later in the year, giving you value for money!

The same applies to flowering bedding plants. If you snip off the dead heads it will encourage the plant to produce more. If we do happen to have a few days of persistent rain, check for mould at the base of the plant as it will spread rapidly in warm wet weather and completely rot the plant in a matter of days. If you do see mould developing, clear out any dead flowers and foliage and cut off the rotten bits as best you can. If necessary take the whole plant out and throw it in the dustbin. Sometimes we get carried away and plant bedding plants too close together. This encourages these moulds as under the leaf canopy is a mini greenhouse keeping the air damp and warm – just the right conditions for moulds. Planting them further apart allows air circulation and discourages mould and mildew.

Feed your plants once they start to flower. This includes flowering vegetables like tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. They will produce more fruit and have a longer picking season.

Weeds are the biggest bane of any gardeners' life. While the conditions are right for the plants we want, they are also right for the plants we don't want. They will merrily reproduce at a rapid rate during the summer months. While they are tiny they have tiny root systems, making it easier to pull them out. If the soil is damp, that will also help. Once a week put some time aside to keep control of them and pull them out. Throw them in the compost bin to rot down. The only exceptions to this are creeping weeds like bindweed, which you should either burn or throw in the dustbin. The roots of bindweed are very pale and crisp in texture. They form a mat just under the surface of the soil if given the opportunity, and the smallest piece left in the soil will re-grow, so it needs to be carefully removed and disposed of. Bindweed, if left unchecked, will strangle plants above the ground, and starve them from under ground.

Feel free to contact the Editor if you have any garden tips or advice that you would like to share with us. We would also like to hear about any successes or failures no matter how big or small!



# What's happening in Basing Wood?

Also known locally as Carpenter's Down Wood

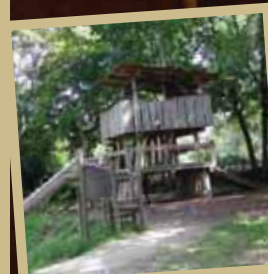


## What Next?

A feed back and discussion session will take place

at Popley Fields Community Centre  
Carpenters Down

on Tuesday 15th July 2008  
starting promptly at 7.30 – 8.30pm





Dear Friends

I'm writing this while watching one of the quarter final matches in the Euro 2008 Football Tournament, Croatia vs. Turkey. It's an engaging match and throughout the tournament there has been some quality football which could only have improved had England qualified!

I was watching a game last week and I was struck by how many of the supporters were dressed in the most ridiculous outfits, how many of them had painted their faces or dyed their hair in their team's colours and how they competed with each to sing their national anthem the loudest with their hands placed on their chests over their hearts. It was a display of real passion, repeated over many games.

Again, earlier on the news they were reporting on the thousands of people gathering around Stonehenge for the Summer Solstice. People were all dressed up, dancing around and generally getting ready to celebrate this ancient pagan festival.

What is that stirs our passion for such things as sport or other gatherings? It may well be that we are keen supporters of the glorious game but is there something else, I wonder, going on at a deeper level! Being in a large group who are sharing something in common generates a sense of belonging and I believe that at some level this is the desire of all of us – to belong! It's reflected in our culture by things like fashion for example. Who hasn't heard their teenagers (even younger these days) asking for this or that brand of sportswear or mp3 player or whatever. Adults too – we join clubs or buy particular things because of their association with belonging, being included rather than excluded.

Where does this urge to belong come from? I suppose if I was a supporter of Darwin's theories I might say it's an inherited pack or herd instinct! But I'm not! I believe that God created us to be in community with one another. The Bible tells us that when God created the Garden of Eden and placed Adam in it, even though Adam had all he could need he was still lonely and so God created a companion for him in Eve. God created us to be in community but that also brings with it responsibility. The Bible also tells us we are to look out for, and care for each other.

One of things I love about Popley is the strong sense of community and common identity – it makes us who we are! When we fail to care for the frail, the weak or the vulnerable in our community or when we ignore the needs of others and put ourselves first the truth is we gain nothing and diminish the whole community. You may not feel that you are a Christian or a churchgoer but we still have a God given responsibility to care. The Bible says 'Love God with all your heart and love your neighbour as yourself. Food for thought in these uncertain times.

Be blessed this summer and lookout for your neighbours.

Your friend and vicar  
Rev. Arthur.

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## ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR NHS CARE?

Have you heard about ICAS - the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service?

ICAS has been commissioned by the Department of Health to provide confidential advocacy support service that is completely independent of the NHS. This service is open to anyone who wishes to make a complaint about aspects of his or her NHS care and treatment, whether from a GP, dentist, hospital or primary care trust, mental health/learning disability trust or ambulance service.

ICAS has been established to support patients, or relatives and carers on their behalf. It aims to ensure people have access to the support they need to articulate their concerns and navigate the complaints system, therefore maximizing the chances of their complaint being resolved quickly and effectively. The quality of health services should improve as a result.

ICAS is a client led service, delivering support ranging from the provision of a Self Help Pack, through to the assignment of an advocate who will work with the client focusing directly on helping with the complaints process.

ICAS cannot be involved in disciplinary matters or in any claim for compensation but we can signpost to relevant agencies.

If you would like to know more about this type of support or would like to speak to an advocate about our service then please ring us on 01256 463758 or look on our website at [www.seap.org.uk](http://www.seap.org.uk).

## On going works in Popley

'As you may be aware, Skanska McNicholas (working on behalf of Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution) is installing two 132,000 Volt electric cable circuits from Bramley to Basingstoke sub-stations. This cable scheme is essential in providing a secure, reliable electricity supply and in reinforcing the existing network to meet the increasing demand for electricity in the region.

During the course of the works, engineering difficulties have caused delays to the original programme and this has resulted in an apparent lack of activity in some areas, most notably in Popley. Skanska McNicholas and SSEPD would like to apologise to residents for any inconvenience this might have caused and to thank you for your patience. We would also like to reassure residents that work will begin again on the first cable circuit in Carpenters Down, Shetland Road and Popley Way by the end of June and is due for completion by the end of August. Work on the second cable circuit can then begin, with completion scheduled for November.

Again, we would like to thank residents for their patience and co-operation whilst these essential works are completed, and would assure you that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the public with the minimum inconvenience.'



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### Important Customer Notice

Kindly inform us of any food allergies prior to ordering your meal  
Some of our food may contain ingredients produced from GM Soya and/or Maize  
Menu's Available at <http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/Adverts/Peters.pdf>



## Everest Community College is a Successful School!!

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, the Government published a list of schools which it claimed were failing to meet Government targets. Everest Community College was on that list. I would like to share with you, the people of Popley, my views about this situation.

First of all I would like to make it very clear that I fully support any measures to eradicate failure in schools. Our aim as teachers is to enable all students to achieve to the best of their abilities; this is essential if our young people are to make the most of their opportunities in today's world. In the last eighteen months at Everest Community College, there has been a transformational change.

Ofsted judged the leadership, management and curriculum provision as good with outstanding features. It recognised that substantial progress had already been made and was impressed by the strategies that we have put in place to ensure that this continues in the coming years. Other nationally available data upon which school performance is judged, Contextual Value Added, also acknowledged the contribution that we are making to the education of our students. Therefore, with one exception, all measures of school effectiveness indicate that Everest Community College is not only thriving and successful, but is extremely well placed to become a centre of educational excellence in the near future.

We will now use the opportunity of being a national challenge school to continue building sustainability and consistency within our teaching and learning.

You as parents and members of the local community recognise the changes that have taken place in the past year. Numbers of students are rising and the overwhelming majority of students and families are proud to belong to the College. As one parent commented recently 'Everest has made Popley proud again.' With your ongoing support, Everest Community College will go from strength to strength and will strive to continue to deliver a first class education to all students from the local community. *Julie Rose, Headteacher, Everest Community College*

## Roman House Members visit Everest Community College

Four members of Roman House and their helpers visited Everest Community College on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The visit was arranged by a parent of one of our students. The group arrived before break and enjoyed tea, coffee and snacks in the Summit Café. When the bell rang at 10.55, they were surrounded by many interested students, who sat and chatted with the visitors and excitedly attached Scope badges and stickers to their uniforms. After break, the party was taken on a guided tour of the College, using lifts to move between floors, after which they spent some time outside admiring the grounds and the sculptures. There was great interaction between members of the Student Council and the visitors - visitors commented on how different schools looked since their day and regaled students with stories of their time at school. Some of our students were so inspired by the visitors that they asked about the possibility of voluntary work with Scope.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Popley Scout Group (Everest)

Based at St Gabriel church Group no.: 14301968 National Scout Registration Number 44826



What a fantastic day it was for the scouts to go fishing. Six scouts turned up for the day and two parent helpers. Everyone caught between three to sixteen fish. One parent is a keen fisherman and brought along his kit, he fishes by pole, this allows you to fish in the under growth, where as they say 'the big boys sit'. Every child had a go of this, to see the difference between rod and reel, to the pole, even I had a go. The girls went from squeamish too handling the fish with ease, by the end of the day, they were showing the boys up. Well done girls! They all enjoyed the day and can't wait to go again. Next time the Cubs may join them.



Last weekend the group joined others on an activity fun day, set up for them, by the three districts, Basingstoke East, West and Silchester, at Aldworth Science Collage. There were plenty of activities, from badge making to wall climbing, from Tug-of-war to Circus skills, even Punch and Judy were there. The Mayor could not resist having a go at archery. Everyone had loads of fun all day.

For the next few weeks they will be star gazing, learning all about the night sky, identifying the constellations, what make the solar system and how it works, know about man's activities in space and how the sun and moon affects the earth.

Meeting are held at St Gabriel's Church Hall, Tewkesbury Close.  
Tuesday evenings, (term time only).



Boys and Girls 6-8 yrs  
5pm - 6.15pm



Boys and Girls 8-10 1/2 yrs  
6.30pm - 8pm



Boys and Girls 10 1/2-14 1/2 yrs  
6.30pm - 9pm

For more information please contact:  
Brigitte Cleall 01256 412307, John Talks 01256 414168  
Or just pop along to any meeting.

Leaders and Helpers needed:  
Current positions available  
Beaver Leader  
And  
Beaver, Cubs and Scout Assistant

## Popley Conservation Group

### Plant a Tree

Do you ever wonder what some advertisements mean or whether those who think them up actually consider what is being said? Sometimes at first glance they seem reasonable but



on second thoughts are silly. So for instance I once saw bags of fire wood on a garage fore court, being sold as REAL WOOD. Or those advertisements that promise real country taste and freshness, whatever that may be. I can think of a few country tastes and smells I really would not like my food to imitate! But maybe I had better not go into that.

So when I saw this sign outside a nursery I just had to take a Photo.

Fear not. A little while ago two of our members planted 30 young shrubs and trees at Popley Pond supplied to us by The Woodland Trust.

So that should have sorted the solar system out. It might take a bit longer to save the universe, even for the Popley Conservation Group.



### The White Horse

There we were quietly looking around Popley Pond when we were visited by ----- a (lady) on a White Horse. As the pond is known locally as the White Horse a photo just had to be taken. Luckily we had a camera.

The new green area around Marnel Park is already

Photo by Kerry Wiggins

becoming established. Butterflies are moving in. Look out for Marbled Whites & Meadow Browns. Also there are a number of different species of dragon and damsel flies to be seen especially around the north newt under pass.

If you would like to know more about Popley Conservation Group contact Lee Roth 01256 330738

Popley Conservation Group are supported by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

## Diaries from the Old Codger



We are well into summer. Many of the birds I had in my garden last year have not returned, and that is very sad. Why? well I believe mainly because of all the new developments that are going on in the Popley area. The natural habitat has been destroyed and has not been replaced. Yes, we see small ornamental shrubs planted up and saplings but not mature trees.

It will take years to build up the habitat again. Birds need good camouflage or deep thicket bushes and plenty of berries for the winter months. These creatures have the same rights to live in harmony with us but we take and do not always give back. In return our kids on Popley, and of course elsewhere, may not see skylarks in the area again, or hares in the fields. This is progress? Yes we all know our young need homes but the environmentalists do not ensure the creatures do. When I was small my Granddad, Dad, Uncle and I would go over Hackney Marshes. The amount of birds you would see when walking and sitting there! Every kind of finch, bright colours would be on the teasel heads picking out the seeds. There are only small areas left up there too now and also very few birds. The area was wild and untouched for hundreds of years.

This year, I think, I will have been writing for ten years in Popley Matters and enjoy every minute of it. I hope you enjoy reading it. This community magazine has changed over the years and I must say I like the current format. We have gone through a lot of changes in Popley over the last few years; some good, some bad. Take Her Indoors (please anyone). She still tries her best to knock me off. She works all the hours going so we can just get by in a bit of comfort. However this does take its toll on her and I do get upset over that. But like a lot of women that I know on Popley and through Popley Matters, she also stays strong willed. She is a tough old bird and I don't mean that in a nasty way. They prove to the rest of Basingstoke what a good family and community Popley is.

Till next month the Old Codger



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

**Popzone Youth Club:** This is really busy at the moment on both sessions, with between 70 and 80 young people attending over the 2 sessions, on a regular basis aged 8 to 13. Although the Youth Club is open for ages up to 18. Anyone interested should come along on a Monday night at 7.15pm.

**Family Fishing Trips:** As last year's fishing was so successful, we are hoping to arrange Family fishing trips for over the summer, where children must be accompanied by a family member, so any of you mums, dads, granddads etc who would like to have a go at fishing, please contact Derek at Popley Fields Community Centre for more information.

**Free Computer Classes** – New classes have now started again at The Popley Fields Community Centre. There will be more classes in September. Pop along to the centre to register your interest. There will be courses in Beginners Guide to Computing; Desktop Publishing with Digital Photography; Internet and email; Learn how to help your children, or yourself, by revising basic grammar (in a fun way!); Spreadsheets and Introduction to Word-processing. Also trace your family history using the internet. 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 or Popley Fields 414494. Classes are free to anyone who does not have 5 GCSEs grades A\*- C. All classes are ideal for beginners!

**Line Dancing-Wednesday Evening:** There is a beginners' line dancing class held from 6.30pm-7.30pm in the large hall. And a more advanced class from 8.00pm-10.00pm.

#### **Dynamics Baton Twirlers-Thursday Evening**

This takes place in the large hall from 5.00pm- 7.00pm

**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**

## **Pebbles: A SureStart Children's Centre**

**Help make Popley's Children's Centre successful!**

As a parent already benefiting from the services offered by Pebbles, I'm writing this to raise parental awareness of what the centre is, what it could offer families throughout Popley and how families can help make this centre work.

Many parents have heard of SureStart but don't really know what it is exactly or what it is doing within our communities. Basically SureStart is the Government's programme to deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together: early education, childcare, health and family support.

SureStart Children's Centres are being built across the UK and Pebbles is in the process of being built at Chineham Park School in Popley.

Many Popley parents remember Marnel Early Years Centre and may have benefited from the services this small facility offered. Services such as courses in literacy, behaviour management, group play sessions, crèche, toy/book library and even a shoulder to cry on.

Now imagine all that on a grander scale, in a purpose built Children's Centre, running services throughout Popley in our halls and community centres. Add in health visitors, advice for young families, family support and counselling, antenatal/postnatal services, special needs services. Oh the list could be endless! This is what Popley could have!

This is what I find so exciting and why I volunteered to be part of it as a parent member of the Interim Partnership Board (IPB), helping to establish this centre and a Parents Forum. The IPB is made up of parents, practitioners and representatives from the community and is there as an advisory body only to the centre manager. The Parents Forum is made of us, the local parents and will be a meeting place for open discussion on all matters about the centre. The Parents Forum will be central to the whole process of providing the services that our community needs most.

What Pebbles now needs are Popley parents and children. Families attending the sessions, the courses and other activities. Parents voicing their needs and issues at the Parents Forum.

Our children playing, learning and benefiting.

If you have children under the age of 5 then contact Pebbles. Get involved!

Wendy Taylor, mum of 2



Since September, babies in Basingstoke have been going MAD for MAD Academy, the latest child developmental classes for mums and their little ones. Classes give children from 3 months old the opportunity to enjoy music and movement, combining stimulating developmental activities, singing, instruments

and props in a totally relaxed and fun atmosphere!

Classes are packed full of nursery rhymes and songs babies will adore. The catchy rhythms and rhymes of the songs will soon get your babies burbling along, whilst encouraging speech development. At the same time the carefully choreographed actions will stimulate a baby's physical awareness and develop their muscle control and coordination.

Each week babies will get the chance to excite their curiosity by exploring our colourful musical instruments. There will be new and fascinating props to play with, carefully chosen to promote their natural inquisitiveness, teach them about the world around them and improve their fine and gross motor skills.

If you are interested in finding out more, call Cathy on 01256 325464 for an information pack or a chat, or visit [www.madacademy.com](http://www.madacademy.com)

### Marnel Park Mosaic Project

20 Year 7 students from Everest Community College have begun a project to design and make a mosaic that will form part of the landscape in Phase 2 of Marnel Park. The project is being run in conjunction with David Wilson Homes. The aim is for students to create a mosaic covering an area of three metres that will be located at the entrance to 'The Green' a public area of seating. The subject matter will be the protected great crested newts which are resident in this area and, due to the find of a Roman kiln locally, possibly the inclusion of imagery of Roman pottery.

Students are being assisted by an artist, Julianne Worrall Hood. She has already spent some time in College advising them about design and colours. The group have visited the site to take measurements and to think creatively about their plans and ideas. It is hoped that the mosaic will be ready for public viewing by the beginning of

September



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**Check your deposit is safe before you move out, CAB urges private tenants** Private tenants whose tenancies are coming to an end should act now to ensure their deposit is returned, Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau warned this week. The CAB is urging anyone who has given notice to their landlord, or who has been served

with a notice to quit, to check whether their deposit is protected before they move out, and to take action quickly if it is not. Since new laws on tenancy deposit protection came into force in April, all private landlords are required to protect tenants' deposits in a government-approved scheme that keeps the money safe. The schemes are backed up by a free, independent dispute resolution service to settle any arguments about whether the money should be returned at the end of a tenancy. Anyone who signed a tenancy agreement on or after April 6 should be covered by the scheme, and official figures show that one in four of all tenants living in privately rented houses and flats now have their deposit safeguarded – a total of 500,000 deposits in all. Landlords not protecting a deposit taken since April 6 are committing a civil offence which could make it harder for them to evict their tenants and lead to them having to pay tenants three times the value of the deposit. But if you find your deposit has not been protected you will need to take court action against them to get your money back. CAB staff said: "For years private tenants have had little or no protection if their landlord chose to keep all or part of their deposit at the end of a tenancy and we saw many people losing hundreds of pounds as a result. With the average deposit now running at £889, it is all the more important that the new deposit protection legislation is a success." That's why we are reminding people whose assured shorthold tenancies are coming to an end to check their deposit is protected. Once you've moved out it will be too late to benefit from the new law – you need to take action as soon as you give notice or receive notice to quit. If you find your deposit is not protected, get advice straight away on what you can do to get your money back. If your landlord is threatening you with notice to quit, check immediately that your deposit is protected. If it's not, get advice, as you may have a defence against eviction." Tenants can find out if their deposit is being protected by asking their landlord or by contacting all three approved tenancy deposit schemes: 0870 707 1707, [www.depositprotection.com](http://www.depositprotection.com); The Tenancy Deposit Scheme 0845 226 7837, [www.tds.gb.com](http://www.tds.gb.com); or 0871 703 0552, [www.mydeposits.co.uk](http://www.mydeposits.co.uk)

The Citizens Advice service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing information and advice, and by influencing policy makers. The advice provided by the Citizens Advice is free, independent, confidential and impartial, and available to everyone regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or nationality. Most Citizens Advice service staff are trained volunteers, working at over 3,000 service outlets across England and Wales. For advice and information [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) Volunteer hotline 08541 264 264.



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# Sherborne St John Parish Council.

There is a new Parish Council following the elections on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008. We thought it might be timely to provide a brief introduction to the current Councillors –

**Linda Agnew.** I have lived in the Village since 1959 and have many fond memories of growing up in a very caring and pleasant village community – although, like many others, I probably may not have realised how lucky I was when I was young! Looking back on village life and how it used to be, I am very keen to ensure that the quality of life and community continue in the future. I live with my husband, in the same house I grew up in, and have 2 grown-up children. I have worked for many years in different areas of the building industry and currently work within the Housing Sector. This is my second term as an elected Parish Councillor; last year I was appointed Chair of the Planning Committee which meets regularly to discuss and comment on planning applications within the Parish. I am very keen to continue and develop the sense of community which exists within the Parish and maintain Sherborne St John's character, the excellent quality of life and our individual identity; at the same time acknowledging some things must change to keep up with technology and standards. Linda Agnew 320911 [gnew936@btinternet.com](mailto:gnew936@btinternet.com)

**Becky Jones.** This will be my 4<sup>th</sup> year on the Parish Council. As well as being involved with the Parish issues covered in our monthly meetings, I also sit on two sub-committees of the Parish Council (PC)

The Planning Committee meets every two weeks to discuss and submit comments on local building applications, for consideration by Basingstoke & Deane BC.

I also represent the PC on the School Travel Plan Committee. Parent Governors and School Staff are developing a package of solutions to encourage a sustainable, healthy and a safe flow of pupils and parents to school.

I have lived in the Village for 8 years, with my husband Graeme. During the day, I run the office at a farm in Wheathold which grows, dries and distils herbs as ingredients for the food and cosmetics industry. My daughter Fenella and son Archie have grown up in Sherborne St John and enjoy the amenities the Village and surrounding area provides. What happens within the Parish of Sherborne St John is of particular significance to my family and me. Becky Jones 850693 [bexsterjones@hotmail.com](mailto:bexsterjones@hotmail.com)

**Carole Stanley.** I have lived in Tyfield in Sherborne St. John for just over 4 years. When we moved to the Village from Kent, I received a very warm welcome particularly from my neighbours. I have found it very easy to be involved in the life of the Village and been involved in fund raising activities for the new Village Hall.

I feel our Village has a strong sense of community; it was this, and my concern that the future development of Basingstoke may threaten it, that made me want to stand for the Parish Council. As a Councillor, I will do everything I can to maintain our Village, its community and its separate identity. Carole Stanley [stanley\\_carole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stanley_carole@yahoo.co.uk)

**Paul Ashley.** I would like to introduce myself as a newly appointed 2008 Councillor to the SSJ Parish Council. I have lived in West End for 10 years; I am married with two daughters and a

dog called “Jimmy”! We feel very settled in Sherborne St John and enjoy the time we spend with friends and neighbours in this Village community.

I work for a private company in Camberley as a Sales & Marketing Manager, I enjoy leisure time at Weybrook Park Golf Club and teaching WadoRyu Karate, in Basingstoke.

The issues concerning road safety on the A340 brought me in contact with the Parish Council 18 months ago. With both young and elderly at risk from the dangers of this fast and dangerous road, I continue to battle for safer crossing and traffic calming - for all who live beside and use this road.

The Parish Council represents you - and a better Sherborne St John - we welcome your input at the meetings. Paul Ashley [Paul.Ashley@responsivedesigns.co.uk](mailto:Paul.Ashley@responsivedesigns.co.uk)

**Julian Crawley.** Julie and I moved to Sherborne St John in 1987; one of the reasons for moving here was the excellent Village School – where our two sons, Sam and Thom, benefited greatly from a sound and balanced education. The school is wholly representative of the strong sense of community there is in Sherborne St John. Keeping hold of this precious commodity of community is why I first became a Councillor in .. 1992 (I think!). After 18 months abroad, I was re-elected in 2000 and have been Chairman for the last 8 years. Hopefully, you think the Village has benefited from the approach we have taken over that period – working to maintain its character and tranquillity.

During the week I am a director of a specialist foundation company – digging holes and filling them with concrete for major infrastructure schemes. However, there is a time and place for this type of development; it is definitely not in Sherborne St John - ever!

The Parish Council is here for your benefit - as a forum for discussion and as body to represent the Parish's wishes. Please make sure you take an interest! Julian Crawley 851003 [julcrawley@aol.com](mailto:julcrawley@aol.com)

**Chris Cooke.** I have lived in Cranesfield for twenty years with my wife Jenny and children, Andrew and Alison. Jenny and I run a small accounting practice from home and it was partly for these skills that Julian Crawley invited me to become a councillor in 2002. I am Vice Chairman and Treasurer of the PC and also the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for Cranesfield.

I tend to concentrate on the financial and administration aspects of the Parish Council. In recent years we have seen major changes to our Parish with the separation of Rooksdown from Sherborne St. John, the building of our wonderful Village Hall, and the new developments of Marnel Park and Merton Rise. These large projects have very significant impacts on our finances; with the ever increasing costs of maintenance of Parish facilities, careful budgeting and management of funds is vital. Chris Cooke 850837 [chris@2cookes.co.uk](mailto:chris@2cookes.co.uk)

If there are issues you wish to discuss, your Parish Councillor will be pleased to help – alternatively you may prefer to contact our Parish Clerk – Mrs Clover Morgan. The Parish Council is a group of volunteers – your participation in Parish life is absolutely necessary if we are to get things right all the time!

Parish Clerk Clover Morgan 851715 [clove4@btinternet.com](mailto:clove4@btinternet.com)

,,, and don't forget our website – [ssj.hampshire.org.uk/](http://ssj.hampshire.org.uk/)

Julian Crawley