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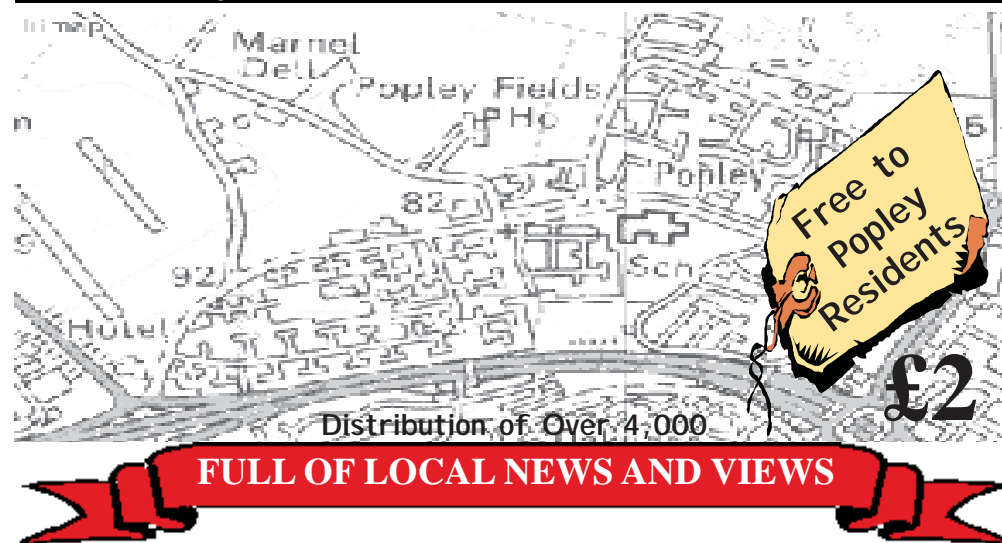
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

January 2010

Issue 95



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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-01-10)



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:- Another year begins, and it's a new decade. I can't believe the last ten years have gone by so very fast. I wonder what this year will bring for all of us.

We are writing this a little earlier this month so that hopefully it will be all ready before Christmas and just waiting to be delivered. I love the sight of snow if I can see it in a picture or through the window when I am snug and warm inside. I love to see children playing out there building their snowmen. With the first snow came the usual chaos, Every year it seems to come as a surprise! But, I admit I

am always happy to stay indoors in the warm. I am worried that with these hard times people will not put the heating on when it is needed. Please keep an eye out for your neighbours and especially anyone who maybe lonely or on their own.

We have interesting and useful tips from Citizens Advice Bureau on your rights for returning goods on page 22. From the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service we have tips on driving in icy and winter conditions on page 4 and an article on the pilot project in Popley Fields on page 30. I am very proud that Popley was the pilot of a scheme that will go across th whole of England eventually. Thank you to the Fire Service, Popley Fields Committee and the residents

We are still looking for people to help deliver Popley Matters. If you could spare an hour a month to deliver the magazine you may enjoy it, get some good exercise after the Christmas indulgence and even meet new people. Please contact Iris King on 411113.

If you want to write an article or advertise please contact Jane Frankum (Editor) or Paul Frankum (Sub Editor and Layout Manager) on 819924 or email editor@popleymatters.org.uk



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. 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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What's On @ Everest Community

At **Community**, we hope you all had a great Xmas and we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. This term promises to be an exciting one at Everest with the launch of our embryonic **Family Fun and Adult Learning Programme** (long overdue, I know!) – see listings below.

We launch our **14+ membership for the gym** on 1st January 2010 whereby all those 14-16 may attend the gym on a pay as you go basis (£1 Everest students, £2 others) on a Wednesday and Thursday 3-5pm and Sunday 2-4pm.

Lunchtime Ladies continues every Wednesday and Thursday 12-2pm for those who are looking to get back into the gym or those who never have been in one – no membership required, pay as you go £2 per session.

Dance continues to grow under partnership with Amy Fowler, Rhythm Central – classes include Junior/Senior Cheerleading, Musical Theatre Jazz, Infant/Junior Ballet, Infant/Junior Jazz, Senior/Adult Hip Hop and Adult Tap. Call 07811 299484 for details.

Basketball – To address the lack of provision in the area, this will be available on Sundays as of 31st January under the expert coaching of Reading Rockets – 9-10am Years 5 & 6, 10-11am Years 7,8,9 (there will be a small charge). This follows on from a number of sessions being run in junior schools during this month – the hope is to eventually set up a Basingstoke Rockets Club.

Netball – As we go to press we are very close to organising an after college provision – watch this space!

Family Fun Programme – Each child with a parent, guardian or relative (over 18) to engage and have some fun and maybe learn a few new skills in the following activities. **To book please call Community reception – payment confirms booking – 01256 337573.**

Trampoline - 4 weeks, max 10 pairs – All ages and abilities – Start Tues 12th Jan 4.30-5.30pm – Tutor Charmaine Poulton - Course fee £16 per pair.

Yoga For Life - 4 weeks, max 10 pairs – A short course to introduce Yoga, Relaxation and Health – Start Monday 18th Jan 4.30-5.30pm – Tutor Jacqui Morris – Course fee £16 per pair.

Family Cooking – To start in February – details to be announced in Popley Matters – Tutor Theresa Paice

£2 Dance Workshops – Learn a fun routine with Amy Fowler – all ages and abilities

Mon 1st March 6-7.30pm – Dance Michael Jackson

Mon 8th March 6-7.30pm – Dance High School Musical

Mon 15th March 6-7.30pm – Dance Saturday Night Fever

Mon 22nd March 6-7.30pm – Dance Grease

Fencing – coming in February/March – we have the equipment and the facility - we want to start a club, but need interest and a coach – let us know!

Adult Education – Short courses and workshops that are current and fun. To book see details above.

Internet Workshop – What Does Your Child Get Up To On The Internet? – **FREE session** to try to answer the questions you have – Monday 1st Feb 9.30am-10.30am – Tutor Sarah Mainprise

Intro To Drama – Mon 22nd Feb 7.30-9pm, 6 weeks, min 10 persons - A relaxed & fun introduction to many aspects of Drama – Tutor Cathy Clarke – Course fee £20 per person.

Intro To Basic French – Mon 22nd Feb 6-7pm, 6 weeks, min 10 persons – What you might need if to get by in France – meet and greet, directions, questions etc – Tutor Nadia Habibi – Course fee £20 per person.

Intro To English As A Foreign Language – Mon 22nd Feb 7.15-8.15pm, 6 weeks, min 10 persons Open to nationals and non nationals – A fun intro to the language featuring basic literacy and numeracy – Tutor Nadia Habibi – Course fee £20 per person.

Community Singing Group – Interested? in taking part or leading this project – **01256337573**

Half Term 'Mini Get With' - Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb – BOOKING DAY SAT 6th FEB 10am-12pm.

A New Park for Popley

As you will remember, we launched a competition in October to find a name for the new park being created on Popley Way.

We have received many suggestions and we would like you to tell us your favourite name. Please vote for your first second and third choice by quoting the number against the suggestions below and contacting Margaret McGrath at Basingstoke and Deane by email on Margaret.mcgrath@basingstoke.gov.uk, by phone on 01256 845407 or by letter at Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH.

The closing date for voting is 10th January and the results will be reported in the January issue of Popley Matters.

Suggested names from Popley people-

1. Popley Matters Community Play Area
2. Eutopia Park
3. Dreamfields Park
4. Rise Way Recreation Park (combining Merton Rise and Popley Way)
5. The Jane Frankum Family Fun Park
6. Popley Paradise Park
7. Jane Frankum's Popley Paradise Park
8. Friendship Park (to show the community is coming together)
9. Himalaya Park
10. Hillside Park
11. Pride of Popley Park or Popley Pride Park
12. Popley's Play Zone
13. Popley Park for all
14. Popley Community Park
15. Popley People's Park



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Exciting new developments at the Pebbles Children's Centre
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 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



Popley Pilot Hailed a Success

After a hugely successful five year pilot scheme in Basingstoke, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is set to build on the success of its temporary fire station at the Popley Fields Community Centre.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service took the decision in 2005 to run a pilot scheme which would see the Service operate a temporary fire station from the Popley Community Centre in Basingstoke. The pilot proved so popular that the temporary station remained in place for the following three years.

As a result of the scheme, the number of incidents in this particular area of Basingstoke and Deane Group has decreased significantly. There is also a greater level of fire, road, and community safety awareness - as well as more properties fitted with smoke alarms than ever before!

Group Manager Dave Norgate of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service said "The pilot scheme has been a great success and we wish to thank everyone who has assisted us, in particular the staff of the community centre who have been most accommodating.

"I would also congratulate the residents of Popley for welcoming us into their community and for engaging with our fire crews to such an extent that it has shaped our thinking and the way we will deliver our services in the future.

"With risk at its lowest level in a number of years, it now seems a wholly appropriate time for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to focus on other areas of the town where risk is higher."

Group Manager Norgate added "We want to take what we have learned from Popley Fields and use this knowledge in other areas. We will still have a visible presence in the Popley area and, of course, the fire and rescue service is only ever a phone call away. Residents will still see us carrying out home safety visits in the area, working in partnership with Forestry Commission wardens, and undertaking life-saving arson reduction activities in the community."

Popley Fields Note:- The committee of Popley Fields would like to thank you for your time spent with us and are glad that the pilot scheme was such a success in this area. Many Thanks Tracey

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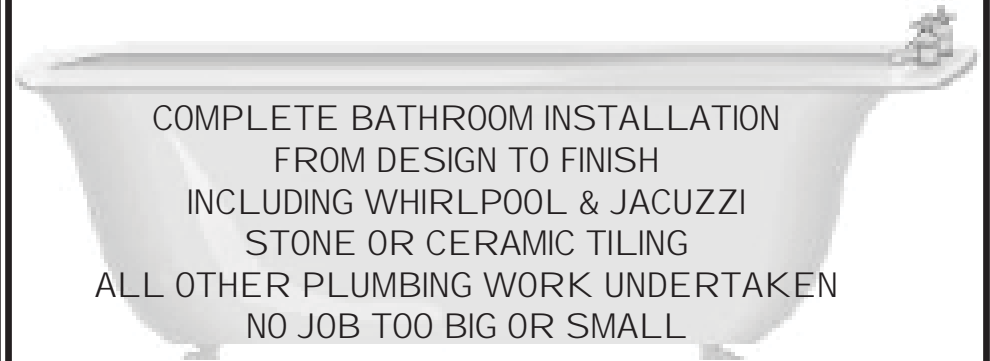
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- Share the driving if possible.

Don't drink drive –

- Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.
- The only safe option is not to drink any alcohol if you plan to drive and never offer an alcoholic drink to anyone else who is driving.
- Driving whilst above the legal limit or unfit through drink carries a maximum penalty of 6 months' imprisonment, a fine of up to £5,000 and a minimum 12 months driving ban.

Don't use your mobile phone while driving –

- On 27 Feb 2007, the £30 fine was increased to £60 and three penalty points on your licence. Penalty points = higher insurance costs.
- If you get six points within two years of passing your test, your licence will be revoked and you will need to re-sit the test.
- If the case goes to court, you could risk a maximum fine of £1,000, which rises to £2,500 for the driver of a bus, coach, or heavy goods vehicle.

Always buckle up -

- The law says that all children **up to 135cm tall** (around 4'5"), or the **age of 12**, whichever comes first, in the front or rear seats in cars, vans and other goods vehicles must travel in the correct child restraint for their weight.
- Adults travelling in the rear of a car must also use seat belts, if they are fitted. It is the responsibility of the adult passenger (not the driver) to ensure that they are using the seat belt.

Useful contact points and further information:

'Think Road Safety Website - www.dft.gov.uk/think
 Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
 Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809
 Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



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Dear Friends

2010! Wow! Where did that decade go? It seems hardly credible that in June it will be ten years since I was first ordained in Winchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Winchester and that the beginning of March will see the start of my seventh year as vicar at St Gabriel's.

I arrived in Popley and was licensed by the Bishop of Basingstoke on 1st March 2004. That license was for seven years and the coming year will be one of reflection and review of all that God has accomplished both in me, and through me during my time at St Gabriel's as the initial period of my licence reaches its end. For me personally, the time has passed so quickly. There have been many joys and sorrows, many successes and failures! St Gabriel's has flourished and grown in many different ways as God has been at work among us as a fellowship. The buildings are a focal point for many community activities and it is a joyful place to worship and be on a Sunday with other members of the church family. There is a very powerful sense of being the church in, and for Popley with a commitment to continuing growth.

The review and reflection process I'll be embarking on this year will be helped by a panel of folk from St Gabriel's and a community leader. At the end of the year a report will be compiled and sent to the Bishop. He and I will meet to discern what God is saying and a decision will be reached whether to extend my licence or a move to a new area.

Much has been accomplished; much more needs to be done. The year ahead looks to be a very exciting one. As we continue to welcome new families' young and old(er) we will be appointing a Young Families and Youth Worker. We have a new Lay Minister in training who will be licensed in 2011. New parenting groups and a new branch of The Mothers' Union together with greater involvement in the new developments in our community are all in the hopes and plans room. Hopes are high!

I could be anxious about the review process but I'm not! I trust and hope in God. In the Bible it says this: "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not to harm you.." One of the first things I discovered when I became a Christian was the truth of those words and that God has the most amazing plan for my life.

Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year I'll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year's resolution to discover God's plan for your life – you won't regret it!

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing more of you.

God's blessings,
Arthur
Vicar of St Gabriel's

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Councillors Page: With the start of the New Year and new decade Popley will see more changes, and most will hopefully be for the better. The new 62 beds special care home will hopefully be completed. The continuation of building homes for our most needy residents will start again, and with that we will be a step nearer getting the new shops in Merton Rise. The new park will be named and officially opened in the beginning of the year. The constant illegal encampments in Basingstoke and especially in Popley have become a nightmare for all. We have called for a full and proper scrutiny to get a permanent solution so we never have a year as bad as the last one. Many residents complain that it seems that the Travellers are above the law and they can break into places and nothing is done. I contacted Chief Simon Dodds who told me that they need evidence! He told me only 6 incidents had been reported. If you witness anti social or questionable behaviour you are asked to report it to the police on 08450454545. Cllr Jane Frankum 819924, write to 405 Abbey Road or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

Popley West: There are some very excited children and families who have been asking me when will the new park be open so they can play in it. Their excitement grows when I tell them this just a part of how the park will look when it is finished. It will be bigger and better yet.

I have had complaints again about dog behaviour and dogs fouling the paths and green areas. It is only a few dogs that do this as most owners are much more responsible. On page 21 there is advice on what you can do if you witness anything.

The repairs to the paths in Tintern, Buckfast, Romsey, Glastonbury and Fountains Close will start soon. If you have potholes in your paths or need a dropped curb contact me on

Don't forget to recycle your real Christmas Trees. Christmas paper however has to go into your waste bin as it can't be recycled.

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

Popley East: At the time of writing this, Christmas is fast approaching. Most of the presents have been bought, wrapped and sent. Next comes the cards, over 100 of them need sending out. I will need this holiday even more after all the Xmas preparation work coming on top of an unprecedented year for all of us Popley Councillors - 2009 has been the busiest year on record. We've had the recession, Longfellow and Faroe/Maldives regeneration schemes, problems at the Elevate new build (John Hunt site), over 20 traveller evictions, and the fight to save Chineham Park school (more on that elsewhere). And finally a special farewell to our Community Wardens: thanks for all your hard work these past 5 years, we will miss you and I'm sorry that we couldn't save your jobs from the Council's axe. Let's hope 2010 will bring better news for them and everyone who lives and works in Popley. Cllr Andy McCormick 01256 419376 or 07879 436985

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Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 Colin 01256410559



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

As the autumn session finished the Cub Scouts put their efforts into making Christmas cards and decorations. Some members of the Pack will take part in the District Cub Scouts' visit to see 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' in the Haymarket Theatre at the close of the autumn programme. The Beaver Scouts 'visited' Kenya in the latter half of the session and explored Healthy Eating with the prospect of too much rich food at Christmas looming on the horizon! They also had a talk from members of St. John Ambulance on how to keep safe and healthy, and are looking forward to the District Beaver Scouts' New Year party in Chineham at the end of January. Plans for the Spring session include experimenting and more exploring. Meetings for all sections recommence as of Tuesday 5th January. Please note - the Scout section now meets on Fridays from 7- 9 p.m.

Two of the Cub Scouts, Cain and Zack (accompanied by Group Scout Leader Colin Karslake



and Assistant Cub Scout Leader Douglas Gowan) had a privileged visit to the multi-million pound 'Jacksplace' at the Wessex Children's Hospice in Sutton Scotney early in December. The new teenage facility is nearing completion and hopes to be



able to accept its first residents early in the New Year. Cain and Zack were two of almost two hundred sponsored walkers who together raised £3,350.59 for 'Jacksplace' through the Scouts' Tri-District Sponsored Walk in September. They each walked 5 miles and collected £92 for the fund. Well done!

New members are welcome in the Cub and Scout sections but the Beaver section is currently running a waiting list until the older members 'swim-up' to the Cub section. Scouting is open to all young people within the age range regardless of race, religion or disability. Leaders adapt activities and programmes to cater for young people who are less able or have special needs. Base 2000 is fully accessible to the physically disabled. The first meeting is free but thereafter the subscription is £2 per week (can be paid termly by cheque if preferred). Gift Aid can be applied to subscriptions.



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

Page 8



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



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

The Committee and Staff at Popley Fields would like to wish a Happy New Year to all its regular user groups and customers

Youth Club

This will be the start of another year for us. Youth Club reopens on Monday 11th January 2010

Session time will still be 5.30 till 7.00pm.

Any new members wishing to join please come along.

Free Computer Classes

Free computer classes starting again in January at the Popley Fields Community Centre.

Beginners guide to computing: Wednesdays 9.30am-11.30am

Beginners guide to the internet & email: Mondays 12.30- 2.30pm

Beginners guide to spreadsheets: Wednesdays 12.30-2.30pm

To Book or for more information please call 01256 414494.

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 50's

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 5.00pm 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



I hope you all had a great Christmas, we have a new group to help us start off the New Year:

Peace of Mind Care is a registered charity that is putting on affordable activities for young people in Tadley & Basingstoke.

We are running the following activities starting 20th January 2010.

Places are limited so please call 01189812823 to book a place.

Drama – Wednesdays 4-5pm (Ages 5-7) Wednesdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

Drama – Thursdays 4-5pm (11-16s) Thursdays 5-6pm (16s and

over) £1.50 for 1 hour

Art & Craft – Wednesdays 4-5pm (ages 5-7) Wednesdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

Art & Craft – Thursdays 4-5 pm (ages 5-7) Thursdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

We are now on face book. Join our group: Melrose Community Hall. This group now has all the details of what's on here at the hall. We would love to hear your comments on things you have attended here at the hall, and suggestions for what you would like to see or do here.

WHATS ON IN JANUARY:

MONDAY:	9.30-12pm	Friendly Café
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	4.00-7.30	Petite School of Dance
	9.30-11.00	Pebbles Children's Centre
	1.00-2.30	Pebbles Children's Centre
WEDNESDAY:	10.00-11.30	Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
	9.00-11.00	Quit Smoking Clinic
	12.00-2.00	Oasis Lunch club
Starts 20 TH	4.00-5.00	Peace of Mind, Drama and Craft age 5-7
Starts 20 th	5.00-6.00	Peace of Mind, Drama and Craft age 8-11
THURSDAY:	9.30-12PM	Friendly Café
Starts 20 TH	4.00-5.00	Peace of Mind, Drama and Craft age 5-7
Starts 20 th	5.00-6.00	Peace of Mind, Drama and Craft age 8-11
FRIDAY:	6.30-7.45	MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00- 9.15	MCF Youth Club - age 11 plus.
SATURDAY:	9.00-12.30	Petite School of Dance
SUNDAY:	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble 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 or find us on facebook at Melrose Community Hall.



Well, it's a new year and I hope everybody had a great Christmas.

To reflect on last year's performances as a whole, I think the club had a great year with the Tornados winning the league earlier on in May, and then stepping up to 11 a side in September, not dominating like the season before, but playing some excellent football.

I watched the U13's play just before Christmas and they were excellent also, Danny had a bit of bad news a week before the game, losing Jonathan Paige to CSA(Ludwig) which is a shame because Jonathan was one of Danny's main players and a great ambassador for the club. He was highly thought of and will be missed. Personally I don't think it was his choice, but we must move on without him and the Scorpions did so, with a 2-1 win over Thatcham. Well done!

The U10's have had a great start to the season, and they also have lost one of their main players in Alfie Mitchell, a great player!

I spoke too soon for the U9's the day after I wrote last months report saying they were unbeaten. Yes, the very next day they got beaten, typical! But we are still on course for the title. Good luck boys.

The U7's are still unbeaten with Jake Lunnon, Charlie Croucher, Alfie Austen, Mark O'Shea, Ibrahim Salman, Ryan Bassett and Ben playing their little socks off, playing some lovely football and scoring lots of goals. Well done.

Player of the month: Jake Lunnon

Lee



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www3.hants.gov.uk/pebbles-cc

Make a New Year's Resolution: Come into Pebbles and see what we have to offer you and your family. We run different activities and courses and are a great place to come for support on any family issues.

New Courses starting in January:

PEEP 1: This is a follow on course from Baby Peep and is for parents and their child under 2. The PEEP programme focuses on how to make the most of the learning opportunities in everyday life at home – listening, talking, playing, singing, sharing books - and having fun! PEEP supports parents and carers in their role as the first educators of their children. It works *with* adults *about* their children's early learning.

Literacy: This is a 15 week course for parents to enable them to keep up with what their children will learn as they grow older

Song & Sign (using Makaton signs and symbols): This course is for parents and their children. They will have fun together learning through songs and signs.

Also new at Pebbles:

Once a month on a Monday we will have a **Speech & Language Therapist** at the Centre. She will be available to answer any questions you may have about your child's speech and language development. This will be a "drop in" session and no appointment will be necessary. Ring the Centre to find out which day she will be here.

Also once a month, **the National Childminding Association** will be running a Childminding professional support session. This will be on a small group / 1:1 basis to enable childminders to get advice on all aspects of being a childminder. You will need to telephone the Centre to make an appointment for these sessions.

All our normal groups, courses, drop-ins will be running again from week beginning 11 January 2010.

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.



Your rights to return goods or gifts to shops

When you buy goods you form a contract between the buyer and the seller which is legally binding and is covered by a law called the Sale of Goods Act 1979. If you have purchased goods, from a trader, that have become faulty or were not as described when you purchased them or are not fit for the purpose for which you bought them, read the information below and know your consumer rights.

You do not have a legal right to a refund if you have simply changed your mind about a purchase or decided that you do not like it. However, although you may not have the legal right to a refund it is possible that the trader may take back the goods and give a refund.

Your legal rights when you buy goods

When you buy goods from traders based in the UK (including goods supplied as part of a service), the law gives you certain rights as a consumer. The law says that the goods must:

- be of satisfactory quality. This means that the goods should be free of any faults, including minor ones. They should be of the quality that a reasonable person would expect given the description, price and any other relevant circumstances.

- be fit for the purpose. This means that you must be able to use them for the purposes that you would normally expect from this type of product, or any purpose that you have told the seller you want to use them for

- match their description. This means that if there is a verbal or written description of the goods, it must be accurate.

Your rights when things go wrong

If you buy goods from a trader and they are not of satisfactory quality, fit for purpose or don't match their description, the trader will probably have to put things right. It is the trader who is responsible for this, and not the manufacturer. If a trader tells you the manufacturer is responsible, or that you have to make a claim on a manufacturers' guarantee, you do not have to accept this.

Depending on the circumstances, you may have one or more of the following rights:

- to get all of your money back
- to get some of your money back
- to get the goods repaired
- to get the goods replaced
- to get compensation.

You will not have these rights if:

- there is nothing wrong with the goods – you have just changed your mind about wanting them
- you examined the goods, or a sample of the goods, when you were buying them, and the fault you want to complain about was so obvious that you should have noticed it

- the trader pointed out the defect that you now want to complain about
- you have damaged the goods yourself
- the problem is the result of normal wear and tear
- the goods have lasted for as long as could reasonably be expected.

If the goods were a gift

If you receive goods as a gift and they are faulty, do not match their description or aren't fit for purpose for which you bought them, the person who actually bought them should be the one to make the complaint. However, you can make a complaint to the trader yourself, as long as the person who bought the goods for you told the trader when they bought them that they were going to be given to you.

Ideally, your name should be written on a receipt, invoice or guarantee card as proof that the goods belong to you. If arrangements were made to deliver the goods to you, rather than the person who bought them for you, this could also be used as proof.

Need further information or Help?

For further help with consumer problems contact:- Consumer Direct- Tel 0845 404 05 06 Website: www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

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

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



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Peace of Mind

Peace of Mind Care are a registered charity that are putting on affordable activities for young people in Tadley and Basingstoke. We are running the following activities in Melrose Hall Starting 20th January 2010. Places are limited so please call 01189812823 to book a place.

Drama – Melrose Hall, Popley Basingstoke :

Wednesdays 4-5pm (Ages 5-7) Wednesdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

Drama – Melrose Hall, Popley :

Thursdays 4-5pm (11-16s) Thursdays 5-6pm (16s and over) £1.50 for 1 hour

Art & Craft – Melrose Hall, Popley,

Wednesdays 4-5pm (ages 5-7) Wednesdays 5-6pm (8-11) £1.50 for 1 hour

Art & Craft – Melrose Hall, Popley,

Thursdays 4-5 pm (ages 5-7)

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Dogs

The Council employs a dog warden, provided by a contractor, to deal with dog related matters, such as the collection and kennelling of stray dogs and the enforcement of dog fouling law.



Stray Dogs

Stray dogs are collected and taken to kennels whilst the dog warden makes contact with the owner. Normally the strays are returned to the owner quite quickly and the owner pays a fee of £25, but if the strays have to be kennelled, the owner must also pay the cost of kennelling which is between £25 and £81.

If you own a dog it must have a collar and tag whenever it is outside of your house. This is particularly important if the dog escapes as it allows us to return the dog to you quickly. You could also have the dog micro-chipped by your vet. The dog warden has a scanner which reads the chip and can then return the dog to you.

Dog Fouling

The dog warden also spends a lot of time dealing with dog fouling where inconsiderate owners fail to clean up after their dogs have fouled. The dog warden can issue £50 fines on the spot to people not cleaning-up after the dogs on land which is open to the public anywhere in the Borough.

In some parks there are special bins for people to put in the dog droppings but generally litterbins should be used for this purpose.

<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/general/inform.asp?action=showform&formid=13>

Dog Control Order

Notice is hereby given that Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council has made a Dog Control Order that will apply to Stratton Playing Field, Buckskin, Basingstoke, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which is to come into force on 1 June 2007. The order may be inspected at and copies obtained from Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4AH.

For more information, e-mail dogwardens@basingstoke.gov.uk or call 01256 844844

Editor Note:- We are aware that most dog owners are very responsible people but it only takes one or two to not clear up the dogs mess to make a difference. The only letter we received this month was about dogs mess. It is not the dogs fault, they are such wonderful friends and companions, but a small minority of owners can spoil it for the rest.

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

There is concern for the safety of Everest Community College students climbing over a bank on Chineham Lane on their way to and from school. The PC has been urging Hampshire County Council to give high priority to extending the pavement over the grass bank to link up with the footpath. This work is now planned but will not be implemented until the next financial year which starts in April.

A further invitation has been received from BT to adopt red telephone kiosks in the village. As you will recall the PC has resolved to adopt the Elm Road box opposite the post office. This time BT has included the other box in Spring Close, which when I last looked, was in a terrible state of repair. Should the PC retain this box at an annual cost to the parish or ask BT to remove it and make good? What are your views?

Several councillors and interested parties attended a BDBC Climate Change Challenge for Communities event in October. They reported that a new Greening Campaign, based on carbon reduction (and associated cost savings), education and community action, could provide a practical approach to engaging parish residents with climate change. The PC agreed to encourage community involvement in this campaign, initially for the village of Sherborne St. John, with financial support of up to £250 and committee representation by two councillors, Carole Stanley and Becky Jones. If you are interested in green issues and would like to help please contact our parish clerk or the two councillors above.

As you may have seen in the Basingstoke Gazette the No 36 bus service is 'under review'. The No 36 runs through Sherborne St John to Ramsdell, Baughurst and Stoney Hill. The service suffers from a lack of support and is therefore very expensive to subsidise. We understand that the bus may be replaced by a taxi service or community transport and the PC are requesting more details. If you will be affected and have concerns please let us know.

The PC has a number of projects planned for the coming months including development of the Chute play area, safe pedestrian access to the Chute car park, restoration of water to Sunnyside allotments, a replacement notice board for the village hall, a lych gate for the open cemetery. Next year we will be considering the purchase of another Speed Indicator Device (SID). Whilst we always seek grants for these projects it is clear that future financial budgets will be more constrained and this will reduce the assistance available to us.

With regard to our parish budget the PC has agreed to freeze any increase in precept for the coming 2010-11 financial year.

One of the special characteristics of our parish is the friendship and neighbourliness of residents which has evolved over many years. I am also reminded as we turn the new year of the heavy snow falls of last winter. If we experience days of freezing snow and ice let us each make a note to keep in touch with our elderly and less able neighbours. *Chris Cooke*

Does divorce and recession go hand in hand?

For the rich and poor alike, the poor economy is creating stress that can lead to or magnify problems in a marriage. Financial woes cause stress and, without a money cushion, couples are left with the bare bones of their relationship. Those who have a history of conflict over money or very different spending styles fight even more over money matters, then despair can set in and so the relationship hurtles towards breakdown. The timing of divorce during recession can be important to wealthy people who have seen the stock market collapse and businesses fail. Some business owners and investors who are poorer on paper have felt that it may be an ideal time to divorce and work out a division of assets.

For couples who are not wealthy, a depressed economy makes it harder because the typical assets that need to be divided during divorce are less valuable these days. Pensions have lost value during the recession and for some couples there may be little or no equity left in their homes. Divorce is expensive because very often two households have to be set up where there was one before. And of course there's the human cost to the wellbeing of each person, not to mention the children. But creative thinking and good professional advice can certainly improve the outcomes for couples – for example considering mortgage rescue schemes, shared ownership, making sure all benefits are claimed, or making sure any redundancy package has been fairly constituted.

'Legal costs can mount up but you don't always have to go through costly divorce proceedings in Court' says Howard Gardener, Senior Partner heading up the family team at Phillips. There are cheaper, alternative ways of finding a more amicable resolution, such as mediation or collaborative law. We always encourage couples to try this first as mediation can radically

reduce the legal costs, it's less acrimonious, and it can be a way of finding a solution that you both agree on. Increased co-operation will enable you to use your resources efficiently and both to have an ongoing relationship afterwards – essential if you have children. We can't promise to take away the pain but you can trust us to help you make the best decisions for your family's future.'

Call Howard or any of the Phillips Family team on 01256 460830 and visit our website at www.phillips-law.co.uk

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Ant & Dec's Push the Button ITV1, Saturday Nights

Ant and Dec are back with their brand new series 'Ant and Dec's Push The Button', and we'll be coming to a town near you soon for a series of national auditions.

Each show will feature two families of five, going head to head for the chance to win a large cash prize! Our contestant families will take part in a series of fun studio games, where the only way to stop their money from slipping away is to Push the Button!

The show will be scouring the country over the coming weeks for the nation's most outgoing and competitive families, so if this sounds like you then get in touch now for your chance to audition!

Families wishing to apply as a team can be a mixture of both immediate and extended family, but your team must consist of five members in total. Each team must include at least two adult family members, and the youngest family participant must be 15 or older.

So if you and your family are confident, fun-loving, and not afraid to give it your all for the chance to win big, get in touch now!

Email your request for an application form to pushthebutton@gallowgatetv.com, telling us what makes you a winning family.

Full terms and conditions can be found at www.itv.com/terms

"GET CREATIVE IN POPLEY"

Activity Date/Time Location

2 x Card Making sessions/January/t.b.c.–

1 x Knitting/Crochet/Tuesday 9th Feb 2pm–4pm/Abbey Court

1 x Cross Stitch/Embroidery/Tuesday 9th Feb 2pm–4pm/Abbey Court

1 x Intergenerational Games evening/Wed 17th Feb/4pm–6pm Junction 6

1 x Spring Dance (programme finale)/Friday 6th March 2pm–5pm/ Everest
Community College

For further info contact:-

Philippa Secretan (01256) 423828

Basingstoke Voluntary Services

www.voluntaryservices.com

Aspects of Christmas

at

Everest Community College

The Creative and Performing Arts Department staged a wonderful Christmas production aptly entitled 'Aspects of Christmas' on Tuesday 8th December for one night only. The Main Hall was buzzing as the lights went down and the audience was invited to join the choir in singing Silent Night. This was followed by Pan Everest who really got the evening going with their rousing playing of the steel pans. The Year 7 Choir, GCSE Music Group and the Junior Ensemble all entranced the audience with their performances. The highlights of the evening, judging by the roaring applause were the solo vocal item by a Year 9 student and a rendition of the well-known Talking Turkeys poem by Benjamin Zephaniah by a group of Year 8 and 9 students wearing turkey face masks. As Ms. Rose said at the end of the evening as she thanked staff and students for all of their hard work, this was one of the best productions ever staged in the College and we are proud that so many of our young people are making the most of the opportunities that they have.

NatWest MoneySense TV Advert

Twenty two Year 8 students from the College and their Learning Manager James Whybra took part in the filming of the NatWest MoneySense Advert that was shown on all commercial television channels over the Christmas and New Year period. The College was one of ten schools across the country approached to audition for the advert. Only 3 schools were successful, with Everest Community College 'outstanding' according to the producer. Filming took place in College on Friday 27th November. The cameras were ready to roll from early morning and it's a wrap was declared about 4.00 in the afternoon. The students were superb; they responded enthusiastically to the requests of the director and really connected well with the adviser from NatWest. The opening scene featured the NatWest adviser approaching the College and the camera focused on the College name above the main entrance. The advert was due to be aired during the final of the X Factor on Saturday 12th December, but technical problems meant that the 'launch' had to be delayed. However many millions of people will have seen the advert by now and the name Everest Community College will be known up and down the country.

Sentinel

Make 2010 a year to be proud of

Is there a forgotten corner of your Neighbourhood that could be brought back into use?

Sentinel Housing Association's Community Chest offers all its residents the opportunity to direct funding to Neighbourhood improvements or community projects that benefit everyone living in the area.

Residents have recently used Community Chest to:

- Transform unused allotments into attractive green space.
- Turning an overgrown grass verge into a communal garden.
- Music coaching to improve confidence at a homeless hostel
- New football equipment for a local youth team
- Planting in raised beds

As well as improving your area, your initiatives can help turn neighbours into friends, and provide momentum to do other things.

So if you want to make 2010 a year for you to be proud of, why not apply for a grant (up to £1000). Applications will be judged by a panel of Sentinel residents.

It's easy to get started, so for a form, or advice, contact Richard Pilbeam on 0800 195 5515 or email Richard.pilbeam@sentinelha.org.uk

Sentinel – investing in your community

Save Chineham Park Primary School



On December 17th Hampshire County Council decided to go ahead with closure of Chineham Park Primary School. Notices of closure will be published in the New Year, with a final decision due in March.

HCC want to close Chineham Park due to falling numbers on roll and surplus places in other schools. But with the new build starting up again after a 12-month lull due to the recession, this argument will be increasingly hard to understand for most residents/

HCC are also quoting the inadequacies highlighted by the January 2009 Ofsted Inspection which put the school in Special Measures. The school has been in and out of trouble for quite some time, but it was in a much worse position 5, 10 or 15 years ago. And its 2009 results were amongst its best ever and better than some of its neighbouring schools.

A petition to save the school was handed in but to no avail. The Save Chineham Park campaign set up by parents has been successful in raising the profile of the school but has not been successful in saving the school, although we are not finished yet, as the final decision is not until March!

Chineham Park was built 40 years ago. Originally it was two schools – an Infants and a Juniors, with the Infants school being closed down over 10 years ago and being demolished to make way for Hathaway Gardens. The fear of many residents is that the remaining school will suffer the same fate.

The County Council has given assurances that the school site will be retained for educational and community purposes. But past precedence in cases such as Cranbourne Infants school shows that the building will be kept for about 5 years before being demolished to make way for housing. We must not let that happen, but this is the County Council we are talking about, they will do what they like and if they see the opportunity to sell the site and make some money in a few years' time, they are likely to take it.

Cllr Andrew McCormick

Oi!

DON'T BOTHER

to pay £30 to join the gym

What's the point?

WHEN YOU CAN BUY.....

6 packets of cigarettes

or

10 pints of beer

or

6 bottles of cheap plonk

or

6 Big Mac meals

or

6 tubs of Haagen-Dazs

WHY BOTHER?

Because YOU matter

There are 1,440 minutes in every day. Schedule 30 of them for physical activity!

Regular exercise is a critical part of staying healthy. People who are active live longer and feel better. Exercise can help you maintain a healthy weight. It can delay or prevent diabetes, some cancers and heart problems.

Most adults need at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity at least five days per week.

The key is to find the right exercise for you. If it is fun, you are more likely to stay motivated. If you've been inactive for awhile, use a sensible approach and start out slowly.....

One solution is.....

Everest Health & Fitness Club

One Call – 01256 337573

One Visit – Everest Community College

Oxford Way, Basingstoke. RG24 9UP

**No Joining Fee With This Leaflet During Jan
2010 (Normally £15.00)**

Only 3 Months Minimum Contract

Full, Off Peak & Pay As You Go Available

**Full Membership Includes Free Access To All
Classes**