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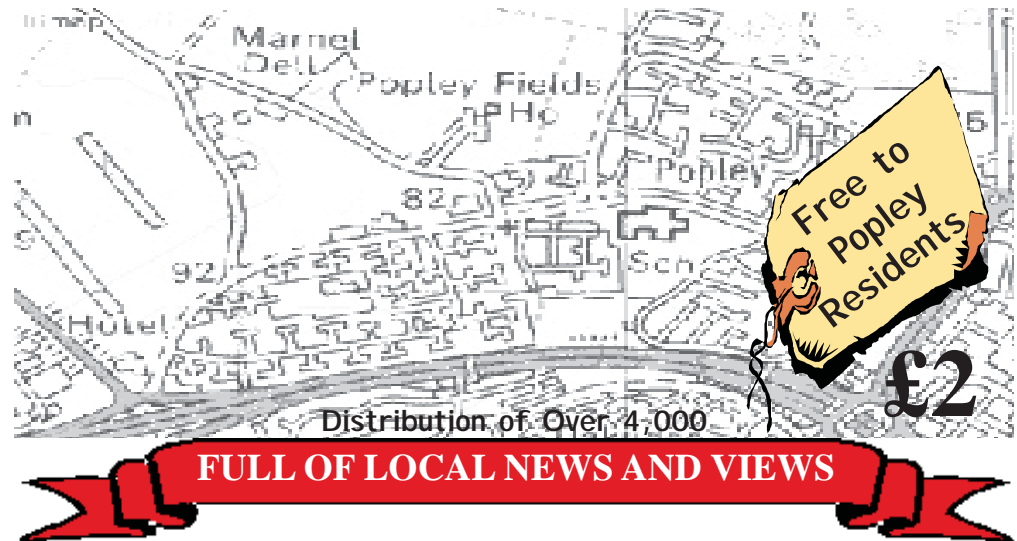
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

November 2009

Issue 93



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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-11-09)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message From the Editor:-** It is sad to report the passing of John Blairman who along with his wife Ann were Popley Councillors from 1988 to 1999. John was one of the founder members of the Popley Matters and always maintained an interest in Popley after his retirement.

By the time you get your Popley Matters delivered Bonfire night may well have passed but I bet the fireworks will go on for some time yet!

The clocks went back last month and winter will soon set in.

I have noticed that there are a lot of berries on the trees, and the old wife's tales would say it looks like we are in for a tough winter. If we do get a lot of snow I can see we will be clearing the paths to our houses.

Christmas is just around the corner now and it will be a challenging year for many. Melrose Hall have a sale of homemade and shop gifts that will be cheaper than in the shops and the profit goes to charity Details are on page 22.

While laying out this month's Popley Matters The travellers are back yet again in Popley and the procedure to move them goes on. Oakridge, South Ham, Winklebury, Chineham and other areas are also having the same problems.

We need a permanent solution and as it is the responsibility of the Borough. many Councillors and residents are demanding a permanent solution!

If there are any other residents that could help with Popley Matters we would be really grateful. We have an amazing group of deliverers but we do really need more. Contact Iris King on 411113 or me, Jane Frankum, on 819924.



Sub Editor  
Paul Frankum

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, P.O. Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, e-mail: [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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## Chloe's column

Hello readers, we are now in November and what a cold month it's been!! Not to mention dark. It's definitely Autumn time. I used to love Autumn when I was little; I loved kicking around the leaves. (The neighbors had probably just swept those up- I probably wasn't their favorite child.) I don't kick leaves around so much now though. Autumn is a bit less amusing for me now. Although one good thing about November is Bonfire Night! I hope everyone went and had a good time every year as there was a funfair and a live fireworks display. But as much as I like fireworks and Bonfire Night I am not that keen on fireworks at two o'clock in the morning.



Strangely the screaming of a firework does not soothe me to sleep, and I am sure lots of others don't appreciate the noise late at night. So if you are going to enjoy fireworks that's great but have some consideration for people at home in bed. Last month was Halloween and I hope everyone had a scary night! My 4 year old sister, Kayla, ate lots of sweets and went to a disco, which shows Halloween is great for children and even for older people who have a chance to nick their kids sweets. Well what I am looking forward to now is Christmas! I can't wait. I do have to start shopping soon though for presents-I need money! I have had a look at what's on in Basingstoke and I can't really find any events for this month after Bonfire Night but I would not really be gagging to go out in this cold weather. I'd much rather be indoors with a hot chocolate watching telly. I would definitely suggest this to everyone.



Have a good November everyone and try not to catch a cold,  
Till next month,  
Chloe.

## Save Chineham Park Primary School



**On October 15<sup>th</sup> Hampshire County Council decided to open consultation on the closure of Chineham Park Primary School.**

This is down to falling numbers on roll and "surplus places" in other schools.

A Save Chineham Park campaign has been set up by a group of parents headed by Sharon and Barry Lunnon. A facebook group called "Save Chineham Park Primary School" which has attracted over 260 users in its first 10 days. A petition (including an e-petition) has also been started at: <http://www.gopetition.co.uk/online/31570.html>

The decision to close is premature for three reasons:

1. Over 1500 new houses are to be built in Popley in the next 2 years. Using Hampshire County Council's own predictions, Marnel Infants and South View Infants will be overfull by 2012.
2. Some of the "alternative" schools would mean children as young as 4 having to cross the A33 with no marked crossing or a 1-mile detour via Faraday Road and Wade Road.
3. Following an Ofsted inspection in January, which put the school in Special Measures, the Board of Governors was disbanded and replaced by an Interim Executive Board in June - this has not been given time to work. The school is improving – the latest SATs of 205 and Value Added of 100.9 are well up on last year. Interim HMI inspections show the school is on course to get out of Special Measures and reject the view of Hampshire County Council that this is a failing school.

To close this school would be a hammer blow to the staff, parents. Pupils and the local community whose only community facility left is in the school. The school also provides a number of essential services such as the Breakfast Club: many children would otherwise go without breakfast. Such facilities are not necessarily provided elsewhere.

**Formal consultation on closure starts after Half Term. There is a public meeting on Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> at the school at 6pm. Cllr David Kirk, the man who made the decision, will be there!**



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 Exciting new developments at the Pebbles Children's Centre Nursery!

From 27th July KIDS' assumed management responsibility for the Nursery based at Pebbles Children's Centre. KIDS is the disabled Children and Young People's charity. There is no other organisation dedicated to working in partnership with parents and carers to provide such a wide range of services to disabled children, young people and their families irrespective of medical condition or impairment aged 0-25 years.

'We work to give disabled children a happy childhood'

Based within Pebbles Children's Centre in the beautiful grounds of Chineham Park Primary School, the Nursery provides a stimulating and fun environment for children to grow and learn. Educational grants are available term time only, for children from the first term following their 3rd birthday. Places are available 5 days a week all year round and the children have either a full-time or part-time place, depending on availability of places and the family's needs.

We are currently taking enquires and bookings  
 For further information please contact 01256 462804

Shakespeare Road, Popley  
Basingstoke, RG24 9BP  
01256 357028



e mail: pebbles.cc@hants.gov.uk  
www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc

**Parents enjoy our activities:** At our recent Parents' meeting parents commented on how much they enjoyed the new groups, Baby Massage, Baby PEEP, Big Chef/Little Chef (a healthy cooking with the children group), Fun Fits (our exercise group for parents and children), MAD Academy/Stretch & Grow, Bumps Mums & Dads & our Breast Feeding Support Group.



Also at the Parents' meeting it was decided that the mothers would organise a fund raising event to try and keep the centre activities free or at minimum cost. So they decided on a Virgin Vie Evening: and they invite **YOU**. Come along on Thursday, **26 November** 7.30 - 9.30.



**At Pebbles - We need Volunteers:** We have lots of roles that we need help in, so if you have a particular skill or just have some spare time that you would like to help at Reception, crèche or fund raising, you might be just who we are looking for. We also currently have a vacancy for a local parent to sit on our Partnership Board. This is a group who help to support the running of the Centre, rather like a board of Governors in a school. If you feel you would like to support us by having a say, please contact us on **357028**

**New groups & courses** are starting in November - please phone and book a place as soon as possible as there are limited numbers available and they fill up quickly. **Get Crafty** - is our latest. For the next 15 weeks an artist will be coming into Pebbles every Tuesday afternoon and helping you and your child to make things to take home and also big projects for the garden at the Children's Centre.

If you would like to know more about any of our activities, please contact us at Pebbles Children's Centre. We are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.



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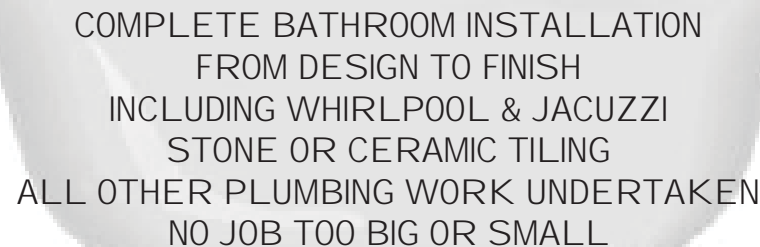
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The Parish Council met twice in September – our normal meeting on the 4th Monday of the month (28th), and a special Merton Rise / Speckledwood Road / Marnel Park meeting at Everest Community College on the 16th. Sadly the turn-out for the latter was poor – we are now looking at forming a sub-committee for this new part of the Parish. If you are keen to get involved, please contact Cllr Jonathan Eales or Mrs Clover Morgan the Clerk.

We are delighted to welcome our new 'Beat Officer' WPC Miriam Edwards to the Parish. We trust that she will enjoy her time here – please help her to maintain the strong tradition of community co-operation.

The SID (Speed Indicator Device) continues to move around the Village – it appears to be very successful in reducing average speeds ... .. your views on how well it is working would be most welcome. The chicane in Elm Road has – at last – been repaired by Hampshire CC. If you do see dangerous driving or excessive speed through the Parish, please note the number plate and let us know - or inform WPC Edwards.

Chute Play Area – the Parish Council is giving serious consideration to a basketball / football 'kick-around' area to replace the tennis practice wall. As always, we are looking for an affordable design. We will be constructing a walkway from Vyne Road up to the car park – to enhance safety, by separating vehicular and pedestrian access – later this year or early 2010. The football season has started again – the success of the Sherborne St John Football Club is most welcome, but it does mean that we need to consider usage of the playing fields and ensure that parking on match days is properly managed.

It's back to the drawing board for the Bottle Bank. Basingstoke and Deane is not able to provide a unit that meets noise requirements.

Sherborne St John has a new logo – which will be in use shortly. Congratulations to the winners of our competition – 'Woody' from Pamber, and Rebecca Halil at Sherborne St John School. Our thanks go to the School for supporting the competition with many excellent entries.

You will know that Mrs Babs Seaton sadly died a few months ago – she lived at Springfield House. The Parish Council has expressed an interest in maintaining the allotments along Dark Lane, which are part of the estate. The beneficiary - Downing College, Cambridge – will (no doubt) seek to maximise its benefit from any sale.

Finally, the economic situation does mean that future funding from local government will become more difficult to obtain. We will all need to think whether we can spare our own time to benefit the Parish.

Do come to our meetings – the next one is on Monday 23rd November – 7.30pm at Ssj Village Hall. Please don't forget the website [www.ssj/hampshire.org.uk](http://www.ssj/hampshire.org.uk).

Julian Crawley

Contact Details: Jonathan Eales 01256 417546 or [jonathan@ealesonline.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@ealesonline.co.uk)  
Clover Morgan 01256 851715 or [ssjclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:ssjclerk@btinternet.com)



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### Bonfire/Firework Safety.

**REMEMBER:**

- Fireworks are explosives.
- Always buy fireworks that comply with the British Standard.
- Follow all instructions and always put safety first.

**ALWAYS:**

- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Dispose of sparklers in a bucket of water as soon as they are finished.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Ensure that all children with fireworks are well supervised.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box or tin.
- Use them one at a time, replacing the lid immediately.
- Follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch - never use a naked flame.
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper or a firework lighter.
- Do not drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Stand well back.

**NEVER:**

- Never go back to a lit firework, it could explode in your face.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket.
- Never throw fireworks.

**BONFIRE TIPS:**

- Never use/pour petrol or other flammable liquids onto a fire to get it going.
- Always start and keep bonfires away from buildings, sheds and fences etc.
- Check the bonfire for animals/pets that may be hiding within it before lighting it.
- Be aware of neighbouring/nearby thatch properties.

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)



**Councillors Page:** Paul and I were sad to hear of the death of John Blairman who was a councillor for Popley from 1988 to 1999 with his wife Ann. Both John and Ann kept in touch with what was going on in Popley.

I went to the meeting called by the parents and supporters of "Save Chineham Park School" it was well attended. A parents Forum is to be formed from the parents at the meeting. There is an action plan being formed on how to support the school and children who attend it. The main concern is that parents do not take their out of the school. It was stated at the meeting that the reported SATS were not the entire or true reflection of the school. There is a further meeting on 9th November at the school at 6p.m

Paul and I have been doing a survey on the paths over this year and have secured some path improvements to some of the worse areas in Tintern, Buckfast, Romsey, Fountains, and Glastonbury. If you know an area that has a significant problem with the paths please contact us. We have also been looking at dropped kerbs and where there may be more needed.

The Old Codger came up with the idea that it would be useful to have a map for disabled residents and indeed for Mums with prams of where dropped kerbs are. A good idea and I am working with HCC officers to see when and if this can be done? Cllr Jane Frankum 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

**Popley West:** I have been contacted about dogs especially dangerous dogs that are out with no leads. I witnessed two youths, one on a bike and the other on foot with two Staffordshire Bull Terriers. The dogs were being encouraged to bite and tug on an inner tube. I was told that this strengthens their jaws. What for? There have been reports to us Councillors and the police lately from worried residents and one resident who has had two of his dogs attacked in fairly recent times. If you suspect that people are not looking after or controlling their dogs you can call 101. Most dog owners are very caring and look after their dogs very well.

Still on dogs and dog walking, we are pleased to see that provision for the dogs and walkers have been taken into account with the new park. It is hoped that phase one of the park should be ready by the end of the year (weather permitting).

I did a walk about with an officer and pointed out where it is felt that the improvements to 1 to 213 Abbey Road need finalising, and there will be up to 7 new formal parking spaces created.

I am always contactable by phone 472496/819924 email cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk at Popley Labour 405 Abbey Road Popley, RG24 9EL

**Popley East:** The biggest story in town is undoubtedly the decision by Hampshire County Council to open consultation on the closure of Chineham Park Primary School. This is down to falling numbers on roll (dropping below 50% full). A campaign has been set up by parents including a facebook group called Save Chineham Park Primary School. The decision to close is premature for two reasons: firstly, the new build will mean neighbouring schools such as Marnel Infants and South View Infants will be overfull by 2012, secondly, the Board of Governors was disbanded and replaced by an Interim Executive Board in June 2009 and this has not been given time to work. The school is improving – the latest SATS of 205 and value added of 100.9 are well up on last year, interim HMI inspections show the school is on course to get out of Special Measures and we reject the view of Hampshire County Council that this is a failing school that they wish to close.

We met with Sentinel to discuss the Faroe and Maldive Scheme. The Council very nearly killed the scheme by wanting to take 3 months to decide in principle to transfer the land at nil value. The £14.1m Homes and communities Agency grant stipulates work must start by March 2010. We managed to bring the decision forward by 5 weeks and this has helped keep the scheme on track. Sentinel now want to start demolition in January 2010. The remaining flats in Faroe Close are expected to be empty in the next few weeks. Cllr Andy McCormick 01256 419376 or 07879 436985

## Diaries from the Old Codger

Well how fast the years go the older we get, and all the ailments start to set in. As you hear your bones creek as you stand up, all the oos and arhs that you make as you do not know what part hurts the most. What you could do in a day now takes two or three days. What you could clean you can't reach. What you could dress in is old fashioned, and that's just Her Indoors!



When I look back as a young man, well about ten years ago (ok, don't laugh) the dance halls we went to and the parties we had. Our door was never locked and if the family had a bash on and the music playing, no matter who it was, in our street, they would just come over with a crate of beer or some food for the table. My old Gran would be sitting at the joanna tickling the ivories, boy, she would play any tune you wanted her to play. If someone in the street had a tiff with each other, by the time they had left the party they would be the best of friends again. That's why our community stayed so strong. Back then if you needed something someone would know someone that would help you. Money WHAT WAS THAT? It was in kind. For the first thirty years in Basingstoke we had that in our small part of the community but now you do not know who your next door neighbour can be let alone the rest of the area and that is a sad fact of life. Now a days people do not like to stand and chat. Yes we still have a few of the old timers that you can call on for help but they are slowly going and as I have said, the older we get so age catches up on us. When we had the old hall on the Poets it was a good meeting place and some good times were had, not only by us but the children as well. That way it brings kids to play and talk in an environment where mums and dads could enjoy a night out as well. Alas this has all gone and I can see no improvement on that in the future. Her Indoors and I are now thinking it is time for us to move out to let others come into the area our home for forty years and the work we have put into it. It would be a sad day to do so but as I have said so many of our friends are now gone. It is hard for me to try and keep pushing people into helping each other and then to get ridiculed for helping is a hurtful thing, That's life.

Just a reminder again fellers, and I will put it in the Old Codger next month if I am here in Basingstoke: hide the credit cards. Christmas shopping is getting closer Her Indoors has got her running shoes out and that's a bad sign. You want to see the size of the bags she has! She will be putting wheels on the bottom of them to pull them along knowing her.

Take care all, The Old Codger



## New parking restrictions to help keep roads and paths safe

New parking legislation, making it an offence to park in front of a dropped kerb and to double park, is being implemented across the borough from Thursday 1 October 2009.

The new legislation is part of a crackdown on motorists who cause traffic hazards or danger for residents by parking inconsiderately.

From 1 October it will be an offence for any vehicle to park in front of dropped kerbs, including blocking driveways, or to double park. Motorists not adhering to these new rules could be fined.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Development and Transport Cllr Clive Sanders said: "The Highway Code advises drivers not to stop or park where a kerb has been lowered to provide access or to help wheelchairs, mobility vehicles or cyclists.

"Blocking dropped kerbs can cause considerable inconvenience and put vulnerable road users at risk. Despite this, some inconsiderate motorists still think it's OK to block driveways and safe crossings. That is why we need to take action.

"There are practical exceptions allowed for residents, such as unloading, so the legislation is not being introduced unreasonably but it does mean the Council can and will fine people who choose to ignore these rules."

Exemptions to parking in front of dropped kerbs include:

- Vehicles unloading or loading or carrying out waste collection, building work or road works.
- Vehicles parked outside a residential driveway with the owner's consent.

Exemptions for double parking include:

- Vehicles parked in a designated parking place
- Vehicles loading or unloading.
- Vehicles used for waste collection, building work or road works.

To introduce the legislation, leaflets will be given out over the coming weeks to motorists currently parking illegally to encourage them to act responsibly. Residents will also be encouraged to let the council know where offences are taking place.

After the initial four week period, fines of up to £70 may be imposed.

More information about the legislation will be available on the Council's website by 1 October at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/parking](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/parking).

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# Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

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

Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake (01256) 410559

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 Colin 01256410559



The Group's autumn programme is now in full swing with Beavers building and exploding 'volcanoes', learning a little about astronomy and making Australian style musical instruments. The Cubs concentrated on the Battle of Britain in August and 54 years of ITV in September and made moon cookies and star biscuits and held a Ghanaan Night in October. They are not celebrating Halloween this year but will join with the other sections for a Guy Fawkes' Party instead. The Scout section is busy making a unique 'guy' in readiness by building a plane complete with two pilots - much hammering, glue and hilarity - whose faces will the 'guy' resemble most I wonder? The Cubs and Beavers plan a more traditional 'guy' for the fire. The Scouts also held an overnight meeting in October as they took part in the annual JOTI/JOTA event as Scouts use the internet and/or wireless waves to contact other Scouts all over the world. A lot of chatting and not much sleep predictably!

The Beavers are looking forward to the annual Hampshire County Beaver Scouts' visit to 'Paultons' Park to see Father Christmas in November as he makes one of his first practice runs in preparation for his full-time job on Christmas Eve. The Cubs will visit the Haymarket for their Christmas production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' in December.

Congratulations to Yellow Beaver on completing her Leader's Training Programme and gaining her Wood Badge Beads. These replicate the beads given to Baden Powell many years ago in Africa by a tribal chief and are coveted signs of a leader who has completed the full training programme to a satisfactory standard. At one time the beads actually came from the initial necklace given to BP but that supply has long since been exhausted. Well done!

The three walkers taking part in the Tri-District Sponsored Walk in aid of Jacks Place raised £131.50 - well done and thank you for your support.

Recruits welcome in all sections. Scouting is open to all young people within the age range regardless of religion or disability. Leaders adapt the activities and programmes to cater for young people who are less able or have special needs and Base 2000 is fully accessible to the physically disabled. The first meeting is free but thereafter the subscription is £1.50 per week (can be paid termly by cheque if preferred). Gift Aid can be applied to subscriptions. Subscriptions will rise to £2 per week in January 2010.



Boy and girls 6-8 years  
Meetings: Tuesday 5:30-6:45pm  
Eve Alexander 346510



Boys and girls aged 8-10½  
Tuesday 6:30-8:15pm  
Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15  
Monday 7-9pm  
Colin Karlake 410559

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*The 4four2 project*

A couple of months ago, myself and Damien were saying how good it would be to have a David Beckham Academy type football venue in the Popley area, It started out as a joke, but when I actually sat down and thought about it, it didn't seem like a bad idea Why couldn't we have a football venue, if we could come up with the funding? The idea is to have a main build with reception, cafe, bar, Internet, Sky Sports, toilets and changing rooms with locker and shower facilities. The main features would be a full size all-weather pitch to be marked in white, a junior 11a-side pitch to be marked in yellow and 3 mini soccer pitches to be marked in blue; 5 pitches in 1. There would also be 4x5a-side and 1x7a-side pitches in the venue for those who just want to turn up with 3 or 4 of there mates for a kick about.

I drew a plan of what it could look like if it went ahead and asked 20 - 30 people in and around the local areas. It and had a great response, from all age groups. The best response I could have hoped for came from Gwen Clifford who is the Headmistress at Chineham Park School, who is more than happy for us to place the 4four2 project on the school grounds, which would be the ideal venue.

The potential for this, is staggering. We could hire pitches out to local businesses. Set leagues up for the local teens, who hang around shops and street corners, work with disabled and schools to also set up leagues, after school clubs and coaching courses. Possibly try and get professional clubs to use us as a base to work from in the holidays, Manchester United or Chelsea Soccer Schools. There are loads of ideas I could come up with for the venue, but the main one is to give kids that opportunity to get off the streets.

Please contact me with any questions or support: [mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk)

Thanks for your support, united always!  
Lee Austen, MFC Popley Director of football



# Popley Explorers

[Formerly Marnel Explorers]

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

## Under New Management

We are pleased to announce that as of 2nd November, Marnel Explorers playgroup has changed its name to Popley Explorers to encompass the wider community.

If you would like to register your children with us or just come and look around, our excellent management and staff will be happy to talk to you.

Please telephone in the first instance and ask to speak to either Filomena (deputy) or Elaine (manager) telephone: 01256 308442

### Lunchtime Ladies@ Everest Community College

Every Wednesday and Thursday 12 noon – 1.30pm Refreshments 1.30-2pm

£2 per session (including refreshment)

Kayley Hancock, one of Everest Health & Fitness Club's excellent instructors would like to invite all you ladies to a fun hour and a half in the gym followed by a nice cup of coffee or tea. Fitness, nutrition and general well being will be the focus especially if you have never been in the gym before or were thinking about getting back into it – all followed by some refreshment. This will be a casual pay as you come session – you do not have to be a member and you do not have to commit to coming every week and all levels of fitness will be catered for.

We will be running this from Wednesday 4th Nov until Christmas.

### Christmas Fayre

We are holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am till 12.00pm Anyone interested in doing a stall at the cost of £5 per table, please call the centre.

### Free Computer Classes

Free Computer course begin again at Popley Fields Community Centre week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009. Courses include beginners computing, internet & email, digital photography and more.

For more information please call Queen Mary's College 01256 417517 or pop into the Community Centre for details of course times and days.

### MAD Academy

This high energy dance group for under 4s is continuing in popularity but there are always spaces available. Come along on Tuesday mornings from 10.15-11.15am and speak to Cathy.

### Silverwings Line Dancing

Wednesday evenings 8.00 to 10.00pm

This class is for all those people that can line dance. Come along and give it a try.

### New Testament Church of God – Coffee Morning for over 50s

This popular get together is held here on Thursday mornings from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Come along with your old friends and make some new ones.

### Dynamics:

Baton twirling takes place on Thursday evenings 5.00 to 7.00pm.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and under 12s children's parties all at very reasonable rates. Call 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



## Melrose Hall Christmas Sale

On Saturday 14th November we will be holding a Christmas Sale 1.30-3.30pm, where there will be new and used items, gifts bargains and refreshments.

1st Popley Cubs and Scouts Sale on Saturday 5th December. The Cubs and Scouts will be holding a sale to raise funds for their group.

Wool needed: our knitters are poised and ready to knit for the charity "Feed the Children" all we need is more wool. If you have any to spare contact Iris King on 411113 or bring it to 55 Tintern Close.

The Heroes Fund, homemade cakes, Christmas gifts and much more to raise funds for our Heroes first Thursday in December 10am till 12-30pm

### WHAT'S ON:

- MONDAY: 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café  
7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY: 4.00-7.30pm Petite School of Dance  
9.30am-2.30pm Marnel Early Years
- WEDNESDAY: 10.00-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group  
9.00-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic  
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
- THURSDAY: 10:00am-12pm Friendly Café is changing opening times to 10am. Due to staff shortages we need volunteers. If you have the Hygiene Certificate we need you.
- FRIDAY: 6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years  
8.00- 9.15pm age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY: 9.00am-12.30pm Petite School of Dance
- SUNDAY: 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.

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## Cornerstone Nursery News

Cornerstone Miss Muffets in Popley Way  
**01256 840300**



The children have been participating in musical sessions where they brought in instruments from home and together with the staff they have made up their own little songs. They have also been making instruments out of recyclable materials and painted them lots of beautiful colours. The younger children have also been making clay models of Bob the Builder and made a lovely colourful display.

Cornerstone Nursery in Priestley Road  
**01256 818118**

The children have been enjoying varied activities. We have been welcoming lots of new babies into our baby room who have been settling really well, and many new children into our preschool rooms, who have equally settled very happily, they particularly enjoyed turning their role play area into a fantastic train which the children had fun helping to make. They have also been looking at harvest in years gone past and also 'The Enormous Turnip' story which they then re-inacted with the lovely masks they made. The children also had a visit from Reverend Simmonds on 30th September who spoke to the children about harvest in depth. We are now looking forward to Halloween and Fireworks and the children are excited about our Halloween party on Saturday 31st October where they will be busy doing artwork and getting involved in lots of messy play!!

Cornerstone Sunrise at Aldworth Science College  
**01256 356166**

The children have been looking at mini beasts in the garden with their magnifying glasses and they found lots of ladybirds. They were catching them with their butterfly nets and putting them in a pot and counting them. They also tried to count their spots, but the ladybirds wouldn't sit still!

The babies have been exploring different textures with sensory play, and have experienced jelly, cornflour and paint. This meant that bathing the babies (and clearing up) was also an additional experience for both staff and babies due to the huge amount of fun they all had!



## **Budgeting**

Christmas is only a few weeks away. It is an expensive time for us all as we look forward to extra food and drink, buying presents for friends and family, going on special outings. Now is the time to start thinking about our finances to ensure that we can enjoy the festive time without burdening ourselves with large debts.

Budgeting can help you to know where your money is going, avoid getting into debt, make savings and have more choice about what to do with your money. Setting aside just a few minutes a week to review your finances can help you to live within your means.

### **Drawing up a Budget.**

Start by listing all the monies you have coming in (INCOME) i.e. pay, benefits, tax credits, bank interest, rent received from a tenant or lodger, commission, bonuses. Add to find the total income.

Then list all of your outgoing costs (EXPENDITURE)

- Household - food, utility bills, mortgage, rent, service charge, Council Tax, phone bills, TV licence
- Child - childcare, child maintenance, school outings/events
- Travel –getting to work, car (tax, insurance, MOT, maintenance)
- Leisure – going out, takeaways, alcohol, cigarettes, holidays, club memberships, books, magazines
- Financial Products – loan/credit card/hire purchase repayments, pension contributions, savings, investments, life insurance, building and or contents insurance, car, medical, mobile phone insurance
- Other – clothes, shoes, toiletries, medicines,

Add to find the total EXPENDITURE.

You can do this on a weekly or monthly basis. Do remember to include those once or twice a year payments. You may need to keep a diary of your outgoings to check that your figures are accurate.

Once you have drawn up your income and expenditure lists calculate the total for each. Take the expenditure total away from the income total to work out what is left over for the week or the month. You can then see how much you have to spend on those extras for the festive season or those special occasions.

If you are regularly struggling to make ends meet you will need either to increase your income or reduce your spending. At least by drawing up a budget and sticking to it you will be aware of where your money is going and can start to manage your finances.

### **Need further information or Help?**

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau can help you with queries you have on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10am-3.30pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday) and Saturday mornings 10am-12pm.

The Advice Line telephone number is 01256 322814.

The CAB outreach service in Popley operates on a Monday afternoon from 1- 3.30pm at the Bermuda Practice, Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley



Dear Friends

It may well be that by the time you read this the ashes of Bonfire Night will have cooled and all the fireworks will have been set off, except maybe for that big one you're saving for New Year's Eve! I remember Bonfire Night as a boy in Manchester as a time of wonderful community. For weeks beforehand the boys in the neighbourhood would all be out every spare moment gathering bits of wood (or anything else that would burn) and piling it onto the bonfire in the field near where we lived. Competition for "penny for the guy" would be fierce among the children as we scabbled for the best pitch – usually outside the pub!

On Bonfire night we'd rush home from school to get changed and gather around the pile of wood and stuff. As it was lit and the flames reached hungrily into the cool of the November evening air fireworks of every colour shape and size would crackle and flare, lighting the faces of adults and children alike with their bright, eerie colours. We'd share 'hard as rock' treacle toffee, toffee apples and potatoes baked to charcoal in the intense heat at the edge of the bonfire. As the bonfire died down we children would wander home to bed and the grown ups would sit around the glowing red embers swapping tall stories and drinking warm, flat beer! The next day the air would be thick with bonfire and firework smoke and the lingering smell of expended gunpowder. For me Bonfire Night conjures up very pleasant, powerful and evocative memories.

Community is a vital part of what it is to be human. I'm not talking just about the social gatherings like Bonfire Night which are usually such great fun! It's the sense of community that takes pride in its surroundings, which cares for the vulnerable individual whether old or young, rich or poor, which takes the time to smile, to greet, to look in on someone. In fact it's the community that God created us to be a part of, and to take part in! Unless we all buy in to this idea of community it will never be as it should and that diminishes all of us!

As a Christian I firmly believe that St Gabriel's as a church is called to be a people that reflects the nature and character of Jesus to our community. Jesus was the Master of caring and sharing, listening and talking with those among whom he lived and worked each day. I hope that His example and desire today for true community is what forms the heart of our vision for our church and for Popley. If this is what you are looking for in a community we would love to welcome you any time you want to drop in.

I hope and pray that you have a funtastic and safe bonfire night, shared with family and friends and one that in future years will evoke pleasant and powerful memories for you.

Yours in Christ

Arthur  
Vicar, St Gabriel's, Popley.

# Sentinel

**Faroe Close and Maldive Road**

## **Regeneration Update.**

We've been working with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to make sure all the necessary planning applications and agreements are completed, so we can make a start on the redevelopment as soon as possible. We're aiming to have everything ready by December 2009, so our contractors can start their site preparation work. This work takes about three months and makes sure that everything is ready for demolition to begin next spring.

To give you an idea of what to expect over the next few months, here's a rough outline of the work to be carried out in the area.

December 09 – March 2010

- Contractors site preparation and set up
- Bat re-homing and hibernation period

April – August 2010

- Demolition and removal of debris
- Begin construction of phase one of the regeneration project



## **Autumn Term at Marnel Infant School**

We would like to welcome all our new children and their families to our school. The children have settled well into school life and certainly look smart in their new uniforms. It has been a very busy half term. Key Stage One have been enjoying Science Week. The focus was Forces and Movement which included a visit from Timezones Theatre Group who involved the children in making a fairground ride for a teddy. Parents were invited in to our Science Fair where they could experience the fun of hands-on science with their children. Year One children have visited St Gabriel's Church and as always received a very warm welcome from Rev Arthur at Marnel we are always keen to involve our parents and during the last week of this half term, Year R parents will be invited in to join in a fun session of 'Boogie Rhythms' songs and rhymes. The Year 2 children are busy transforming a classroom into the rainforest for their parents to visit as the culmination to their 'Walk on the Wild Side' project. Year One children invited their parents into school last week to help them make a page for their 'All About Me' book. There was a wonderful response and the parents helped to make very creative and informative pages with their children. Thank you to all parents who are so supportive and attend our events.

Mrs B Cole Head Teacher Marnel Infant School

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## **VICAR OF DIBLEY COMES TO POPLEY**

Hook Choral Society are returning to St Bede's RC Church for their autumn concert to be held at 7.30pm on Saturday 14th November. The concert will be devoted to music by Howard Goodall. Never heard of him? Yes, you have, he has written many TV theme tunes (Dibley, Blackadder, Bean, QI), adverts and film scores. Autumn 2008 saw the debut UK tour of his Eternal Light: A Requiem which immediately topped the charts and earned Howard a Classical Brit award for Composer of the Year. We believe we are the first choir in the county (maybe the country) to repeat this work. The rest of the programme consists of Psalm 23 (theme from Vicar of Dibley), Love Divine, In Memoriam Anne Frank and the Marlborough Canticles. Tickets £12 (£10 for concessions) available through St Bede's, Dawsons Music, Festival Place or by calling Helen on 01256 766522.

## Community @ Everest Community College

Hi Everyone,

My name is John Perrin, the recently appointed Community Manager at the College. My professional background is of working predominately as Sports Centre Manager at the University of Surrey and more recently as an Exams Officer at Collingwood College, Camberley.

My door, phone and email are always open to members of the community, and it is this which forms the crux of my editorial.

At Community we are committed to providing what you want, where possible, and to that end we would like to know what you want, particularly in the following areas.

**Family Learning** - learning activities where children and parents, guardians or carers learn together.  
**Adult Education** - teaching and educating of adults predominately via courses.

We are committed to producing a programme of courses, classes and events but they have to reflect the needs of the local community. Likewise anyone wishing to deliver learning in any of these areas I would be more than glad to talk to. My contact details are as follows,

**Tel** - 01256 337575

**Email** - john.perrin@everest.hants.sch.uk

**Address** – Community Manager, Everest Community College, Oxford Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9UP

I look forward to seeing you soon.

### What's Happening

#### **AN OPEN COFFEE MORNING AT COMMUNITY - SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 10am-12noon**

An opportunity to have a look round the facilities and see what takes place at Community – bring the family, free refreshments available.

**Dance @ Everest** – Starts w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> November – an exciting new project in collaboration with Amy Fowler & Rhythm Central (see advertisement).

**Classes @ Everest** – A new programme of classes with something for everyone (see advertisement).

**Adult Education @ Everest** – courses run and bookable through BCOT have now started – 01256 354141

**Lettings @ Everest** – We are almost full with our lettings. However, there are some spaces available on the Astro, MUGAs and our Dance Studio – call Marilyn 01256 337572 Monday –Thursday 9am-1pm or email [marilyn.botham@hants.gov.uk](mailto:marilyn.botham@hants.gov.uk)

**Everest Health & Leisure Club** – Our Fitness Suite is an intimate yet welcoming facility- our professional and knowledgeable staff are able to induct and write a programme that suits you – feel free to come up and have a look around (see advertisement).

**Sport & Words** – Every Friday in November 5.30-7pm we would like to invite Year 6 and 7 pupils and members of their family to come along to activities of sport and fun plus refreshments AND ITS ALL FREE – up to 3 children per adult – children must be accompanied by an adult over 18. Book at Community to reserve your place 01256 337573.

**Fleet Half Marathon in aid of Cystic Fibrosis** - The College PE Dept would like to invite any members of the community to run this event - training will take place at Community w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> November on Tuesday evenings @ 4.30pm and Friday @ 3.30pm.

## Christmas at St Gabriel's

We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate the reason for the season!

St Gabriel's is your parish church  
Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way.

### Advent Service

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 a.m.

### Carol Singing in the Woods

Carpenters Town Woods

Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm

### Christingle Service for all the family

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm and again at 5 p.m.

### Carols by Candlelight

a service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.

### Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m.

### Christmas Celebrations

A short Service of celebration for all the Family

Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m.

We look forward with pleasure to welcoming you and your family to these or any of our services over the Christmas period.

Please contact the church office on 324734 for further details or information.

*Look backward with gratitude,  
look forward with hope,  
look upward with confidence.*



## "GET CREATIVE IN POPLEY"

Join our forthcoming workshops. No prior experience needed. Bring a friend. Refreshments provided. Donations welcome.

SHAKESPEARE MEDICAL CENTRE  
Mondays (10:30am-12noon)

**November 2nd Pamper Session**

**November 9th The Joys & Benefits of Exercise  
(including chair-based exercise class)**

**November 16th Positive Mental Attitude  
(tips and techniques for remaining happy)**

**November 23rd You & Your Garden  
(how to make looking after your garden  
easier and more straightforward)**

Popley Fields Community Centre  
Monday 7th December 10:30am-12noon

**Celebration Event and review of our Creative Journey  
from September to date & sign up for New Year activities.**

**For further info contact:-**

**Philippa Secretan (01256) 423828**

**Basingstoke Voluntary Services**

**[www.voluntaryservices.com](http://www.voluntaryservices.com)**



## **BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE  
BASINGSTOKE HANTS  
RG24 9PE

TELEPHONE  
OFFICE: 01256 363156  
HALL: 01256 308442

We have the excellent Popley Explorers Pre-School here

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 3.00pm

Also available:-

Breakfast and Lunch Club

(For further details contact Elaine on 01256-308442)

Monday evening: - C.M.A. Keep Fit & Kick Boxing from 6.30 to 8.00pm

Tuesday evening: - Community Bingo Doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm. Finish around 9.45pm. (Light Refreshments available half time)

Wednesday evening: - C.M.A. Kick boxing from 7.00-8.30pm

Thursday evening: - C.M.A. Martial Arts 7.00-8.00pm

Friday evening: - Friday Club (children) 6.30-7.30pm.

Sunday Afternoon: - Christian Family Fellowship 4.00-6.30pm.

This Hall is also available to hire for parties at very reasonable and it's that time of year again don't miss it

Family Prize Bingo Evening on Friday November 20th 2009 at the Popley Fields Community Hall, Carpenters Down. Doors open at 6.00pm eyes down at 7.00pm Many varied prizes for all the family to enjoy, organised by your three Popley Community Centres. Bar, hot snacks and refreshments will be available.

### **The Bermuda Community Association**

Is seeking a volunteer relief BINGO caller.

To help out once or twice a month for  
its Tuesday evening community bingo  
sessions between 7.45 to 9.45pm.

If interested in help out please call the Bermuda Community  
Association on 01256 363156.

Interested party must be over 18 years old.