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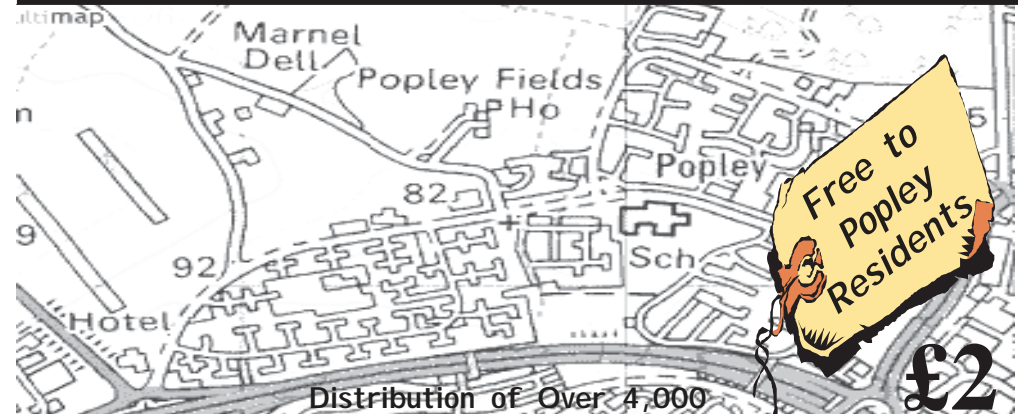
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

October 2008

Issue 80



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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Editor Jane Frankum

**Message From the Editor:-** We need valiant volunteers to deliver Popley Matters to Melrose Walk, and parts of Merton Rise. If you could spare an hour a month the team would appreciate it very much. We also need people who could do some other areas to cover for sickness and holidays of our present volunteers.

I would like to publicly thank Iris King our Distribution Manager who works so hard counting and getting the magazines to our fantastic volunteers, and even delivers a few hundred for us as well. Iris was involved in a car accident and will be unable to help with getting the

Matters out. So if you receive your copy late I hope you will understand as Paul and I will be doing our best to get them out to you all. Get well soon Iris, we all miss you!!

I have been asked by some people in the new developments of Marnel Park, Merton Rise, Longbourn and Pamberly why they are receiving Popley Matters. The answer is simple you are all in the borough ward of Popley West therefore part of the community of Popley. Marnel Park and Merton Rise also pay a precept to Sherborne St John Parish Council, who have a page in your Popley Matters and an excellent magazine of their own called The Villager.

Soon you will see a new road sign go up in Sherborne Road and a new road name of Don Allen Drive, it will revert back to Sherborne Road at the junction behind the school. Don Allen was the County Councilor who was in charge of education at the time the school was being built. Sadly Don passed away before it was finished and I think it is a lovely way of commemorating an exceptional man who worked so hard to get our children a good education.

We have two articles from the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service with advice on electric blankets and for fireworks on pages 12 and 26.

Pebbles is now up and running and starting to get different groups involved, see page 1.

An invitation to a concert at St Bede's is on page 18 and for people to join in a singing group with the Over 55's Forum.

If you want to get in touch with us for delivering, to write a letter or an article or to advertise you can: phone the Editor Jane Frankum on 819924, write to PO Box 6727 Basingstoke, RG24 9GG, 405 Abbey Road Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9EL, or through our website [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk)



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.

**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;

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**Youth Volunteers:** Joseph Doran

**More Volunteers Welcome**

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# Simone's Column

Hi, I would like to start by giving a big congratulations to my cousin Kerry and her boyfriend Ben, as this month she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy called Riley, who is so cute and I am very happy for them both. Also I would like to say well done to my mum and my Nan, who I mentioned last issue, because they have both done fantastic by giving up smoking for a whole month now and they are doing so well, so keep up the good work!!!

I am very pleased for the year sevens as they have settled into ECC really well and by the looks of things they are really enjoying themselves too, as I know my younger sister Monique is. They have already been on a school trip called murder mystery at Winchester university, where they interviewed three suspects about a murder case and acted as if they were in court where some of the pupils were the jury, and decided who the murderer was, which they did successfully. So I am glad that the year



sevens are already having a more great trips and exciting experiences to come!

I hope everyone that went to Everest on Opening evening enjoyed themselves and had a good tour of the school, met some of the staff and students and also had a good look at the work that we do and all of the progress in which we have all made since being in the new school.

One last thing I would like to mention is that my Nan, Carol hasn't been very well recently so I would just like to say that we all love her very much and we hope she feels better soon!! That's all from me I hope everyone keeps safe and enjoys the sunshine while it lasts (However long that will be) and I hope lots of people do turn up to ECC on opening evening and enjoy themselves. Don't forget next months article!! Bye!!



Already lots of families have been coming along to see what Pebbles Children's Centre is about and have signed up to the centre so they don't miss out on anything.

As discussions continue with Health professionals and others to assess what would be best placed at the Centre – we want to hear from YOU. Popley is your area and the Children's Centre is about what you want for your under 5's and you.

We are setting up a Parents Forum which you could be part of – to have your your say and to make a difference. There will be two Parents Meetings held at Pebbles on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, one at 9.30 am and one at 6pm to help us to do this. A crèche will be provided for the morning meeting for all those who let us know in advance that they need a space.

If you can't make it to either of these meetings and still want to be part of the Forum, please give us a call.

We also have a Baby Massage Course on 11<sup>th</sup> November for 4 weeks. Ring Pebbles to book if your baby is under 6 months old. Also an (ESOL Course) English Language Course for those from other countries, starting on Friday mornings in October. – Please ring to book a place.

Ring 01256 357028 or even better drop in at the Children's Centre and meet us. *Janice Ampofo (Centre Manager)*

## Small changes, big differences – parenting now comes with an instruction manual!

Many parents have times which are difficult and stressful, and parents want to know they are “doing the right thing” to support their child both at home and in their school life. Throughout Hampshire there are now opportunities for parents to use Triple P “Positive Parenting Programme” to support them in their role as parents.

Triple P can be accessed in a range of different ways, either with other parents, or on an individual basis. However you are involved with Triple P you are given resources to take home and keep for your own reference.

Triple P has been used extensively around the world and is based upon helping parents understand the way *their* family works. It helps parents create stable and supportive family environments and ways to teach their children the skills they need to get along with others. It supports parents in using strategies to prevent problem behaviour from starting and in responding firmly and positively with problem behaviour if it arises, and provides an opportunity to think through how to take care of themselves as a parent even if the going gets tough!

*“We didn’t have any major problems. I just wanted some tips and strategies and Triple P was great. So easy to use.”*



*“Thank you for giving me other ways to deal with problem behaviour instead of screaming at the kids and getting nowhere.”*

*“I’m so glad I did Triple P. I feel a lot more confident as a parent and my son knows what to expect. Consistency is the key for me. Thank you.”*

**You are invited to attend a Teen Triple P seminar where you will given helpful information and strategies in managing teenagers.**

**During the seminar you will be given the opportunity to ask questions and be given details of when the next Teen Triple courses will be running at the school.**

### **Seminar details:-**

**Everest Community College, Basingstoke**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Starts promptly at 7pm until 9pm.

**For more information please contact:-**

Charlotte Tomlinson on 07872 827290

Or Alison McGregor 07793 758509



## **MARVELLOUS MOSAIC UNVEILED**

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## **AT BRAMLEY FIELDS, BASINGSTOKE**

CHILDREN from Everest Community College have unveiled a delightful piece of public art, created by themselves under the guidance of the internationally acclaimed artist Julieann Worrall Hood at Bramley Fields, a development by David Wilson Homes Southern at Marnel Park, in Popley, Basingstoke.

David Wilson Homes commissioned the project and hosted the recent unveiling ceremony which was attended by The Worshipful The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Councillor George Hood and The Mayoress Davina Hood, Councillors, Julieann Worrall Hood, college staff, the children who worked on the project earlier in the year and who are now in year eight (aged 12 -13 years) and their parents.

Paul Crispin, managing director of David Wilson Homes Southern, said: “We wanted to celebrate the natural habitat at our development in Popley and commissioned 19 children at Everest Community College to produce a piece of art for The Plaza at Bramley Fields, close to the green public space. We asked them to work to a theme involving the great crested newt and, together with Julieann Worrall Hood, they have produced a marvellous mosaic. I would like to thank all those involved in this project and congratulate the children on a job very well done; I am sure the mosaic will be enjoyed by people for many years to come.”

The art was produced as a mosaic in recognition of the area’s Roman heritage, and marks the significance of the great crested newt in the local wood and wetland habitat where Popley Ponds provides an important breeding ground for this protected species. David Wilson Homes has ensured that the new residential development at Bramley Fields provides adequate protection for the newts, working closely with The Landmark Practice and Natural England. The housebuilder is also funding the long term maintenance of the newt habitat under a scheme managed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Julieann Worrall Hood ([www.woho.co.uk](http://www.woho.co.uk)), who is based in Pewsey, Wiltshire says: “The children completed a workshop where a series of exercises and games helped them to come up with ideas for a piece of public art. They worked with great dedication to produce a mosaic that shows two large newts and a series of newt footprints that suggest the newts are scampering across the Plaza area towards the green open space at the development. The children’s work is most impressive and they should be very proud of themselves.”

The mosaic has been constructed using matt ceramic tesserae, small square tiles, in colours of yellow ochre, green and black.

Sara Dodson, learning director for creative and performing arts at Everest Community College, says: “The children have found the mosaic project a very enriching and rewarding experience and relished the opportunity to work with Julieann. If these students opt to study GCSE art they could include mosaic work, as they now have a skill that otherwise they would not have been taught at the college. I would like to thank David Wilson Homes for giving them this wonderful opportunity.”

Bramley Fields offers a collection of well-designed one, two and three-bedroom homes. Prices for homes currently released for sale start from £135,000 for a one bedroom end-terrace house and from £195,000 for a three-bedroom mews house. The sales and marketing suite is open daily from 10.30am to 5.30pm, telephone 01256 475344/01256 331747. Further information on all David Wilson Homes is available on [www.dwh.co.uk](http://www.dwh.co.uk)





## First neighbourhood agreement for residents launched

A new way of helping residents to get along in their communities has been launched by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council this month (September).

The neighbourhood agreement has been set up by the Popley Community Wardens, David Mason and Vikky Lonie, to help iron out some issues with ball games being played in a variety of small grass areas.

Residents who have 'signed up' to the agreement have acknowledged that they need to get along by agreeing to work together to tackle some of the reasons for disputes, such as kicking footballs at the walls of houses, dropping litter and using offensive language.

The neighbourhood agreement is the first of its kind in the borough designed to approve residents' quality of life and it is hoped that if the scheme is proved successful it can be rolled out to other groups of residents struggling to get along.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Development Cllr Clive Sanders said: "This is a great initiative and I hope it will see those affected residents live in harmony with one another.

"There is nothing worse than not being able to get along with neighbours, and often fairly innocent behaviour becomes a huge issue if neighbours aren't able to sort it out. But this agreement will only stick if the residents want it to and work at making it do so.

"This is the first agreement of its kind in the borough and I hope that if this is successful in Popley, we will be able to implement the concept in other areas where there are difficulties."



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**Councillors Page:** More travellers encamped themselves on the field in front of the school and behind the sheltered Housing of Magnolia Court and Abbey Court. I reported this on Thursday late at night and by morning visits by Police, Community Wardens, Environment officers and the Gypsy Liason Officer for Hampshire County Council were made. Papers were served and they were given till Monday at mid day to move off the site. However the travellers chose as seems to be the norm to wait for a Magistrate to issue a stronger legal directive. As I write this I am waiting to hear when the court date is? They moved off on Friday and the clear up started. There has also been extra measures with ditches and bunding to stop the invasion happening again! The roundabout road works are on time and I am trying to keep you updated as best I can. The council usually give me regular updates and have responded quickly to any complaints. I am very disappointed Stagecoach did not extend the same courtesy. I received an email from a HCC Officer only a few days before Stagecoach decided to stop the number 5 one way for three weeks:- from 22<sup>nd</sup> September to October 12<sup>th</sup>. Passengers can get home on the number 5 but cannot get to the hospital. However the number 9 will get you home, but they only run around one every hour and a half.

**Popley West:** Thank you to the resident in Pamberly Court for alerting us to the fact that the residents in the flats at the Austen Court area were wrongly being charged for being in the parish of Rooksdown. All residents should receive a letter of apology from the Council Tax Department, and have their Council Tax adjusted to take into account the rebate. We also are concerned that residents in Popley may be in the wrong Council Tax band and we are researching this at the moment. If you bought your property in the early 90's could you contact us details are below. If you want to check for yourself there is a website at <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/reclaim/council-tax-bands-change#free> We were successful in getting the conversion overturned from a family home in Popley being changed to small flats. The first appeal by developers to be dismissed. Where it is not appropriate for houses to be converted into other than a family home we will defend to keep the family homes rigorously for our future generations of families.

t: I wonder how many of you readers are being overcharged by your energy suppliers?

We all know prices have risen massively - in some cases by 40%. But some users paying by monthly direct debit have seen the amounts deducted from their bank accounts increase by up to 100%.

When I got my latest bills through I found I was £211.29 in credit for Electricity and £212.60 in credit for Gas. In both cases, I had been in credit for 6 months or more - yet the Utilities were continuing to take a combined £75 per month in direct debits from my bank account.

When I asked for an electricity bill refund from Southern Electric I was initially refused on the grounds that I did not have an up-to-the-minute meter reading.

I asked to speak to the manager, saying that if I did not get this money back:

- 1 - I would go public (as I am doing now)
- 2 - I would stop the direct debit, switch to a new supplier, and start proceedings to recover the debt.

Reluctantly he agreed to a refund.

I'd be interested to hear from any Popley residents who have had any similar experiences - either being overcharged so their accounts are in credit or who are facing huge rises.

I've written off to Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Defra, and tabled a Contemporary Issues Motion at the Labour Party Conference asking that the Government introduce caps to fuel price rises as they do in France and with rail fares in the UK.

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Hello Folks,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the sun when it comes-summer seemed to start a bit late this year.

As you may be aware PCSO Phil Rapley has been working away from Popley and covering another area for the last few months but I am hopeful he will return shortly. In fact he should be back when you read this! I am amazed as

I cycle around Popley just how much it is expanding and improving. The new houses off Shakespeare Road will soon be built and I think they look good! There are still plenty of building sites and areas being developed in Popley but things seem to be improving. There have been issues with security at some of the smaller sites on Popley Way. There is pretty good security cover at these sites and we will continue to liaise with security guards and patrol the relevant areas.

The PSNT (Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team) would have met this quarter by the time you read this so please visit the Popley Matters website or the Hampshire Constabulary website to see what the team will be working on until the new year. The Hampshire Constabulary Website also has updates on current work and upcoming events.



Bonfire Night will soon be on us again! Please be mindful of your neighbours and their rights to a stress free life. There are a number of offences associated with fireworks so If you are unclear as to what you or others are allowed to do please contact me either by phone or email.

We will be in operations to ensure the safety of the Popley Community.

Please also contact me to discuss on-going community issues and or ideas and suggestions to be fed to the PSNT.

The Beat Team Email Box:  
[basinstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:basinstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Hampshire Police Website:  
[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)  
Popley Matters site:  
[popleymatters.org.uk](http://popleymatters.org.uk)

PC 20686 Dan Carter   
Popley West   
Safer Neighbourhoods Beat Manager



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# Basingstoke Air Scout Group

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

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake (01256) 410559

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



The Air Scouts are still keeping the OUT in ScOUTing! The Cubs only returned for a week at the beginning of September and then they were off to District Cub Scout Camp at Foxlease in the New Forest on one of the better weather weekends of the 'summer'. Appropriately the theme was Robin Hood so if anyone came across a band of suspicious characters in the woods it was likely cubs from Basingstoke East Scout District! Archery and canoeing featured in the programme (did Robin Hood ever canoe, I wonder?) Meantime seven Beavers took part in District Beaver Sleepover at Base 2000 the same weekend. 'Sleepovers' for Beavers are often the first occasion upon which young people go away from home without their parents so it's a huge step for some and earns them a Nights Away badge. The Scout Troop spent a working weekend at Lasham airfield with Hampshire Hawks Explorer Scout Unit. They attended air Ambulance Day, also at Lasham, and had a privileged look inside a Chinook helicopter as well as witnessing the arrival of the 747 pulled by disabled persons in wheelchairs later as a fund-raising event

Weekly meetings continue at Base 2000 with a busy programme planned. Sections will be making the most of the last of the lighter evenings but as the evenings become darker attention will turn to activity badges and indoor pursuits. Badge work covers a multitude of interests and hobbies. There are masses to choose from in addition to the more challenging composite Challenge Awards that require more effort. Badges range from personal/home safety, fire prevention and first aid to arts, creative writing, caring for animals, street sports, IT, aeronautics, swimming, climbing/hill walking, caving, music, martial arts, equestrian, photography ..... there's a badge for almost everything to link with a special interest. Later in the autumn Scrapheap Challenge and a Hallowe'en party loom for cubs whilst the Beavers will visit Paultons Park for a Christmas preview. The Scouts plan to participate in Jamboree-on-the-Internet (JOTI) and Survival Camp at Pinsent when the emphasis is on backwoods cooking and bivouacs. They may even sleep in the bivouac overnight just to see how weatherproof they made it (or not as the case may be!)

New recruits always welcome. Give the section leader a ring, or if you wish, simply turn up for a free 'taster' evening to see what's on offer this session. All sections are open to both boys and girls.

Base 2000 itself is looking all spruced up and can offer a venue for meetings, fund-raising events and sometimes parties. Special rates for charities/non-profit making organisations. Enquiries/bookings to Pete Saunders or Jan Saunders on 01256 410514 or e-mail [base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com](mailto:base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com)



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Tuesday 6.30-8.15p.m.  
Elaine Devenport 323453



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



## Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor. I am curious to find out just how long it takes to install a bus shelter. The bus shelter at Buckfast Close which is used both by the residents of Buckfast as well as those who reside at that end of Tintern Close was demolished suddenly and within twenty minutes and that was working at a very relaxed rate. We have now been without a shelter for months including our "summer" months, and as yet there are no signs of a new shelter and winter is not too far off. Perhaps this time we may get one that provides some shelter from the elements and people with disablements and advanced age may be lucky enough to get one with a seat as many other bus shelters seem to have. When oh when are we getting our shelter? Mr. P Popley West

**Editor's Reply: I have included the response from the officer dealing with Bus Shelters. There was an opportunity for 6 bus shelters for the whole of Basingstoke and Deane I managed to bid and get 4 of them to be placed in my County Ward 2 in Popley and 2 in Oakridge but as you can see it has taken longer than expected. In hindsight it would have been better to have left the old ones. However the Tintern Close one was damaged and could not be left. Officers reply "Sorry about this, it has taken way too long for the new shelter to be installed and I can only apologize. As I may have previously explained, the shelters I have coming are second hand ones from Portsmouth and I was told they would be available sometime in August hence having the other one removed, however delays have been experienced in Portsmouth which is unfortunately having a knock on affect at this end.**

**I've chased the supplier this morning so will update you as soon as I hear anything. Again, my apologies to those who are being inconvenienced and although its no comfort**

*to them, we are saving a fair amount of money by taking advantage of the cheaper shelters so overall we can improve more stops."*

**Hopefully the officer should have some good news soon!**

Dear Editor I read with interest the article by CAB on bankruptcy and IVAs in Issue 79. As usual, CAB have done an excellent job of distilling an extremely complex issue into something understandable by the man or woman in the street. Those of your readers who have access to the Internet might also be interested to know that The Insolvency Service's website ([www.insolvency.gov.uk](http://www.insolvency.gov.uk)) contains a wealth of (free) information leaflets and guidance notes about this subject. Many of the leaflets are available in languages other than English. The Insolvency Service also operates an insolvency enquiry line which deals with telephone queries (0845 602 9848) or e-mail queries ([insolvency.enquiryline@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:insolvency.enquiryline@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk)).

**Editors reply: Thank you for your kind words and the website address. I found it a really simple read and an informative site. Perhaps you could do an article for our readers in a future issue. We do try to keep our readers informed on all sorts of subjects and particularly enjoy it when we have articles from our readers and residents. I agree that all too often trying to understand some of the letters and forms we often get need a university degree in long meaningless words.**

**Editor's 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**







## Electric Blankets.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Each year 20 people are killed and over 250 injured in blanket fires.

Faulty blankets cause more than 1,000 house fires a year.

Research has shown that electric blankets ten years old (or older) still in use in homes in Britain are responsible for 99% of the fires caused by electric blankets.

### YOU SHOULD CHECK OR REPLACE THE BLANKET IF:

It displays the old BEAB\* safety mark - a round symbol. The new sign is white capital letters on a black background).

The fabric is worn or frayed.

Remember, older blankets are much more likely to have one or more of these faults.

There are scorch marks anywhere.

The tie tapes (where originally fitted) are damaged or missing.

The flex is worn or damaged.

Any connections are loose.

You are in any doubt.

### BEFORE USING THE BLANKET:

Always read and follow the instructions carefully.

Older under-blankets, designed only for pre-heating, must be switched off and disconnected before getting into bed.

Never use an under-blanket as an over-blanket.

Make sure the under-blanket is kept flat. Tie it to the mattress where appropriate.

Never use the blanket if it is wet or creased.

Never switch it on to dry it out

The next electric blanket testing day at Basingstoke Fire Station is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008. To book an appointment call 01962 833620 or email:

[electric.blankets@hants.gov.uk](mailto:electric.blankets@hants.gov.uk)

\* BEAB - British Electrical Approvals Board

### Useful contact points and further information:

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

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

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



## M.F.C. Popley



Well, the season has started and the U10's Tornados got off to a flyer, with a 13-0 win over The Berg. Goals came from new boy, Gaiyain Barry (5), The goal machine Fynnlie Judd (3), Nathan Parker (2), Gorden Mahoney (2) and a rare goal from Billy Wagstaff, ***Excellent!***

The U10's Whirlwinds also got off to a good start with a 5-2 win over the berg with goals coming from Kieran Poynter (2), Jake Keywood (2) and Scott Forder. ***Excellent!***

Four weeks ago a scout from Southampton came along to watch The U10's Tornados and from that game Fynnlie Judd, Jacob Austen, Kallum Brown and Gaiyain Barry were selected for a four week trial at a Southampton Development Centre.

Since then, Kallum Brown has played for the Saints Academy team in goal, against West Ham Academy and the Arsenal Academy. Jacob, Fynnlie and Gaiyain have been training with the Southampton Academy boys at Staplewood, Southampton, for 2 training sessions. Gaiyain and Jacob were asked to play for the Academy against Arsenal for 20 minutes on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008 and it was a bit of an eye opener for them as the Arsenal boys were awesome! But the boys played well and did Popley proud. Southampton have now asked the 3 boys to go to the development centre for further training and hopefully Fynnlie will be playing in the next couple of weeks, fingers crossed.

I have started training an U6's team, known as The MFC Popley Nightmares at Marnel on Saturday mornings at 10am and it looks like we might have a team to rival the Tornados and Dynamos. With the mighty Alfie Austen coming through the ranks, and team mates: Luke Parker, Kyren, The Bash Brothers, Matthew & Josh, Lewis, Ben, Charlie and the big man Ryan up front, hopefully we can rival the success of the Tornados & Dynamos. ***Boy! I forgot how hard it was.***

If you are interested in bringing your boy to training for the U6's, Year 1, school year. please contact me, Lee Austen: 07810444995 or 07932213310 email: [mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk)

And finally, well done to the MFC Rangers U12's, who despite it all managed to get a team together with the help of Manager, Danny Oates. The team consists of half of last seasons U10's and U11's to make 1 team, due to kids dropping out from both age groups. Danny has worked hard for this and I don't think he gets enough credit for what he does and to be honest, if it wasn't for Danny, there wouldn't be an U12's, well done Danny! I think if the boys listen and work hard, plus take it seriously, with a bit of team spirit, they will have a great side. They had their first game on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> against Oakley who beat Tadley 15-0 the week before and played excellent, It was their first game together and even went 2-0 up, but as time went on the boys got tired and Oakley came away winners with a 7-2 win against a gallant and brave Popley side. Well done boys! ***Excellent!***

Get well soon, Jim Hughes. With all our love, from all at MFC Popley

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

## Julie Gardening Tips

After all this horrible weather, I doubt many of us have been able to spend much time in the garden this summer. Those that have grown beans and tomatoes may have had pretty good crops though. If you still have some tomatoes struggling to ripen, put banana skins on the soil near the plants, or pick the fruit and make chutney rather than waste it. Beans will be coming to an end now, but you can still get a few more pickings if you do it regularly. If there really isn't enough for a meal, keep collecting them and freeze what you pick. There is nothing nicer than home grown vegetables for Christmas dinner.

Most of the summer bedding plants will still have a little life left, just keep picking the dead flower heads off and trim back any dying stems to keep them going for as long as possible. If you want to make up winter baskets or pots, now is the time to start looking for plants for them. Pansies are a popular choice, and will flower even over the frosty winter. Spring bulbs are already in the shops, so look out for bargains there. The local Pound Shop sells bulbs which although not fancy varieties, will certainly fill a blank spot and give a splash of colour in the new year. Daffodils are sometimes sold in net bags which can be either same or mixed varieties, and will often prove better value than buying smaller amounts. If you like bowls of bulbs indoors over Christmas, the popular Paperwhite variety is an easy one to grow. The bulbs are available now, but hold on to them for a while before planting them. They only take around 6 to 8 weeks to flower from planting, so if you do it too soon, they will have already finished by Christmas. Prepared hyacinth bulbs can be planted in special vases which children love to watch grow, so they are always worth giving a go. And, of course the perfume indoors is lovely!

If you have any bald patches in the lawn, sow fresh seed there now to allow it to get a good root system before the bad weather sets in. Trim back the straying edges to keep the lawn tidy, and if you need to, use a feed and weed preparation to kill off weeds like dandelions and clover while feeding the grass. If it stays dry enough to cut the lawn, raise the blade on the mower to leave the grass slightly longer than during the summer. The growth of the grass will start slowing up now and will need cutting less often as autumn progresses.

The warm wet summer has brought the slugs out in force. Dispose of them as soon as you see them before they bury down in the soil to over-winter. Keep on top of them now to give you a lower population next year. Check roses and other plants likely to be infested with greenfly or black-fly. They suck the sap of the plant and can cause enough damage to kill smaller plants, or weaken larger ones. Treat them with an appropriate insecticide or pick off the affected stems, disposing of them carefully.

I got my new seed catalogue this week, so I can start planning for next year's plants soon. Take advantage of any special offers to try new things. Some seed catalogues have free offers which are well worth looking at, including trial varieties and multi-packs.

In the mean time, keep the garden as tidy as you can, picking out dead bedding plants, trimming back overgrown climbers and hedging. If you can, leave the last lot of seed heads on your plants to attract resident birds to the garden later. If you don't have much in the way of flowers to look at, you will have wildlife!



### The Popley Autumn Walk!

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2pm

As part of the Big Lottery Family Learning project in partnership with Hampshire County Council and local volunteer groups there will be a fun walk for all of Popley residents on **SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER at 2PM starting at Melrose Hall.**

The walk is for all ages and especially for families and will include drums in a parade style for the first part of the walk, a treasure hunt for adults and a forest discovery experience for children and young people.

You will need to bring a packed picnic, although tea and coffee will be available at our lunch stopping point. You will also need warm clothes, walking shoes or trainers and if it's wet umbrellas and wellies.

How good are you at finding clues and solving them?! Will the children be able to uncover the secrets of the forest?

Registration will be at 2pm at Melrose Hall, Popley 4 (opposite the Popenjay pub) where we will have a cup of tea, coffee or cold drink to start us off. We will then be led by the drums on a walk up to Everest College (Where there will be clues along the way) going on round the new build through to Carpenters Down where we will stop for our picnic. During this break the young people will have "forest packs" to complete and the adults will be looking for more clues to solve.

After lunch/tea we will continue the walk taking in the sights of Chineham House and the park, and eventually back to Melrose Hall.

There will be an opportunity to meet with people who are involved with other activities on Popley and you may find something that you would like to do!

During the walk, photographs will be taken at various points and may be displayed as part of the Popley Family Project.

This is an event for all the family and we hope that you will come along and take part.

For further information contact Evadne or Milly on 411441.

LOTTERY FUNDED

Hampshire County Council



Dear Friends

We've just returned from our holiday, and what a holiday! The first week the car broke down and the second week the airline (XL) went down the pan. As we watched in our holiday apartment the news of stranded passengers facing uncertainty about how they were getting home I thought about the employees who were waking up out of a job – bills and mortgages to pay, families to feed – it kind of brought things into perspective. It's amazing how quickly we can adjust to different situations –the car was fixed by the AA, and I really wasn't that concerned for myself when the airline went bust because I knew that we would get home, somehow.

Following on close behind was the news of major financial institutions collapsing and bringing back memories of people queuing to get their money out of Northern Rock earlier this year. Isn't it amazing how fragile our society really is and yet how dependent we are on that fragility – kind of like skating on thin ice without knowing it!

The Bible says "we brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out.." and Jesus himself said *"do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy ...look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them, are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"*

Think about it for a minute, what are you really dependent on and what are your priorities? To build up and store away things for the future or to live the abundant life that God wants for you in relationship with him and with those he's given you! Plan for tomorrow, live for today is a sensible axiom for life but what are irreplaceable to me are my relationships with those around me whom I love and most importantly my relationship with God who is my Creator and Redeemer.

Sadly, all too often we don't realise the immense value of relationships until they're gone, until misfortune strikes like sudden redundancy, serious illness or the death of someone close to us.

I'm reminded of the lyrics of a song that Matt Redman wrote *"when the music fades and all is stripped away, and I simply come, longing just to bring, something that's of worth that will bless your heart..."* Try this – imagine being stripped of all that you think is of worth around you - what's left?

In Christ

Arthur  
Vicar of St Gabriel's

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**07879228256**



We have had a very busy summer here at the hall. The Play Scheme was a huge success being full every day! The banners and lanterns made during the week looked fantastic in the Childrens Parade, at the opening of Balloons over Basingstoke. Well done to all who took part it was great evening! Two of the banners that were made here have been turned into wall hangings and will be used to decorate the corridor.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us maintain our gardens, there will be more work to do in the coming months as we prepare for winter. We are waiting for the result of Basingstoke in Bloom with baited breath so watch this space!

We will be completing the upgrade to our CCTV system shortly. This upgrade sees a major improvement in both the quality and range of images both around the hall and the front and back of the shops. The new digital DVD recording equipment will be giving live images to the Police. We hope these upgrades will improve the safety for everyone using these areas. We raised £50 at the Worlds Biggest Coffee morning all will go locally.

### Whats on at Melrose Hall

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30am-12pm	Friendly Café
	7.30pm-10.00pm	Peregrine Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	4.00pm-7.30pm	Petite School of Dance
	8.30am-3.00pm	Marnel Early Years
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	10.00am-11.30am	Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
	9.00am-11.00am	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12pm-2pm	Oasis Lunch Club
	7.15pm-9.00pm	Slimming World
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30am-12pm	Friendly Café
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	6.00pm-7.45pm	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00pm-9.15pm	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](mailto:Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk).**



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Menu's Available at <http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/Adverts/Peters.pdf>



## Relationships

Are you having difficulties with a neighbour? Perhaps you and your partner are not getting on as well as before. Or is it the local kids that are disturbing you? In most relationship situations, Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau (BCAB) can offer help and work with you to find a way forward.

We see many clients whose relationships with their partners or spouses are going through difficulties. We can point people to mediation services, such as Relate or Hampshire Family Mediation, or, should it come to it, advise on separation or divorce, as well as contact issues for children. If the divorce is undefended, our advisors can complete the paperwork.

We can then assist with housing options, offer a benefits check and liaise with creditors, if there are also debt problems. We can also put individuals in violent relationships in touch with local refuges.

If the problem is with a neighbour, Basingstoke Mediation Services may be able to help. BCAB can advise on contacting a housing association, if relevant, or your legal rights if the matter is to do with your property. After a full interview with one of our trained advisors, if necessary, we can offer a free one-off appointment with a local solicitor. These appointments are always solely for advice; should action be required, this would be a private arrangement between the client and the solicitor.

We are obliged to perform a conflict of interest check to ensure that we are not advising both parties in a conflict. BCAB's services are fully confidential and free. The bureau offers a face-to-face and phone drop-in service Monday – Saturday, as well as appointments in person and on the phone. We do hope we can be of help.

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## Everest Community College News

During the last few months of their time at the college, our Year 11's were being filmed for the BBC South Inside Out programme. They filmed in Mathematics and Science lessons and carried out interviews with individual students, asking about their experience both at the new College and at the old John Hunt. Several of our families also allowed them into their homes to film them getting ready for the Valedictory Ball in all their bling and smart clothes. On results day they captured anxious and delighted faces as they opened their envelopes to see which GCSE'S they had gained success in.

All in all I believe this will be a positive insight into a year group that has demonstrated immense resilience and capacity to cope with change. I don't have a definite date but it is scheduled for this Autumn's series, hopefully in October.

*Julie S Rose, Headteacher*



**FIREWORKS  
BE SAFE  
NOT SORRY**  
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CODE



### Firework Safety.

- **Never** put fireworks in your pocket.
- **Never** go back to a lit firework, it could explode in your face.
- **Never** throw fireworks, it's stupid, dangerous and illegal: it's a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of a £5000 fine.
- **Never** return to a lit firework - it could still be live.
- **Never** wear loose clothing & long dangly scarves can very easily catch alight. If anyone's clothing does catch fire, follow the rule...

**STOP** don't run. **DROP** to the ground. **ROLL** to put out the flames.

**DONT FOOL AROUND &  
NEVER THROW FIREWORKS ONTO A BONFIRE!!**

**Always** follow all instructions and always put safety first.

**Always** store your fireworks safely: in a closed box & out of reach of children.

**Always** keep children well away from fireworks, and never let a child handle or light one. Even sparklers can be dangerous if unsupervised!

#### **Tips:**

\* Have a full bucket of water handy for any emergency & for putting used sparklers in.

\* At the end of your display, douse any 'dud' fireworks with water, then completely bury them in the ground. Alternatively, ask your Fire Brigade for advice as soon as possible.

#### **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)

## Diaries from The Old Codger



I had finished my Old Codger for this month but I am going to save it till November. I have been watching the Paralympics this year on the B.B.C. If any youngster or person did see it then they can only wonder, as I have done, at the strength and will power of these people. Not sympathy for them but greatness to overcome the many difficulties they have. To compete at events that many of our youth could look up to and see inspiration, because this is what they do, they inspire the will in people to fight and try to be the best at what you do.

As the motto goes *"IT IS NOT THE WINNING BUT THE TAKING PART THAT IS IMPORTANT"*

Yes, our nation should be proud of every one of them. I for one am very humbled by the way they have not only conducted themselves but the true spirit of the games themselves. Everyone would come over to a winner and would be genuine in their praise for winning the gold or even going back to make sure a person that has fallen is OK. Sometimes you had a lump come in your throat; well I know The Old Codger did. No it was not Her indoors with her hand round my neck; I know she would love to. As you all know I am one of these disabled people, but I have grown used to it now and accept the way I am. Oh yes, I do have highs and lows the same as the team but what a team, I have my team in my family and friends, all there for you when you need them most. It is that that makes life worth fighting for. I could not have achieved what I have over the last few years without them all. Popley Matters is a big family just like our disabled Olympic team all working for the same causes. Yes this is not the usual Old Codger but one humbled Old Codger.

I hope you do not mind me going on about this subject, I feel many people today feel hard done by because they are *"different"*. Paralympics Team GB has shown that you can achieve greatness by working at it and believing in yourself. Whether that is at school, college or work. Well done team GB you have made several people proud and also humble. Till next month The Old Codger.



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

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

Based at St Gabriel church      Group est: 14/10/1968      National Scout Registration Number 44826



### Halloween Family Night:

This will be on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October from 7.00pm till 11.00pm. There will be fancy dress, disco, games for the children, tombola, raffle, tuckshop, food and a licensed bar. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October and will cost £4.00 an Adult: £2.00 a Child, Under 2's Free: Family Ticket (2 Adults/2 children): £10.00

Come and join us for a night of spooky fun!!!

(As we are licensed premises we do not allow alcohol to be brought into the venue).

### Family Fishing Trips funded by the Big Lottery Fund

There is still time for anyone who would like to go on one of these trips, whether you are a complete novice or a fully fledged fisherman. The idea of these trips is to encourage more family interaction for the residents of Popley. Please call Derek on the number below to register your interest.

Free Computer Classes – These have now started again, 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!

### Mad Academy-Tuesday Morning

A high energy dance group for under 4's 9.15am to 11.15am.

### 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.

### New Testament Church of God coffee morning for the over 50's

This is held on Thursday morning 10.30am to 12.30pm. The ideal place to meet and make new friends.

### Dynamics Baton Twirlers-Thursday Evening

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

### Car Boot

Unfortunately due to lack of volunteers and poor turnout, the boot sale has been cancelled. This decision was not taken lightly by the Charities organising it, but we would like to thank all those people who put in hard work and supported us over the 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**

After the summer break we are back in the full swing of things, everyone is rearing to go for the year ahead. Already the scouts have fully booked themselves up until Christmas, with activities like fishing, flying, a visit to the planetarium, hiking and cooking. Hope the weather bears up for them to do all of this. But on the other hand, they are scouts. The Cubs will be joining the scouts at fishing this time, due to much pleading from the Cubs, so life jackets to the ready. The Cubs also have a fun filled programme underway, with our new Cub leader and assistant leader who are settling in very well. They are hoping to visit the fire station, which plays a big part in their fire safety badge.



The Beavers are looking forward to the Beaver sleepover this weekend, the theme for this is 'Around the world in 18 hours'. Hoping to hear about it when they get back.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> October it is the groups 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we will be having a party to celebrate this by stepping back in time with games and party food of that era. If you were a member from this scout group, you are more than welcome to come along to share your memories with us.

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, and Scout Assistant

# MIGRATING TO THE UK

The North Hampshire Caribbean and African Network (NHCAN) will mark this year's Black History Month (BHM) with the theme "Celebrating Passages to the UK" on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Popley, Basingstoke, RG24 9DR. This celebration promises to be inspiring, thought provoking and enlightening and we would like to invite you to join us in this unique and uplifting experience.

At this function, NHCAN will showcase the "Windrush", a ship that brought the first wave of black people from the Caribbean in 1948. There will also be stimulating speakers such as Beverley Dowdell who will share her exclusive and poignant experience of migrating to the UK to work in the NHS and Arthur Torrington OBE, eminent member of the Equiano Society in London who aims to touch hearts and minds with his unique experience.

NHCAN is pleased to say that there will be special guests and an inspirational singer who will perform at this event. In addition there will be entertainment to suit all ages, displays, exhibition of artifacts and proverbs from Africa and the Caribbean. This event will build upon last year's NHCAN's successful achievement of the bicentenary anniversary celebration to commemorate the abolition of slavery which was held at Oakridge Hall in the presence of many local people including councillors and the former Mayor of Basingstoke, Warwick Lovegrove.

The celebration commences at 4:00pm and ends at 10:00pm. Admission is free and there will be African and Caribbean food on sale, a paying bar as well as Afro-Caribbean rhythms supported by a local sound system.

For further information, please contact  
The Chair of NHCAN, Paul Hamilton  
On 07702553993.

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## NEW PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY IN SHERBORNE ST JOHN

We offer high quality care in a happy secure and stimulating environment  
Term time only for children 2 ½ years to school age  
Open 5 mornings and 3 afternoons a week  
Educational structure – Experience and qualified staff  
Set in idyllic location with large outdoor area and a playground  
Ofsted registered - Nursery Grants available  
For a prospectus call in or contact us on 075 287 26248  
Email: [info@piccolopreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@piccolopreschool.co.uk)  
[www.piccolopreschool.co.uk](http://www.piccolopreschool.co.uk)  
Piccolo Pre-school Nursery, The Sports Pavilion,  
Vyne Road, Sherborne St John

## Little Pearls

(currently known as Chineham Park Preschool)



## Opened September 2008

Based within Pebbles Children's Centre, in the beautiful grounds of Chineham Park School, the Nursery will provide a safe stimulating and fun environment for children to grow and learn.

Education grants are available for children from the first term following their 3rd birthday. Unfortunately, there are no free places for children under 3.

We can take up to 56 children aged from birth to 5 years and we are working in conjunction with the NCMA and local childminders to provide continuity of care.

Places are available 5 days a week (8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday) all year round and the children have either a full-time or part-time place, depending on the availability of places and the family's needs.

We are currently taking enquiries and booking places for September start.

For further information please contact 01256 464750  
(incl over the Summer Holidays)



## Over 55's Forum

The Basingstoke & Deane Over 55s Forum next Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th October 2008 at Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. Registration is at 9.30am and the meeting starts at 10:00am until 1pm for light refreshments.

Guest Speaker Mabel Sapstead will make a presentation on "Hearing problems" and we have a two part presentation by Her Majesty's Court Service "Magistrates in the Community". The Speakers are subject to change, but we have been successful to date.

Any interested person is welcome to attend with a view of becoming a member. Our membership to date is 534.

Next Open Forum date is the 10th December.

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### The Over 55's Hit Top Note With Lottery Funding.

In a bid to open up singing to senior members of the Basingstoke community, the Basingstoke & Deane Over 55's Forum has landed a Lottery supported "Award for All" grant to welcome singers and non-singers alike to raise their voices in community singing. The award, totalling £4010 for the next year, was awarded to support the Over 55's Forum's drive to get more people involved in singing, as it has huge welfare and health benefits. The group, which will be called "The Carnival Chorus" has already recruited 28 members and is confident that the membership can be increased during the coming year. The group meet on Tuesday afternoon at Carnival Hall from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Anyone wishing to get involved, please ring Marian Wilson (Singing Group Co-ordinator) on 01256 462877

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## ST BEDE'S R.C. CHURCH

### Fauré's Requiem

#### **Handel's Four Coronation Anthems (including Zadok the Priest)**

Hook Choral Society, under the direction of Nicholas Woods, will be performing the requiem and anthems with soloists and organ at St Bede's RC Church on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) available from Trees Newsagent, Hook or by calling Helen, 766522 or Jennie 764627. Come along and hear these well known favourites.

## SHERBORNE ST. JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Sherborne St. John had two wards at the spring elections. These are the SSJ village ward and the Speckled Wood Road ward - which now includes much of the new Marnel Park and Merton Rise developments. The PC are keen to ensure we cover our responsibilities to all areas of the parish and are inviting a local representative for the Speckled Wood ward to be co-opted to the council to better represent these locations. We are already interviewing candidates so if you would like to apply please contact Clover, our Parish Clerk.

The Hampshire County Council's A340 traffic calming project proceeds slowly but at last the new gateway feature has been installed to the south of West End. There is an intention to move the 30mph limit sign back to this gateway once the various protracted legal processes for this change are implemented. A replacement traffic island (near the bus stop) is planned for the turn of the year and we are pressing for a new BDBC scheme to install and maintain Speed Indication Devices (SIDs), with one sited at this location.

A survey by the PC has listed numerous unnecessary and misaligned road signs in our village and we are asking for their removal/adjustment. Requests for highway mirrors to be installed, to aid visibility for emerging vehicles, at the junction of Cranes Road and Manor Road and also in the village square have not been fruitful. HCC will not install mirrors as a matter of policy.

A number of residents attended the last PC meeting to advise that thoughtless parking is becoming a serious problem for the elderly and disabled in our village. In particular Vidlers Farm has seen parking in front of garages preventing access and parking over dropped kerbs causing problems for those in wheelchairs. Cars parked in turning points at Dancers Meadows prevent others turning cars safely and some parts of Spring Close are at times blocked with cars. Please consider your neighbours, the elderly and disabled and park vehicles thoughtfully....

...and whilst on the subject of good neighbourliness, BDBC have advised us that they will take action against those who persist in leaving rubbish bins on pavements on days after the bin collection day. This is unsightly, dangerous and obstructs the safe passage of pedestrians - we have been warned!

In recent years we have received a number of complaints regarding the length of grass in the open cemetery and with a wet summer this year's maintenance costs have soared due to difficulties of cutting and strimming. The PC have been picking up all the costs of maintenance for many years but have now established that maintenance is legally the Parochial Church Council's responsibility. We will be seeking a meeting with the PCC in September to sort out an equitable arrangement.

...and finally a victory for the common people. On the first day of August BT decided to erect a telegraph pole on the island opposite our post office. The contractor carrying out the work advised this was to avoid buses bringing down the low hanging communications line to the Post Office. Despite erecting this massive post in a conservation area and on a locally valued and distinctive feature in our village it transpired that BT had not sought the necessary approvals! With the help of George Young MP, Councillor John Leek and Georgio in BDBC Planning Control I learned yesterday that BT will be removing the telegraph pole.

Chris Cooke, Sherborne St. John Parish Council

Hello my name is Andrew, Volunteer Development Officer for a charity organisation called Mencap. I help young people with a learning disability to do volunteer work for volunteer organisations. I'm writing to Popley Matters magazine to tell you a bit about what some of my volunteers have been up to at the Melrose Community Hall in Popley.

I have three volunteers helping every week and with the help of local community gardener Richard King. Some of the work they have done has already made a big impact to the re-development of the gardens outside Melrose Hall.

Not only gardening needs to be done as this is a commonly used centre point it can get untidy, so they help litter pick and get rid of smashed glass and weeds.

I want the local community to know what the volunteers at Melrose Community Hall are aiming at as well as raising awareness about Mencap and learning disabilities. Opposite you can see, along with pictures, what Mencap do as writing in Popley Matters is a good way of letting people know the great work these people have been doing, and to celebrate the success the re-development of the flower beds and gardens has had. What do you think of the idea?

I've also attached a short case study about one volunteer and his achievements which you may find quite interesting. We're also organising a fun event hopefully in mid-October at Popley Fields Community Centre with an evening of bingo, food and music to commend some of our volunteers and the hard work they've been doing all over summer. This may be something local residents can attend.

All the best, Andrew Granata VDO Mencap

#### Footnote

There are 1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK. Most are treated as 'different' and don't have the same control over their own lives as the rest of our society. That's why Mencap is here. Find out more at [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk) or sign up to our monthly newsletter at [www.mencap.org.uk/be](http://www.mencap.org.uk/be)

*Editors note: I was very proud to be asked to promote the work these wonderful people are doing. I think you will all agree that if you visit abbey Road Shops or melrose Hall there have been some really big changes to the garden area by these and some other volunteers.*

## Andrew Graham's Story



### Volunteering at the Melrose Community Hall

I volunteer to do gardening at the Melrose Community hall. The Hall is used for many different functions and is a central point for the community. I am part of the team working towards the re-development of the flower beds and the gardens circling the outskirts of the hall.

At first I wasn't sure whether I was doing everything right but at the end of my first day I could see how my digging would create space for flowers to be planted. Richard King, a community re-contribution gardener opens up the hall when I arrive and I get out which tools I need to do the jobs I want to do. 'Andrew's commitment to every task he does is amazing, he's so focused and really enjoys digging up weeds & bushes because he likes the jobs that really challenge him'.



I usually split the time I spend gardening by doing two or more different things. Sometimes I'll do a bit of litter picking first or weeding and then start digging up bigger unwanted weeds. I like to work hard and really put all my effort in to the digging, I want to make sure I am tired afterwards so I get a good night sleep!

### Volunteering at the Melrose Community Hall

Volunteering at the Melrose community hall is a lot of fun because Richard King gives us a goal for each time we're there. We get a tea break too!



At first I had to get lifts in a car to my placement but now I've worked out which buses to get to and from there and which bus stops to go to. 'Every week Andrew seems to get stuck in more and more and now we can all see the progress he's making and the gardens at Melrose hall, its great'.

I help clear up afterwards by dumping all the weeds and rubbish in a place where it can be collected. I make sure all my tools aren't too muddy and they are put back in the right place! Volunteering here is something I look forward to every week.

