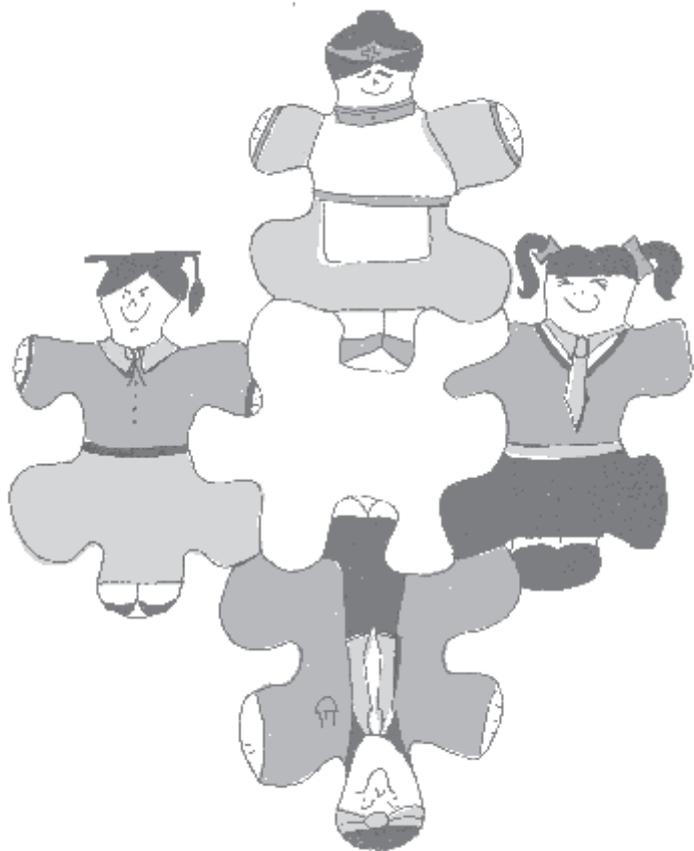


Popley Matters

10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL 1992 TO 2002



10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE POPLEY COMMUNITY

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POPLEY MATTERS

June 2002 to August 2002

Volume 3 Issue 17

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Popley Matters: - wishes to thank Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for their financial support initially with the first copy and 10 years later with our special 10th anniversary edition.

Closing date to submit articles etc. (9-08-02); Adverts (02-08-02)

Popley Matters/Forum History

The idea for Popley the one". Famous last words! Longfellow Parade and the Matters came out of an article in Paul has guided us from an A4 Community Surgery that meets the Basingstoke Gazette over ten one sheet fold over, to the the first Saturday of the month years ago, it asked for local booklet we usually produce in John Hunt School, (except people to write in about their today and this is the 24th copy he Bank Holidays). There are interest groups. The very first has laid out. Iris King, David usually County and Borough edition was produced by a Phillips and Ron Rowe have Councillors, Oakfern Housing, group of people and agencies been involved from the first Police, Health Visitor and a under the name of Popley edition. Kate Lomas and myself Union Public Relations Interagency Project PIP, for try to get the advertisements so representative. The Forum has short. It is still in existence but we can pay the printer. Iris King discussed parking, abandoned only as a support/discussion has the headache of trying to get cars, litter, estate maintenance, group. The first cover was the Popley Matters delivered to buses, a new medical centre, drawn by Rebecca Dobbey who 3500 households and local problems in Longfellow Parade was an art student at John Hunt interest groups. Tracey Bentley and Abbey Road shopping area. School. In the first five years is our treasurer. Ron proof reads We are always ready to arrange there were four issues printed, and delivers many of the copies speakers and guests if you have with long gaps in between them. to Popley Islands. Louise Tuck an issue that you think residents may be interested in.

The next five

years:-



A group of local people met at the first Popley Forum

Minute Secretary who is Andy McCormick. We have a whole army of people who deliver for us but we always need more, many hands make light work as my Mother used to say.

The first Popley Matters was mainly advertising, what groups were available where and when. As an editorial team we have tried to expand the Popley Matters to interesting

in January 1997, we were sitting talking about the negative press and how much we all loved living in Popley. We wondered what we could do to change the wrong attitude to Popley, also let other people know how much was available in Popley and what great people lived in our estate. Someone mentioned that there used to be a magazine called Popley Matters and how good it would be if we could revive it. Paul Frankum said, "I will do an initial copy, but just

We enjoy hearing from you and publishing your letters in the letters page. Copies of Popley Matters are delivered to many other parts of Basingstoke and even go to Lincolnshire and Canada.

Popley Forum has had meetings around the estate on many subjects. We have had as few as 10 and as many as 120 people, on many different issues. The most positive outcomes being Popley Partnerships, CCTV in

and informative articles and reports that people will want to read. It has proved to be a mammoth task and takes many hours of work to produce and deliver. We hope you enjoy reading Popley Matters.

Every one who works on Popley Matters does it voluntarily and in their own time, I would like to thank each and every one who plays a part in this community magazine.

Jane Frankum

Editor Popley Matters

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write/Email:-Popley Matters, Melrose Hall, Abbey Rd, Basingstoke, Hampshire
Email: popley.matters@bopenworld.com

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chairperson Iris King; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Treasurer Tracey Bentley; Minute Secretary Andrew McCormick; Advertising/Liaison Kate Lomas; Committee Members Dave Phillips; Louise Tuck;

Distribution Team: Ann Allwright; Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Tony Frankum; Win Harris; Kylie Humphries; Iris King; Val Lye, Ron Rowe; Louise Tuck; Mark Hood; Peter Moore, Martin stacey, Sue Toomer, Alison walker, Colin karslake **Youth Volunteers:** Alex Baker; Nathan Barris; Alex Humphries; Laura Humphries; Ryan Humphries; Kevin Muirhead; Alan Paige; Karl Price; John Smith;

Editors Message Special 10th Anniversary Edition

The idea behind the Popley Matters was to promote Popley as a good place to live and to get rid of the poor name it seemed to have, that we as a committee did not believe we deserved. Of course there are some problems but no more than anywhere else in the borough. I strongly believe that Popley is a great place and I have lived and brought up my family in Abbey Road for over thirty-one years. There have been many highs and lows in the years we lived here.

Reading through peoples thoughts and memories brought some wonderful recollections of my own and my family. I remember playing games with other families on Aldermaston Open Space (before the bikes). We had a fantastic Silver Jubilee street party that even the rain did not spoil. There have been house fires and family tragedies that only brought the neighbours and community together.

There have been some great fund raising from pulling a tank to making a mile of coins and

Teddy Bears Picnic. Popley Festival, Melrose Family Fun Day and Popley Fields Fete. We have a place I am proud to call home a place where you can do or become anything you really want.

We would like to have more input from you, the residents. If you are worried about being able to write stories yourself we can always come and talk to you and help you to write them. We want Popley Matters to be your local magazine if you have ideas for articles or items we should feature we would love to hear about them.

There is so much to do in and around Popley we can all join in. If we all work together we can make Popley even greater.

There will be many changes in the future and I wonder what stories, features, clubs and advertisements will be in the 20 year edition in 2012.

I hope you enjoy this very special souvenir edition and want to keep the stories of some of the history of Popley. *Jane Frankum (Editor)*



Melrose Hall

Popley Abbeys has had a Community Hall for over thirty years. The community had numerous fund raising activities including sponsored walks and bike rides to build the original hall. After a lot of dedication and effort from the community and volunteers of all ages it was finally achieved and the hall was completed and opened by Mr Howard and Maud Driscoll in 1972 and the "Abbey Road Community Association" came into existence.

The hall saw 25 years service (although the life span was supposed to be 10 years). The hall was built of wood and became known as "The Local Nissan Hut". Like all good things it came to the end of its life with the woodwork deteriorating, the ancient heating system and a myriad of other faults occurring. There was three options offered by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, so all was not lost. After a lot of meetings with council officers and committees it was finally decided to replace the hall!

The new building had huge input from the

community in both design and planning. "designed by the community for the community". Workshops were held where the young and old designed, decorated and made ceramic tiles that are all around the outside of the building. The main pathway was the result of a competition for the best design, which was won by a young lad in the community. The building was completed in 1997 and opened by the longest living resident on 15th March.

Now we have a purpose built building, a true centre of the community where activities of all kinds take place for leisure and learning. The Melrose Association is alive and kicking and boasts many diverse activities including Auctions, Weight Watchers, Church, Youth Group, dancing and a Café. There are probably many people reading this that have taken part in its history, many of the youths will be parents now themselves. If you are out there don't be shy, drop a line or better still pop in.

If you have memories of Popley, write, phone or email The Editor at Melrose Hall, Abbey Road. ☎420676

Email: popley.matters@btopenworld.com



Treasure Island Play Group

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9AE

Mon-Fri 9:15am-11:45am

Mon & Thurs 12:30pm-3:00pm



Parents & Toddler Group For More Information Phone



414014

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For an application pack and job profile please contact the Personnel Department, Child Health, G Floor, North Hampshire Hospital, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 9NA, Telephone 01256314951 quoting reference number BG/191/CH

The Trust operates a No Smoking Policy and is committed to Equal Opportunities in Employment. This post is subject to the disclosure Procedure of the Criminal Records Bureau.



A Message From Your Local Community Beat Officer

Since the last issue of Popley Matters I have seen a large increase in the amount of damage and juvenile nuisance to local schools. This is something for which I am becoming increasingly concerned about. Groups of youths are spending their summer evenings in the school grounds often consuming alcohol. This then leads to smashed windows and damage to school property. Local schools have had thousands of pounds of damage to their property. Every pound spent on repairing the school is money, which should be spent on the education of your children.

I have received numerous complaints about the use of motorcycles at the BMX track at Aldermaston open space (behind the Apollo Hotel) This is illegal and is covered by a local by-law and I am working to try and identify the offenders and would ask residents to supply me with any information that they can about this, e.g. descriptions, reg numbers or photographs.

I have recently had a meeting with Jonathan Neville from the Forestry Enterprise who looks after Carpenters Down Woods.

Problems highlighted were again nuisance motorcyclists (again illegal covered by Forestry by-law). I am concerned that someone has decided to take the law into their own hands and has been putting logs across the pathways to stop the bikes. Although I understand their frustration, this could result in an accident and must stop.

I am concerned about the amount of small fires, which are occurring around the area, again some of you must have suspicions as to who is responsible for these and I urge you to either contact myself on 0845 0454545 or anonymously on crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

Another reminder that I will be at the Popley Community Surgery held at John Hunt Of Everest School on the first Saturday of each month between 12 and 1pm.

No appointment needed just call in if you want to chat to myself or a local councillor (you might even get a cup of coffee!!)

PC3126 Matt Deery



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax : 01256 418529

E.mail:

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Charity Reg No : 1052133

Popley Fields Community Centre has now been running for six years.

As well as a thriving Playgroup and Parent and Toddler group, the centre is home to Free Adult Computer Courses run by Richard Aldworth Community School.

The centre is a very popular venue for all sorts of training courses and seminars.

It is well used by lots of Community Groups.

Two line dancing groups meet weekly. C.M.A Kickboxing meet twice weekly and recently held a superb Tournament with all proceeds going to the Centre Youth Fund.

We have recently moved our Youth Nights for 8 to 18 year olds to Mondays as well as having a team in the local 5-a-side League and running regular trips in evenings and the holidays. Volunteer helpers always appreciated.

We also have Dynamics Twirlers, a Pom Pom and Baton Twirling class recently set up as well as some Drama Classes and workshops.

We have just purchased a bouncy castle and Disco enabling us to offer superbly priced Children's party packages.

With constant bookings for wedding receptions, christenings, private parties and other functions, the centre is always busy.

The multi-sports area is also well used by a variety of clubs and groups throughout the year.

We also hold our very successful New Years Eve Party, Halloween Party and other functions throughout the year for your benefit.

But we still have room for your group and we are also willing to try to set up new activities if there is the demand.

For information on any of the above call us on 01256 414494.

Family Fun Day and Barbecue

Saturday 6th July 2002 2pm - 4pm



Melrose Hall, Abbey Road

Popley. Tel: 01256 420676

A FUN DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY INCLUDING BARBECUE, FACE PAINTING, TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, REFRESHMENTS, FISHING GAME, FOOTBALL SHOOT OUT GAME, SPONGE THROWING, CROCKERY SMASH AND LOTS MORE.

So Come along and join in the fun

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What is the Popley Partnership?



The Popley Partnership was formed on 2nd August 2000 and is made up of representatives from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Basingstoke Police, Local Councillors, Melrose Hall Community Centre, Oakfern Housing Association and the Health Service. The partnership was formed following a petition being presented to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council by residents of Popley asking for something to be done to make Popley a better place to live.

The aims of the group are:

- To improve the quality of life and reduce the fear of crime in Popley to all members of the community.
- To involve and seek the opinion of the community.
- To empower the community.
- To formulate an action plan in partnership.
- To monitor the outputs to ensure acceptable implementation of the Community Action Plan.

Market Research UK, an independent survey organisation, were commissioned to carry out a programme of consultation with Popley residents, to find out what they want for the Popley area and to discuss with them how improvements can be funded and put in place.

The proposed programme of consultation had two main stages, as follows:

Stage 1 - Baseline Survey of Residents

A short postal questionnaire, the survey form inserted into the Spring 2001 issue of 'Popley Matters' with a Freepost reply and distributed to all households and relevant agencies in Popley. The response was 712

questionnaires (21%).

A face to face survey of a random sample of 550 residents in Popley, with trained interviewers going into residents homes to complete a more detailed questionnaire.

The results of the baseline survey were fed into the next stage of the programme.

Stage 2 - Community Consultation

A series of focus groups were conducted on different issues, to identify key concerns and ideas and to develop options for taking these forward.

Two workshops were held at which residents and relevant agencies discussed the best approaches to issues identified, and resulted in a Community Action Plan for Popley.

A Study Visit to Stevenage was organised to consider safety initiatives that Stevenage Borough Council have put in place.

Timetable

The programme commenced in February 2001. The Stage 1 survey results were available by the end of May 2001 and Stage 2 ran until the end of August 2001. The draft Community Action Plan was completed by the middle of September 2001 and formally agreed by the members of Popley Partnership on 1 October 2001. Throughout this consultation Market Research UK not only fed back to the members of the Popley Partnership but also came along to Popley Forum meetings and produced articles for previous issues of Popley Matters to keep everyone informed along the way.

Since then the Community Action Plan has been reviewed and updated several times. Many of the recommendations have been implemented and an update of the plan will be presented at the next Popley Forum meeting.

We're on the move!!

John Hunt Pre-School group has been well established for over twenty years now, residing within the grounds of John Hunt of Everest School.

As most local people are aware, the John Hunt site is to be redeveloped in the next few years. With this in mind and the fact that we are now in a position to offer morning, afternoon and all-day sessions we have been lucky enough to arrange a move into Chineham Park Primary School. So if you see a fleet of cars and vans carrying huge amounts of toys and Pre-School equipment that will be us!

The Pre-School, to be called Chineham

Park Pre-School, will be operational from September 2002. We plan to hold an Open Day Launch Party - details will be announced nearer the time.

We have a solid, dependable and dedicated team of staff, volunteers and committee members who between them make this a pleasant, safe and stimulating environment for children aged between 2 years 9 months and 5 years.

With the local community firmly in mind our future plans include offering Holiday and After School Clubs.

Further information can be obtained by calling 01256 464750 or 01256 412720.

Alternatively, email us at

chinehampark.preschool@ntlworld.com

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ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14

Junior Section Aged 8yrs-10½yrs

Monday Night 6:15pm to 7-30pm
Main School Gym

Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

Monday Night 7-30pm to 9-30pm
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HELP FOR PEOPLE IN THEIR HOME

Oakfern Home Care provides home care services (personal care, domestic and cleaning help) to older people and those with a physical disability.

The service started in April 1999 concentrating on the Popley area of Basingstoke and has now expanded to cover more of the town and some of the adjoining villages.

SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE

Household, personal care and "social" tasks.
We are happy, where possible, to tailor our service to meet your particular needs.

- **Collecting pensions/prescriptions**
- **Companionship**
- **Co-ordinating with other professionals**
- **Encouraging and facilitating self-care and independence**
- **Cooking**
- **Shopping**
- **Housework**
- **Washing**
- **Dressing/undressing**
- **Toileting**



MAGNOLIA COURT, POPLEY WAY, BASINGSTOKE

Magnolia Court, managed by New Downland Housing Association, a member of Downland Housing Group, is designed for people of retirement age and above and consists of 31 one-bedroom flats. Two of the flats are specifically designed mobility units. There is a lift, door entry system and 18 car parking spaces, three of which are reserved for disabled users.

The scheme offers hairdressing, guest room, for friends and relatives, together with a laundry room.

Social Activities, Entertainment and outings are arranged. Magnolia Court has some very keen gardeners who enjoy making the scheme look nice, also taking plants to sell at the Summer and Christmas Fairs.

This year's Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 27 July 2-4pm, and all will be welcome. Do come along and join in at Magnolia Court.

STAGECOACH 'TICKETS TO GO' OFFER GREAT WAYS TO SAVE

Three types of day tickets are now available from bus operators Stagecoach in Hampshire to make unlimited bus travel cheaper and simpler to obtain in Basingstoke. As the names suggest, the Dayrider and Nightrider tickets give discounts over the local network at different times of the day.

Available from the bus drivers, the £2.50 Dayrider ticket gives unlimited travel in the Basingstoke region and the £2.00 off-peak Dayrider is available after 10.00 am. After 7.00 pm, Stagecoach have introduced the £1.50 Nightrider for use on their services any evening. For regular travellers, the Basingstoke Megarider gives 7 days unlimited travel for just £8.50 and the 7 day Freedom ticket at £15 offers customers use of the entire South East bus network.

Andrew Dyer, Managing Director at Stagecoach South East, says that he hopes that the range of tickets to suit different needs will encourage more people to take the bus.

'Our aim is to offer the customer the best value per mile without making the ticket system complicated,' says Andrew Dyer. 'These tickets are available to use on our fleet of 60 buses that service the Basingstoke area.'

For travel across the whole of the South East, the Explorer ticket is still a great value way to get around. The Adult Explorer is £5.50, Senior £4.00, Child £3.00 and Family £10.00 for a day's unlimited travel on all Stagecoach buses and many other bus operators too.

Full details of the new fares and tickets can be found at Stagecoach travel offices or by calling the Stagecoach information line on 0845 121 0180.

ABBNEY COURT, POPLEY WAY, BASINGSTOKE

After a troubled beginning, Abbey Court was completed by local builders H. N. Edwards, after two previous building companies went into liquidation. For Basingstoke and Deane Borough it was the first residential home in Popley Way, Magnolia Court followed later.

The first tenants moved in, in April 1998. It was quite chaotic as several tenants moved in on the same day.

The building was designed to cater for the elderly and infirm to encourage them to lead an independent lives. Abbey Court consists of fifty-one self contained one bedroom flats, a guest room and an assessment flat. There is a laundry, hairdressing salon, a specially adapted invalid bathroom on each floor, a large and small common lounge and a main kitchen and communal dining room where lunch is provided for a small sum if you don't want to cook yourself. Every where is wheelchair accessible. There are many social activities.

Two houses were attached for the use of the wardens. Eventually these houses were altered to a single residence and it is now let to "Little Miss Muffet Kindergarten" so we have the elderly and the very young side by side.

When Abbey Court opened there were four wardens, a cook and four cleaners. After a while Abbey Court was upgraded to Sheltered Housing with Extra Care for those who needed just a little more help and support. Abbey Court is one of very few in the country that had this special criteria. It was later sold to Oakfern Housing Association.

In 1998 ten years after it was built Hampshire County Council had cutbacks and the annual subsidy was massively reduced. Oakfern Housing Association responded by cutting back, the cook and wardens were made redundant and staffing levels reduced. They were replaced by a day scheme manager and the night care went over to "Communicare". Councillor Jane Frankum, along with the residents fought and wrote to the MP tried hard to redress the situation but to no avail. The Social Service cutbacks were final.

Abbey Court is a Community where there is security and peace and quiet. The lonely can meet and enjoy a friendly chat and a social life. Regrettably some tenants decline to mix which is a pity. The Social Committee organise entertainment and outings which are enjoyed. Age Concern run a Day Centre every Wednesday where people who normally cannot get out, can enjoy a day out with a meal. The Committee organise fund raising events which are well supported by the residents of Popley and we are very grateful for this. George Woodley

Diary from an Old Codger

I would like to take you back 30 years, when I came to Popley. It wasn't like it is today, only three estates, lots of fields, the old farm shop over at Chineham Park, just a small town centre that we all would walk to. Slowly it has grown and grown. When we were out and about, even today to some extent, people would say, "Where are you from?" I would reply "Popley" they would look at me as if I had two heads and say "you live there you must be mad". As far as I was concerned Popley was great. The community spirit that we had and we still have today. We had a club called the Pudding Club, for obvious reasons, we were all young and new babies were coming along all the time. Those babies have grown up now and a lot have settled down in the same area and have children of their own. Yes, you will always have the odd element of troublemakers, in this day and age no matter if you live on an estate or village they will be there. We have got some great volunteers on the Popley estates. They run our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Boys Brigade, Guides, Rainbows, Brownies, the Rangers and Air Scouts all for the benefit of drawing kids together. So that they learn teamwork, friendship and the community spirit. My own children have left home and set up their houses, two of them still work in Scouting with involvement from their partners and do Gang Show every two years. My daughter used to lend a hand back stage as my wife has done. A few years ago we had a bad fire in the Haymarket and thought we would have to cancel the show as the smoke had got into every thing, but loads of people turned up, the

costumes were taken home and from there they were farmed out to neighbours. The washing machines and tumble dryers were going all day and the show went on that night. We are talking about 80 children in the show on average 8 changes for each, 640 items washed dried and ironed and taken back to the theatre. That is the type of community spirit that the people of Basingstoke have and I am proud to say that some of the people of Popley were involved and helped. I came to Popley and I will stay in Popley. It is a good place to live and to bring up the kids. The schools and teachers do a wonderful job under great strains, the local beat bobby will always stop and talk. I find that quite amusing because I can remember PC Emmett walking the same beat and talking to all the kids. This is one thing the police have got right, they took the beat bobby away and now have gone back to the good old ways, a face the people can relate to and talk to, not just a voice over the phone. PC Deery is a friend to all if only people will recognise that and he will help you in any way towards bringing a closer community. In Carpenters Down they have built a good community centre with loads of activities going on all the time, again on Popley Abbeys the community centre has lots of activities for the young and old alike. It is also good to see that the youth of Popley are now given the chance to put their views on what they would like to see happen on the estates for them. After all it is their future we are looking at. So to all the people that say I would not like to live where you are, don't know what we know, that we have a good community, good neighbours and great people.

George Potten

Popley Car Boot

Nearly four years ago the Popley Boys Brigade started to organise a Car Boot at the John Hunt of Everest Community School. Held every other Sunday, the boot started to bring in some much needed funds.

Some twenty months later the Basingstoke Air Scouts joined us on alternative Sundays as they needed funds to help complete their new hall.

Eighteen months ago we were joined by the friends of John Hunt School and the Melrose Community Association. Now car boots are run every Sunday, fifty one weeks of the year. We tend to have Christmas off.

From the first boot, consisting of only five car boots we have not only built up a regular batch of friendly booters, but also a loyal crowd of buyers. Like the booters the buyers come out in all weathers.

Public Auctions in Popley

During September 2001 we started to run a Public Auction. We being the Boys Brigade and Melrose Community Association.

It is very simple, vendors, put up items for auction we aim to sell them and if we do, we take 10% of the purchase price it is then split 50/50 between the two charities. If the vendor does not sell the item, they take them back home with them with no charge.

Since the start, the two charities have made hundreds of pounds profit. (It also gives them a chance to sell items for themselves).

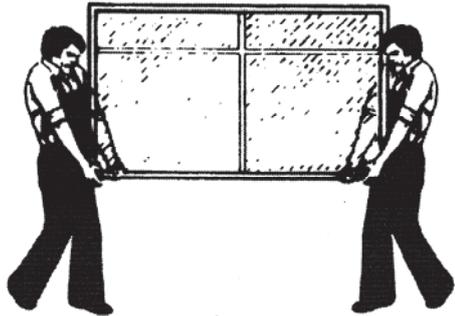
Since we have been running, we have auctioned:- Two vans, 2 cars, a caravan and a number of trailers, plus numerous other items.

A picture auctioned at £5 was later sold to a European art gallery. A lifebelt from one of the early Ark Royals was sold for nearly £60. It could be in America by now! One week we sold a three piece suit for £300. So it is often an idea just to pop in to the Melrose Hall (next to Abbey Road Shops) on a Wednesday and have a look.

Lots are taken from 4-15 pm, viewing from 5-45 and the sale starts at 6-30. Entrance is free and refreshments are available from the Café

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Thirty two years on!

"It's in a caravan on Popley Poets and the vicar is Bob Clarke", I was told when enquiring about the local Church of England church in 1970 when we moved to Popley. I duly went and peered through the window of the empty caravan, but never quite plucked up the courage to go to a service.

Two years on, when the church of St. Gabriel's had been given the opportunity to worship at St. Bede's School, my husband and I finally made it, and have been attending ever since. Eventually a small chapel and hall in Tewksbury Close was built, where we were able to hold mid-week services, whilst still worshipping on Sunday at St. Bede's School. This building has since been extended, and all services are now held in the chapel at Tewksbury Close.

The vicars during that time have been Revd. Robin Murch, Revd. Bill Ind, Revd. Peter Furber and Revd. Jane Vaughan Wilson. Brian Leathley, the Industrial Chaplain, stood in for us at one time while we awaited the appointment

of a new vicar. St. Gabriel's Church is part of a team of five churches, which includes St. Michael's and All Saints in Basingstoke, St. Peter's, South Ham and Christ the King, Brighton Hill. At one time we had some Nuns from the Community of the Holy Name working in the parish. They were a wonderful mixture of seriousness and fun, and a great blessing to us all.

We have many memories, some comic, some serious, and have taken part in quite a lot of activities and done a fair bit of learning, quite often about ourselves. Some that spring to mind are: Sharing carol singing with the Roman Catholic congregation on Christmas Eve. Fetes held both at St. Bede's and St. Gabriel's. Fun Days with the other churches. Study groups at St. Gabriel's and also at other churches in the team.

Walking through Popley with a donkey on Palm Sunday, feeding it carrots as we went! And who could ever forget the camping at East Boldre in the New Forest, shared with the Boys Brigade! We personally were very inexperienced

campers, and kept everyone nearby awake when our camp beds kept collapsing, as did the vicar's tent at one stage! Meeting together in each other's houses for study and worship during the week. Singing carols at Parklands, and having some of the patients from what was then Park Prewett to our groups and sharing a meal together. Sponsored walks, where on one occasion we followed the people in front – unfortunately they were not in our group and we ended up having to walk an extra mile! St. Gabriel's is renowned for its events involving food - fund raising meals, Harvest Suppers, Maundy Thursday Supper and vigil, as well as purely social occasions. Weekends at Old Alresford Place. Singing group. Craft group. Holidays in Scotland and York, Jumble Sales and so on. Many of these are still taking place, of course.

St. Gabriel's is for us a place of fellowship, acceptance, encouragement, and comfort in times of loss or sadness. We are just ordinary people who meet together and share worship, prayer and other activities. *Marion Moore*

Girlguiding UK

(as we now are known)

Has been in Popley for the past 25 years, in fact this year and next sees our 25th anniversary of at least 3 of our units still running today.

We have two Rainbow units which are our youngest girls aged 5-7 (set up around 10 years ago), three brownie units 7-11 and 1 guide unit.

Most of the leaders within Popley have been running their units as long as Popley Matters has been in existence so we will be celebrating our anniversaries alongside Popley Matters.

Further information on guiding in Popley can be obtained on our website or call Sue Saunders 07778 301948 (Popley District Commissioner).

Viking Badminton Club

Viking Badminton Club was formed in 1971 by a few friends who had all been on a couple of coaching courses, and then wanted to continue playing. We played at the Basingstoke Sports Centre when it first opened, and then moved on to play in school sports halls. We have been playing at John Hunt of Everest School for many years now. We play on Tuesday evenings from September to April inclusive.

We have 6 teams in the Basingstoke League, all in the 1st and 2nd divisions: 3 mixed, 2 men's and 1 ladies this year we

won the Mixed 1st Division. We also have a team in the Hampshire League, and some of our players play in the Hampshire Veterans teams. Three of our committee members (including myself) are founder members of the club!!! we have been on the committee since the beginning, and nobody seems to want to take over!

We are always looking for new members, but as we are a fairly small club, we can only take people who have played before; we do not have enough resources to teach badminton from scratch.

Diane Cooper Secretary
Viking Badminton Club ☎771794

Popley Two Residents Association

When I was asked if I would write an article on the history of our association my first thoughts were somewhat negative. This was because of failing health of late and wondering how much I would remember, also could I concentrate properly. It is ten years since the A4 sheets of Popley Matters were first published we have come a long way since then, so how could I not make some contribution to this special souvenir A4 edition? With the aid of many years of PTRAs committee minutes, photos and memorabilia. I hope it makes interesting reading.

I joined the Association almost at the outset in June 1975. At first it was a struggle to get committee members, by early 1976 committee strength got better, something in the order of sixteen to eighteen was reached. There used to be so much on the agendas we would sit from 7-30 till 11pm and sometimes even later. There was so much we all wanted to do for the local community, as well as arranging regular usage of the hall and the normal fund raising events in the hall, or on the dunes at the rear of the hall.

By late 76 to 77 we had around 10 various groups using the hall regularly. We had a play-group, Mothers and Toddlers, Junior and Senior Youth Clubs, Brownies, Guides, Bingo, St Johns Ambulance, Senior Citizens and Keep Fit along with private functions. The hall was open and used almost every day. Bingo was a big success with over 100 people, we didn't have enough tables so people balanced clip boards on their laps.

The highlight of 1977 was our first major event, Silver Jubilee

Parties for young or old alike. With the help of local businesses, helpers, tables, chairs, staging and public address system from John Hunt School all was transported to the main car park adjacent to Madeira Shops. Bunting, flags and tables were laid out in the shape of the Union Jack. As we were serving the food the rain came down and our alternative plans came into use and we went into the hall. A great time was had by all and a lovely letter was received and went as follows:-
23 Pitcairn Close 7/6/77. To the PTRAs committee. Thank you very much for a lovely Jubilee Party. Although spoilt by the rain it was an occasion to remember in years to come. The Jubilee mugs too are commemorative pieces and in years to come we can look back and remember our Jubilee street party. Yours sincerely, Catherine, Robin and Anna Louise Spiegel. I wonder if these "children" (now adults) are still living locally? I hope the weather doesn't interfere with this years Golden Jubilee.

Being gluttons for punishment and we needed to raise money to pay for the party, so we held a late Summer Fete on September 18th, building on this success we had a Christmas Bazaar. In 1978 I stepped down as Chairman as I went to work overseas and the committee carried on, they were as strong as ever and they made every event a success. 1979 saw us entering the Basingstoke Carnival with a float with the theme "Star Wars" we won a cup and a cheque of £16. The following year we gained more success with our float of "King Neptune" some of the committee visited the seaside to get loads of seaweed for the float. It was brought home and thoroughly washed then placed around our mermaids on the float. Bill Lee was the fisherman perched in his rubber dingy on top of the float fishing for what I do not know, probably one of the Mermaids below.

The early eighties saw a rapid

decline in committee members also some financial difficulties. Although the usual annual events continued we seemed to struggle to keep our heads above water. Then another turnaround as things got better again in the late eighties. With renewed vigour and funds we were able to purchase new equipment for playschool and youth clubs. A second hand pool table was purchased courtesy of the Four Lanes Trust.

1993 saw us moving out due to refurbishment and removal of asbestos within the walls, furniture and equipment had to be put into storage and we used the hall (Dryden Hall) adjacent to the Pen and Parchment pub for a few months. Since then right up to the present day has seen us go from strength to strength.

When I look back over the years it is hard to believe that we have achieved so much, giving pleasure to young and old alike. Most times it was hard work but also fun. Not a year has gone by without the groups having their annual day out, Christmas parties with gifts for the children and over 50's clubs Christmas Lunch, Fetes, bazaars, jumble sales and Dutch auctions. We entered floats in the Basingstoke Carnival and won some prizes. The most memorable floats to me were the yearly Popley Princess One Princess, Anne Chick, went on to become the Basingstoke Carnival queen.

In drawing to a conclusion I must say a very big thank you to all the Councillors and various members of the community for all their help and guidance through the years. I must add a big thank you to all the people who have been on the committee for their dedication and tremendous hard work.

On behalf of the association we wish Popley Matters and the Queen in her Golden Jubilee year much success.

*Ron Rowe
Chairman*

POPLEY FESTIVAL

Popley Festival was again a great success. The weather was good and the sun smiling down. The festival opened with a display of kite flying. Everyone had great fun on the rides supplied by Walls Fun Fair. These ranged from rides for young children to those popular with teenagers. There were dog obedience and lurcher dog shows on throughout the day.

The John Hunt of Everest School Steel Pans Band, Chineham Park School Choir and Rock Bands from Junction 6 supplied music throughout the day. The beer tent was as popular as ever, as were the burgers and hot dogs supplied by the Air Scouts and the

Friends of JHE. Other activities included a bouncy castle, kick boxing ring, and a display of judo in the gym. Alongside were a variety of charity stalls offering tombolas, face painting, guess the number of sweets in the jar. The car boot was again huge with the Boys Brigade having to turn some customers away.

The Fire, Police and St John Ambulance were all on hand with their display vans and some even did a little recruiting on the day. The Gazette was there with their caravan, Festival Place with their stand and Wolverton Plants with their colourful display.

The committee would like to thank Oakfern Housing Association who kindly sponsored the flyers showing the layout of the day. These were given out at the gate ensuring that visitors did not miss anything.

Overall a fun day was had by all. The atmosphere was great and the weather could not have been better. We are now starting work on next year's Festival on Sunday 18th May 2003. If anyone has any ideas on expanding the festival or becoming involved, get in touch.

Suki Binning
School Community Manager JHE
☎ 465303

Goodbye

10 years ago I moved to Popley Poets from Cornwall. I have to confess it was a real culture shock after living in the wilds all my life, 10 minutes from the beach and surrounded by open fields. Do I miss it? - not at all. I have had wonderful neighbours, made great friends, and watched my children grow up in a community of diversity and change.

On Popley Poets we have seen the amalgamation of Chineham Park Schools; the building of Hathaway Gardens and Chineham Park Court; tarding-up of 2 play areas and creation of another, not to forget the innovative Millennium Garden on Dryden and Chaucer Close. In other areas of Popley there are 2 new community centres; Abbey Court and Magnolia Court for our senior residents; a new Air Scout building;

new road layouts; traffic calming on Popley Way, Carpenters Down and Abbey Road; and now a new Doctors surgery. The bus routes and timetables have changed almost as often as the fares have risen. There have been weekly car boot sales at the John Hunt School as well as the annual Popley Festival; occasional jumble sales at St Gabriel's Church, the Air Scout Hut and Melrose Hall, and various events held at the Community Centres for all residents to enjoy.

While all this has been going on around us, I have worked for Lodden Trust and Stonham Housing, completed 2 full-time two-year college courses, moved house twice, got divorced, lost my beloved Dad, become Chair of WelCare, fought and lost a local election and become a Grandma. My son has joined the Army, my eldest daughter has moved away,

and my youngest two have settled nicely into secondary school.

It doesn't stop here - further building developments are imminent, making Popley one of the largest areas in Basingstoke. And me and my family are off to foreign climes. Well - South Ham actually - to see what exciting things happen in other parts of town. But be warned, you don't get rid of me that easily. I couldn't manage without my regular visits to the car boot sales and jumble sales.

Before I leave though, I would like to say thank-you to all my friends and neighbours, who have been absolute stars and made my 10 years on Popley so memorable. And special thanks to the Frankum family who have helped out and supported me through good and bad times.

*Goodbye and God bless.
Julie Johnson, Shakespeare Road*

Merton Infants School

Merton Infant School is situated in the centre of Popley Abbeys and is lucky enough to have beautiful school grounds and an interior courtyard garden. These encourage wildlife and are used as a teaching resource. The school is just celebrating receiving a converted curriculum award. The assessors for this award said "It was a privilege to be at Merton Infants". They praised the children, staff, parents, governors and friends for their energy and commitment. Any one who would like to come and look around our school is very welcome Phone 324507.

Editors Note: As a governor of the school I can inform you that only two other schools in over 700 in Hampshire have won this award. The assessors interviewed children, staff, governors and people in the community, work was looked at and mounds of evidence sought over a period of time before this rare and well deserved award was given. Two of the children went to London to receive the award. Well done every one involved with Merton Infants.

Merton Poppits

The playgroup is 11 years old and is housed in the converted Merton Infant School kitchen. At present over 70 children attend on a part time basis. There have been two successful Ofsted inspections. The well trained staff aim to provide a happy and secure environment where they help to develop social skills ready for their entry into school. In September all children in the year before they start school will be entitled to five sessions a week and the playgroup will be extending their opening times to accommodate the extra children. The playgroup and school work together to ensure a smooth entry for the children. ☎351036

The Millennium Garden

How determined Popley resident George Potten made his dream turn into reality.

In 1997, after his first stroke, George had the idea of turning a piece of ground between Dryden and Chaucer Close into a garden. He talked to as many residents as possible, and they all thought it was a great idea, so George started making drawings of the new garden.

They got in touch with the local community projects officer, formed a committee, and set about raising funds for the project. George's first estimate was £14000-£18000. They set about applying for grants. Oakfern and Downlands Housing Associations both gave £200, and the County Council recycling group agreed to donate as much compost as they needed. They soon accumulated enough funds and equipment to reach charity status, and they applied for a lottery grant (which unfortunately was turned down). They even asked Ground Force but alas Charlie Dimmock and Alan Titchmarsh turned the job down but Alan sent a signed photo!

The amount of effort organising the garden was enormous. George and the other committee members soon ran up very large phone bills, and Lou and Dave Kiddie sent out countless letters.

The local press were very supportive, as was Andrew Hunter MP and local councillors Jane & Paul Frankum. One man who provided an enormous amount of help was Paul Fullford of the council Parks Dept, and the beat officers, first Emma and now Matt Deery, who gave some very good advice on placing CCTV cameras to catch any vandals.

In the beginning of 2001, George suffered another stroke which left him with a speech problem and paralysis. It was with the greatest reluctance that he had to step back a bit and let Lou and Dave Kiddie take on more of the work.

Yet more setbacks at this stage: Lou, Dave and George applied to several local companies for donations but none were interested.

Finally, Lou, Dave and George applied to the council for a grant. They went to a council cabinet meeting to present their ideas. The presentation was very nerve wracking, but it impressed the council and they awarded a grant of the maximum amount of £15000. Rob Donnelly (Leader) said they had better finish on George's case as they all had lumps in their throats!

On 13th February 2002, after all the hard work over the years, the fencing went up and work started digging the paths. The contractor, Kieron Beattie, did a superb job of laying out the garden. The paths were laid out in an octopus formation. First, the block work for the centre piece was laid, then the paths. The soil was then ploughed using a rotavator and 6 tons of compost were spread on top, mixed with 6 tons of wood chippings.

After 2 weeks, the first shrubs had been planted. After 3 weeks, the turf was laid. Then the trees were planted. Finally, two park benches were added, with the garden complete in April.

Unfortunately, a few of the shrubs were taken by vandals, but they were caught on CCTV

Since the garden was finished, all the local residents are extremely proud, and some have taken to doing up their own front gardens so they don't get shown up!

By George Potten adapted for Popley Matters by Andrew McCormick

Editor Note: This was completely residents efforts and many other residents in Popley have asked for something to be done in their areas. George and the residents are happy to talk to any one that would like to start a similar scheme. It shows what residents can do when they are determined and work together.

History of Popley

A look at the Arthur Attwood files

One of the most valuable of Arthur Attwood's books which has come into my possession is one called "Economic Planning and Town Expansion: A Case Study of Basingstoke" This was written by John H Dunning of the University of Southampton and published in 1963. This book details a study into the proposed expansion of Basingstoke in the 1960's, by a group of people which included none other than a Mr A Attwood!

Basingstoke had been slowly expanding for more than 100 years before the Second World War, varying from 3% to 23% every 10 years. But following the Second World War, the population growth steadily increased, with the population jumping by over 2000 (10%) between 1953 and 1955 with the building of Oakridge to accommodate workers for the new AWRE at Aldermaston.

At around that time, substantial numbers of Londoners were being relocated to the first wave of New Towns. These were built closer in to London: Hayes, Croydon and Harlow being examples.

Between 1956 and 1961, the population of Basingstoke expanded at an average rate of 5.2% a year: nine times the national average and more than four times that of Hampshire. This was mostly through "private" or "non-organised" migration.

In October 1959, the Borough Council made an agreement with the then London County Council to re-house some 12,000 Londoners in ten years. This, coupled with the already high levels of "private" migration, meant that the town's population was set to rise from 23,000 in 1959 to 45,000 in 1969 and 60,000 in 1973.

Basingstoke, along with Andover and Bracknell, were chosen to be in the second wave of new towns. This was a more ambitious phase than the first, with the towns being built further away from London: in the case of Milton Keynes nearly 80 miles away.

Looking through the study, it was obvious that Basingstoke was going to need massive investments in its infrastructure to cope with the "private" migration, and the extra money given by London to accommodate 12,000 people would have been sorely needed. What resulted was a complete transformation of Basingstoke from the small market town my Grandad remembered to the modern town I grew up in.

It is interesting to note that entire neighbourhoods were moved en masse from London to places like Basingstoke and Swindon at that time. A lot of Popley's population originated from Battersea, with other areas of London including Crystal Palace and Mitcham.

The New Town Plan contained several aspects: new

housing estates to accommodate over 30,000 people, a new town centre, new industrial estates to provide employment, and a new road system with a ring road and spine road.

The biggest of the new estates planned was Popley. This was initially divided into four phases, with each phase being given to a different construction company. These phases were rather unimaginatively named Popley 1 through to Popley 4. It is interesting to note that all the other estates in the town were also built in phases: Winklebury 1 and Buckskin 1 were started at round about the same time as Popley 1 in 1965.

Popley 1, aka "the Poets", as we all know consists of about 600 houses and flats bounded by Shakespeare Road. These were all occupied en masse in 1966. The estate was a complete mud bath at the time, as I have been told by many residents still living in Popley some 36 years later.

Popley 2 was built in 1967 north of Popley Way, east of Marnell School, and consists of about 400 houses and 120 maisonettes in Maldive Road and Faroe Close. Today it blurs into Popley 3, a development of about 700 houses with some flats, which was built in the early 70's north of Popley Way and west of Marnell School. Together these now form "The Islands".

Popley 4, aka "The Abbeys", was built in 1969. This was a much larger development of over 1000 houses and flats, which started off with Melrose Walk. After finishing Abbey Road, the same builder moved on to start Winklebury 2.

The last of the initial four building phases would have been finished by 1973. Popleys 5 and 6 were built much later.

Popley Way was definitely completed before most of the houses were built, and there was no speed limit on the road when it was new: at least that's what my Dad tells me: he remembers test-driving a new Mark 1 Ford Escort at 80mph along Popley Way in 1968, when there were hardly any houses around and certainly no John Hunt School!

The houses were built first, with the local amenities having to play catch-up! St Gabriel's church, for instance, started off as a blue caravan next to Shakespeare Road, with one of the original members of the congregation being Robin Attwood, son of Arthur. A very young Paul Frankum was also christened there. The church subsequently moved into St Bede's School and it was not until 1981 that it moved into its current premises. The caravan, which leaked whenever it rained, was moved to Sullivan Road, Brighton Hill, where it stood until 1976 with the building of the Church of Christ The King. The caravan, now leaking like a sieve, was then scrapped.

The period from 1963 to 1973 saw the population of Basingstoke double in 10 years from 30,000 to 60,000 people. Around a third of this would have been due to the building of Popley. The town of Basingstoke had never grown at such a rate before and has not ever since. It had changed almost beyond recognition.

Andrew McCormick – grandson of Arthur

POPLEY COMMUNITY AWARDS

Paul Frankum had an idea that he took to Popley Forum/Popley Matters committee nearly three years ago; Paul felt that we had so many wonderful people in Popley that we should find a way of recognising and rewarding them. How do you single out people who work, live or serve the community here in Popley? We set up a sub committee to decide and asked residents to nominate people. There were three categories Adult and Junior Group. There were so many nominations it made the final decision very difficult. The first year Ron Rowe won the Adult for all his work as Chair at Madeira Hall and the many things he does for other people, Brett Rowe won the junior because he helped friends, neighbours and in particular the elderly he shopped and did odd jobs including gardening and would not take any payment. The group award was won by students at John Hunt School who had won a prestigious award for "business of the year" with the design of an all weather all purpose jacket for your dog. Dr Lynette Moss won the award for the adult category in the second year as a mark of our esteem and gratitude for her nearly thirty years of dedication and service to Popley. The junior went to David Seabrook who despite loosing his father in tragic

circumstances overcame many obstacles and now helps and counsels other children in the Boys Brigade. The group award went to a wonderful group of children ages ranging from 8 to 11 who are the Melrose Litter Pickers, not only do they pick up rubbish in the street they helped the elderly and vulnerable with their gardens, they had been doing it for well over a year.

The award is a scroll that is mounted in a frame, you can see the one presented to the litter pickers, (they each had a copy of the scroll to) in the foyer of Melrose Hall.

This year we would like you to nominate people for the award, they don't have to live in Popley but they must serve the people of Popley. There are many special people who do lots of work in Popley and we feel it is an important way for us to say thank you to them.

Nominations in writing to Popley Community Award, C/O Melrose Hall, Abbey Road, Popley, Basingstoke by November 1st each year for inclusion in Xmas Edition of Popley Matters.

The Golden Club - Popley Golden Club started in 1973 and is still meeting today at John Hunt it welcomes new members to swell their membership. They meet on Thurs from 1:30 - 3:30. The entrance fee is 55p and they play Bingo at 25p a book and 10p a flyer. Once a year they go on a day trip. It is a nice friendly atmosphere so go along have a chat and a cuppa. Phone 472489 for more details

A THOUSAND THANKS TO SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

Good neighbours in every sense of the word.

The staff and committee of Basingstoke NeighbourCare would like to thank some very special Popley people who have helped to make life a little easier for many residents of Basingstoke.

Our volunteers are all very special people who give up some of their valuable spare time to help others. We have, over the past few years helped by doing shopping, providing transport to medical appointments, picking up pensions and prescriptions, light gardening, replacing washers, and generally providing a neighbourly hand to anyone who rings our helpline: 332424

Our volunteers know who they are, but we would

like to publicly say a big "Thank you " to Irene, Doreen, Peter, Janet, Pat, Christine, Iris and Tracey, our Popley drivers. Also, we have some non-drivers who help us by performing more local tasks, such as walking dogs and popping in to befriend housebound residents, and we would like to thank them too for their invaluable contribution to our organisation. They are Margaret, Jean, Jennifer, Mavis, Cherry and Tina.

Could you spare any time to join these wonderful people who think of others? If so, contact us on the above number and we will send you an information pack. You do not need to dedicate too much time, even an hour a week would be gratefully received, and all expenses are reimbursed. Who knows, one day you may be infirm and not have anyone to help you. Wouldn't you like to think you could call and hear a friendly voice offering you assistance?

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.



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Mary's Memories of Popley

The Barron's, Roy, Mary and baby Adrian, moved into Shelley Close in January 1968. Mary moved to Old Basing from Princes Risborough. She went into The Shrubbery in Cliddesden Road where Adrian was born on December 12th. In those days, mothers were kept in for several days after their first birth, and she was not allowed out until the New Year, by which time the offer of a move to a new 3-bedroom house in Shelley Close had presented itself. Roy daren't say "No" as he didn't know when another house would arise, so Mary came out of The Shrubbery to a brand new home she had never seen before.

The Popley 1 building site was chaotic to say the least. Snow lay on the ground, most houses had half their fittings missing, e.g. banisters, and there were no streetlights, so the estate, with all its paths and corners, was pitch black. The snow melted to leave mud everywhere and no grass.

The estate in those days was very different to what it is now. Everybody had moved in at about the same time, nobody had any money to speak of, and people pitched in together and shared what they had. The community spirit was unbelievable, as society was much more open then. There was never any trouble. That came much later.

On the site of the Pen and Parchment stood a caravan in Dryden Close. This was St Gabriel's Church. The caravan was moved to Brighton Hill and the church moved to St Bede's school, where it went from strength to strength. The jumble sales and fetes were legendary. In those days, all events were entirely community based, where everyone knew each other. The services were always well attended, with church parades by the Brownies, Guides, Scouts and Boys Brigade. Young Bill Ind was a very popular vicar.

When ultra-modern John Hunt of Everest School opened, it was the envy of the town. At that time, the pupils of the Vyne School (recently made co-ed and renamed from Charles Chute School) boasted that they were the hardest in the borough. There followed several fights between pupils of the Vyne and John Hunt.

The Chineham Park Rangers boys' football club was started by Popley residents Roy Barron, Mark Gilbert, and Ken Mitchell, in order to keep the local boys out of trouble. The club was so popular at one stage it boasted 6 teams. They trained at Chineham Park School, and the boys used Ken's garage as a changing room. Mary washed the kits.

There was also a lot of interest in the Youth Club held at Chineham House. This club proved so popular that there was often a queue of people outside waiting to get in.

Local beat Bobbie PC Dave Emmett was well

liked and highly respected. He always knew what was going on, and if any kids misbehaved, there was always a high degree of co-operation from the parents afterwards. Dave Emmett was highly involved in the local youth scene, particularly the Boys Brigade, along with David Phillips, who is still involved with the Boys Brigade in Popley to this day.

Adrian Barron served in the Boy's Brigade from as early as it was possible to join, until aged 18 he found it clashed with his new job. He earned the Presidents badge, the second highest badge in the Boys Brigade, and for this honour he had his photograph taken in the Gazette. They used to parade around the grounds of St Bede's and Pershore Road every parade Sunday.

One famous Boys Brigader was Bob Simmonds. He went on to become the drummer for Gary Numan, who used to fly his planes from Blackbushe Airport. Bob is now the vicar of Christ the King church in Brighton Hill.

Another vicar from the area is Andy Edmeads from Pershore Road, who is now the chaplain at St Michael's Hospice.

Bill Ind must have desperately sought stardom, but he didn't get to leave his prints in the cement at Hollywood Boulevard. Instead, he had to settle for putting his foot in the wet cement of the Barron's front porch after they had moved from Shelley Close into Pershore Road! By this time, the church had also moved from St Bede's to a purpose-built church building in Tewkesbury Close.

The church was very popular under Bill Ind and Sister Vivian. A group of nuns used to live in Pentire, Cliddesden Road, before moving to a smaller house in Oakridge when their numbers became fewer. Eventually, Bill Ind moved on to become Bishop of Truro.

The church was never the same again after Bill Ind left. Popley still had a tremendous community feel. Although as each phase was completed and the estate grew bigger and bigger, the feelings changed, the community bonds were still strong, with people from Abbey Road having many friends on Shakespeare Road and in "The Islands".

But the feel of the estate changed later on as the old people moved out. Things never seemed the same after PC Dave Emmett moved out. Times were changing with people being less open, being better off meant people relied on each other less, and the increase in car ownership started to cause parking and garaging problems.

Although we still have good events like the recent Popley Festival, these don't have the same community feel as the jumble sales, fetes and fancy dress nights of years ago.

Told to Andrew McCormick by Mary Baron

Junction 6 in Popley

The Youth work team at Junction 6 has undergone several changes in the last 10 years, so tracing a history for this article was difficult. I then had a great idea, ask one of the young people who have been using the project to write about their experiences. Not only would this give a real and first hand picture but also free me of the work load!! Unfortunately my skills in delegating work are not great and he managed to get out of the writing bit.

I managed to briefly interview Rob Rivers about his experience at J6 giving an overview of the opportunities that J6 has offered young people in Popley over the past 7 years. Rob started using J6 whilst at John Hunt School, it was known as the youth wing and organized by Fiona. Rob participated in several arts based projects which he says sparked an interest in arts for him.

Clare Hobbs became the centre manager soon after this and the centre took on a new name and transport/road based decor. The Big Breakfast did a live broadcast from J6 when they helped to decorate the lobby area. Rob remembers taking part in a range of activities from airbrushing, to metal workshops and graffiti art. There were many performance related workshops open to the young people in Popley including dance and percussion. Rob fondly remembers "playing an old car on the mound outside J6" to an audience. 3 years ago Rob took part in the "Bus Shelter" project which brought young and old people together in Popley in a piece of drama based around a common "hangout". I came in to this post a year and a half ago with a hard act to follow.

The opportunities that young people gained from in Popley were ambitious, successful and plenty. Rob explained to me how his involvement in music has changed over time at J6, from percussion based to writing and recording digital music. Other music projects that are ongoing include live band performances and drumming. Rob has become more and more interested in the web and learning how to build websites through the use of our equipment at J6. Rob regrets not having accessed the digital editing suite that was stolen some time ago, "at that time I

was not aware that I was going to take over the media world!" Rob has more recently enjoyed the 10 week Wing Chun workshops where he learned effective ways of diffusing and avoiding violence.

Rob told me how he has made a lot of good friends during his time at J6 "and there were girls I fancied". Now at 19 Rob is a really active member of Junction 6 taking lead roles in organizing many projects. His current participation is at a really exciting level where he is embracing once in a lifetime experiences with the support of Junction 6 staff. Rob and a friend are currently spending an £8000 grant that they successfully achieved through the "Your Shout" awards. They are making a professionally recorded CD of local bands and artists to be available at a later date. Rob is gaining training through this project to learn how to build a website where people can access the music and information.

This Summer Rob will complete his AVCE in Media at college to embark on a brilliant summer. He will be accompanying 5 other young people from Basingstoke on a trip to Mali in Africa for 4 weeks where they will be working with the local community to help build community facilities. This has been organized by the youth service alongside the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Rob returns long enough to wash his clothes and then visits the Edinburgh Festival with Junction 6. Soon after he takes on his own travelling experience to Australia. Rob has gained a lot from his time at Junction 6 whilst living in Popley. This is shown by the time and commitment that he clearly has for the project. I look forward to continuing my work with the young people in Popley giving them opportunities to learn, take part and make decisions about their lives. This enables them to become positive valued and active members of their community experiencing fulfilment and achievement. Thanks to Rob for running through his J6 experience with me and thanks to all of the other young people in Popley that I have worked with, who make my job so rewarding.

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APOLLO HOTEL.

The Apollo Hotel is due to take its first birthday after being renamed the Apollo Hotel on 1st June 2001. Basingstoke has seen and followed anxiously the Hotel being turned into a 4* property which now leads the way as a first class establishment with value and quality.

Following a multi million pound redevelopment, Apollo Hotel had its seal of approval by local MP Mr Andrew Hunter by officially opening the Apollo Hotel on 14th September last year.

The official launch was significant not only to the Apollo Hotel, but also to Basingstoke as a whole. Eagerly awaited with anticipation to see the final completed project, (it took 18 months and £7 million pounds). Robert Rutherford the General Manager and his professional team now lead the way for the Hotel industry within Basingstoke.

Totally transforming the existing property with top quality Health & Leisure Facilities, Award Winning Fine Dining Restaurant, Continental Brasserie, comfortable Library Lounge, state of the Art Conference & Banqueting Centre with its own bar and lounge & 125 luxurious bedrooms to choose from.

The AA recognised the Hotel as a first class property after only two weeks of opening awarding the Hotel its 4 Stars and nominated a Rosette for Vespers Restaurant.

Vespers Restaurant is totally unique for its concept of food, Basingstoke does not have a Fine Dining Restaurant with the professionalism and quality of standards that Vespers at the Apollo has. Superb international wines to accompany the cuisine, our professionals are on hand to help you select the best one to compliment your dish. Intimate setting and complete with its own lounge area and open fireplace.

The Brasserie, an informal carvery alternative with continental charm, offering breakfast, lunch and buffet dinner. You may choose to sit in the conservatory or the patio area and watch the world go by.

The new fully air-conditioned conference facility is the ideal venue to suit all your business and personal needs. Built with flexibility in mind of provides an efficient venue to accommodate any event. There are 15 meeting rooms available in this superb complex, some of which subdivide, a Business Centre and a room designated to video conferencing. The Hampshire Suite can host conferences for 255 delegates and Banquets for 200 guests. The Apollo is also the perfect venue for Weddings, accommodating guests for sit down receptions up to 200. Civil Weddings can also be conducted in one of two Suites.

Bookings for Christmas are now being taken, for further details, please contact Cherie'lee Harlow, Conference Administrator (01256) 796 797.

The excellent accommodation consists of 125 bedrooms tastefully refurbished to the highest standards incorporating bathrooms with power showers, mini bar, hospitality tray, modem point, writing desk, 2 telephones with DDI lines and interactive TV's with movies & Play Station games. With the option of Executive, Ambassador, Studio's and Deluxe Suites, there is a choice for everyone. For further details please contact Carmela Dilunardo, Reservations Manager (01256) 796 796

With two bars to choose from whether for pleasure or entertaining. Firstly, the Hotel Library Lounge Bar which is warm and inviting complete with an open fire. Secondly, the Hampshire Lounge Bar adjacent to the Banqueting Suite for exclusive use for patrons of the Conference & Banqueting Centre.

The new purpose built Horizons Health & Fitness Club, incorporates an indoor pool with waterfall feature and a spa pool. Fully equipped Gym and a fully air-conditioned aerobics/dance studio which offers a large programme of classes ranging from Aerobics to Boxersize. For relaxation, the centre will also contain a steam room and sauna, plus treatment facilities. Fully qualified gym instructors are available to tailor a fitness programme to suit individual requirements to ensure that your health and fitness goals are achievable whatever they may be. The Treatment Room has various treatments and massages on offer. For Membership details, please contact Mark Jordan, Club Manager (01256) 796 719

The impressive public areas with unique American Cherrywood panelling décor offers a comfortably warm and inviting ambience.

If you would like a personal guided tour of all amenities or if you require further information on the Apollo Hotel, please contact Jackie Betts, Sales Manager on (01256) 796 795.

New Residents View

Back in 1988 I took and passed my advanced driving test with the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), then in 1990 I started training as a driving instructor, finally qualifying in August 1991. Then in 1992 I left my job with BT and became a full time instructor working in good old London (well, West London). Also in 1992 I took my bus & coach test (PCV - Passenger Carrying Vehicles). In 1993 I then qualified to teach Advanced Driving with the IAM on a voluntary basis, and I am now training for my RoSPA driving test where I am hoping to reach Gold standard.

So back to London, as time went on I got increasingly fed up with London and getting more and more stressed out being stuck in traffic (imagine Black Dam in the rush hour, times that by 3 and you get the idea!), so I decided to take the plunge and move! the idea was that I would rent a property and start my own driving school while retaining my flat in London, so that if things didn't work out I could go back.

My original destination was Alton, but the opportunity to rent here in Popley came along so here I am and have been here for nearly a year. London? Keep it!! I have fallen in love with the area and the open roads (those of you who know me will tell you how I keep finding those narrow country roads). I am hoping to move again next April, but my final destination has not been decided, but fear not it will not be far! *Bob Ricket*

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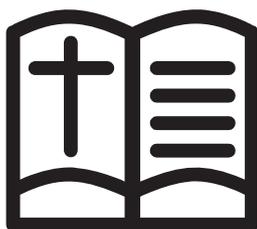
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History of Air Scouts in Popley

The Scout Association first registered Air Scout Groups in January 1941 and there are currently around 135 such Groups around the country. Sadly, unlike the early years, RAF support for such units is minimal but groups try to ensure that their members take up every opportunity for gliding, parascending and attendance at air shows and related events.

Air Scouts started in Basingstoke in 1976 as 2nd Basingstoke Group having been formed as an offshoot from 25th Basingstoke (Trinity Methodist) Scout Group which, with two Wolf Cub packs and three troops, had grown too large. The group originally met in Oakridge Church Hall in Vivian Road but moved to Carpenters Down under the leadership of Charlie Surrige in 1977 and was renamed Basingstoke Air Scouts soon afterwards. The development of Popley was in the relatively early stages of 'London overspill' at the time and new homes and families were constantly arriving in the area. The Group acquired an old builders' hut and, by 1978, was delighted to have their own Headquarters to 'customize' and use entirely as they wished. Ready access to wooded areas and the playing fields was a bonus for activities and the Group began to put down roots and flourish.

Sadly in 1984 the hut was severely damaged by fire but from the ashes a Phoenix grew. A second-hand wooden temporary building with two classrooms for disposal was found at Romsey School and after many hours of hard work and labouring it was transferred to Popley, made habitable and the Group once more had its own home. Jan Saunders (the current Group Scout Leader for Basingstoke Air Scouts) remembers hanging from a rafter to help fit the ceiling!

By 1995 the black wooden hut was showing signs of coming to the end of its useful life. The roof leaked; there was no heating and toilet facilities were well below modern day expectations. In March 1996 the decision was made to replace it with a brick building. Thus began another saga of commitment and dedication by a small band of volunteers led by the Group Scout Leader, Jan Saunders and Group Chairman, Ken Lane. After much negotiation and desperate pleas, grants from the National Lottery Charities Board, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County

Council generated £96,000. It took over five years for the Group to raise the remainder of the money to ensure an ambitious building project could succeed. Local businesses and charities responded to an appeal for funds as did many who bought 'bricks' in the £2 for 2000 appeal. There were periods of great despair and despondency but resolutely, and despite all odds the Group pursued its aim. Finally the Phoenix rose once more and Base 2000 was officially opened by Wing Commander David Prowse, OC 18 Squadron RAF Odiham in May 2001.

Base 2000 cost just over £160,000 to build and equip and now provides an excellent venue for a range of community groups including Scouts, Cub Scouts and Beaver Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Rainbow Guides, a Christian Youth Group, WEA classes, a Video/Camera Club and Voices. The building also houses Basingstoke Scouting Supplies (the uniform, equipment and materials resource for Scouting in Basingstoke) and serves as the District Resource and Training Centre for scout leaders in Basingstoke East Scout District which has nine scout groups in and around the town. It is estimated that over two hundred young people access the building regularly each week.

Historically, Charlie Surrige was the catalyst for the Groups progress over the years. His excellent example and groundwork in 1977 laid solid foundations which still bear fruit today. One of the first Air Scouts in Basingstoke was Mike Hobbs who eventually became Group Scout Leader. He led the troop for many years before moving to Cambridgeshire. At one time the Group had one of the first ever Venture Scout Units in the town. They named themselves Enterprise after the space rocket and for many years had a painting of the rocket on the wall in the Venture Scout Den. Andy Cullen (currently Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts in Basingstoke East) painted it. Terry Bridge another early Scouter with the Air Scouts is still involved in the Group and helps young people with air training and recognition.

Today the Group continues its commitment to provide constructive and challenging activities for young people with a structured training programme designed to help young people get the best out of life. The phoenix still flies in Popley and long will it continue. *Beryl Mullender. ☎410514*

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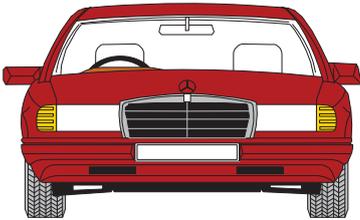
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Merton Junior School

Opened on September 3rd 1969. The school was originally known as Popley West Junior School and the Head Teacher was Mr Valleley.

The school name of Merton was chosen because of the connections with Merton College, Oxford. In 1966 Merton College sold the remaining parts of its oldest estate to Basingstoke Corporation. This land had originally been part of the estate of Walter de Merton who founded a hospital in Basingstoke in 1240.

The first child in the school was Debra Holder who lived in Abbey Road, there were twenty-two children on roll on the

day of opening. At this time Maple Ridge Special School was also based at the school with Mr E G Smith as the Headmaster. By September 1977 the school had admitted its 1000th pupil. Numbers grew rapidly and temporary classrooms and outside toilets were required to house all the children.

As the estates matured and families grew up the number of children fell and the "huts" were removed. Mr Valleley retired at the end of 1988 and the school's only other Head Teacher Mr David Strauss was appointed following a term in which the Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Allan Webber was in charge.

The school has seen many changes over the years in the

curriculum and adaptations to the building, to provide the best possible education for local children. Recent improvements have included a specialist library area, special needs resource room, computer suite with a fully networked computer system, and an improved courtyard garden.

The school was also recently awarded a "School Achievement Award" for its improvement in Mathematics, English and Science. Many staff have served the School loyally but in 2002 the school was sad to say goodbye to its longest serving member of staff, Mrs Pauline Laundy, who had been at the school as Caretaker from its very early days.

John Hunt of Everest Community School A Short History – 1970 - 2002

John Hunt of Everest Community School opened in September 1970 with a small young dedicated staff of about 20 tutors and 1 secretary. The Headteacher was Mr A W Champion. The ROSLA and Management Blocks were added later. The school opened with 5 forms in year 7 and 3 forms in year 8. Over the years the school grew to over 1300 students, when temporary huts were used to accommodate up to 10 additional classrooms.

The school name comes from Lord John Hunt, who was a member of the first expedition to reach the summit of Everest on 2nd May 1953. The school will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of that day next year.

The current school Headteacher is Mrs Lesley Phillipson, who joined the school in January 2001. Previous Headteachers were Mr Ken Riley, Mr David Robotham, Mr David Jones and Mrs Glynis Seddon.

Ex-students of John Hunt

of Everest School have gone on to become famous in various fields including textile design, radio presenting, professors, teachers (the current Head of Technology at John Hunt of Everest is an ex-student), as well as having their own successful businesses. The school is constantly being contacted about reunions. Currently 25yr, 20yr and 10yr reunions are being planned. Ex-pupils keep in touch through the friends reunited web-site. The school is now receiving children whose parents were students at the school.

Over the years the school has developed a reputation for its caring atmosphere and its good pupil/staff relationship. This was favourably commented on the school's last Ofsted report.

John Loader (Head of Art) has been with the school since its opening in 1970 told me that the school has been associated with a number of awards in Art, where it has won National competitions sponsored by large

external organisations. The school has seen some successful exchange trips to France and Germany and is now leading the way in developing extensive links with local industry, e.g. AWE and Sony through its mentoring schemes. The school is well known for its excellent productions at the Haymarket Theatre. These are written by staff and performed by students. 'Moonshine' was performed last summer. The school is now the centre for steel pans in North-East Hampshire.

The school is well renowned for its work with the community and is the venue for the annual Popley Festival. This has continued to grow over the years and is now a major annual Community Event.

John Hunt of Everest Community School has successfully conquered numerous challenges over the years and now with the prospect of the new school it can continue to build on its solid foundations to meet the future needs of our young people.



Wessex Ranger Brigade

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The Wessex Ranger Group is a uniformed youth organisation, formed in Basingstoke, during 1976. The Popley Group was formed in 1977 and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Originally the Popley group was based in John Hunt of Everest School, but when the Brigade Headquarters moved from Winchester Road to Shakespeare Road in 1989, meetings of the Popley group transferred to the Shakespeare Road HQ. The meetings of the Oakridge Group moved from the Vyne School to the new HQ also. The connection with John Hunt School was not severed however for when the Shakespeare Road premises was the subject of a serious arson attack, in which over 20% of the building was damaged, it was John Hunt School who came to the rescue, offering us a temporary meeting place while the repair work was carried out.

The Popley Group has a junior section, for boys and girls aged between eight and twelve, and a senior section for those between twelve and eighteen. Meetings are every Monday Tuesday and Wednesday, allowing members to choose which night is most convenient for them. Meetings are held between 7 pm to 9 pm. Thursday is reserved for special events, sports, ASC work, First Aid and many other activities. These are attended by members from other Wessex Ranger Groups in the area. Boys and girls between the ages of six to eight can join the Wessex Ranger Brigade "Tigers". This is a pre Ranger Group who have their own uniform and programme. The Popley "Tigers" meet on Tuesday evenings from 6-30 until 8pm.

During the 25 years that the Wessex rangers Popley group has been in existence over 800 boys and girls have joined the group. In that time Annual Camps, lasting ten days or more have been held in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Kent, Norfolk and of course Hampshire. We have held eight Annual Camps at the

Hampshire County Council site in the New Forest. We have also held camps overseas, in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Boys from the Popley Group have also taken part in the arduous 10 Tors Competition across Dartmoor.

Being a Ranger group we have also held innumerable weekend camps, both under canvas and in buildings. Although many were held in the Crabtree Plantation just as many have been held out of the local area in Berkshire, Dorset, Surrey and of course in the New Forest.. The Wessex Rangers will continue to offer a wide range of adventurous activities to its members and is justly proud to have been part of Popley youth scene for the past 25 years.

Certificates and badges are awarded for achievements, uniforms are provided free of charge, membership is open to boys and girls from 6 to 18 (if you count the Tigers Group). If you would like to know more why not come along to our HQ in Shakespeare Road (near the new medical centre) one Tuesday evening from 6-30 if you wish to join the Tigers or from 7pm if you are interested in the Junior and Senior sections and see what we can offer.

The Wessex Ranger Brigade is affiliated to NABC Clubs for Young People and youth and is a Registered Charity. Activities undertaken by members are varied and challenging. Almost all that members want to do is considered. The cost the number of members wishing to take part and the level of interest are the only restricting factor.

Members of the Brigade are encouraged to undertake a variety of other activities in addition to their membership of the Brigade. Examples of such activities are First Aid training with either the St Johns Ambulance Brigade or British Red Cross, membership of an athletic or sporting club, participation in the local Saturday or Sunday football league, or membership of environmental or animal welfare organisations, such as the RSPCA, RSPB or the Conservation Volunteers. Not only is this good for the development of the individual, but it widens the contribution to the group.

Captain Brain Smith ☎350074

Marnel Infant School

Marnel Infant School opened in 1972 with Mrs Angela Stafford as Head Teacher.

To cope with the rising numbers of children as Popley expanded, an annexe was built in 1974 giving the school a total of 9 class rooms.

In 1994 two classrooms were converted to form Marnel Early Years Learning Centre which organises activities for parents and children under five years old. Mrs Andrea Baillie-Powell and her staff continue to work tirelessly to offer support to our local families.

In 1999 the school responded to a shortage of pre-school places in the area by helping to start the Marnel

Explorers Pre-school Group which meets in the nearby Madeira hall and which has thrived under the leadership of Mrs Di Mallett and her staff.

Marnel Infant School currently has 183 children on roll which is rising to 200 in September 2002. We have just been through our second very successful Ofsted Inspection. We gained the National Healthy Schools award in July 2001 and we have just completed our Investors in People Award.

The current Head teacher is Miss Valerie Mills who was appointed in 1990 and the deputy Head is Mrs Iris Woolgar.

Every one in Marnel is proud of the part that the school plays in the Popley Community and we look forward to continuing to work with every one who lives and works in Popley.

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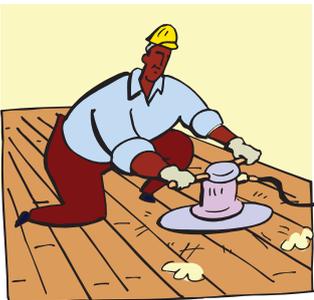
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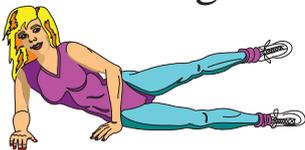
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6th Basingstoke Company, Boys' Brigade

Monday 23rd January 1972, a red-letter day for Popley, as it was the very first meeting in Popley of The Boys Brigade. Eighty-seven boys arrived on the first night (we expected about 25 if we were lucky). From that date it has been 24/7.

We could bore you with so many dates and events, so here are just some of the highlights:- We never close, except Bank Holiday Mondays, we have met every Monday since then and Monthly Church Parades, (sometimes with our drum and bugle band). We

have outlived four vicars and numerous mini-buses and vans.

A total of eighteen boys have received their Presidents Badge and a further ten have gone on to receive their Queens Badge. Five of these have been to Windsor to parade before the Queen, our Patron.

Summer Camps, have been held every year for both junior (aged 8yrs to 10 ½yrs) and company boys (aged 10½ to 18 yrs). Numerous weekend camps have also been held. Boys have travelled all over the country for both local and national events and competitions. Many boys have been introduced to canoeing, abseiling, orienteering, hill walking, climbing and many sports and past times.

Our Pastoral Care, mainly for teenage boys is as relevant now as it was at the start. Not all boys are or have been Boys' Brigade members.

Particular people:-

A boy, progressed to a member of staff, left and joined a professional rock band, left this and after a short while was ordained, he is now the Vicar of Brighton Hill. Dave Emmett was our local beat officer; he was also in the Boys' Brigade for fifteen years. Dave had a wonderful rapport with our boys and had wonderful ideas for them to achieve. Reverend Bill Ind started to play a game no one had heard of, it is still played today and is known as the 'Vicars Game.'

The Brigade is a Christian organisation and must be attached to a church, we are pleased to be an integral part of St Gabriel's Parish Church, and thank them for all the love, prayer and support that we have had over the last thirty years.

A comment I heard on the first evening was:- 'It will never last'. Well it has and it goes on from strength to strength here in Popley. Many thanks to you all for the loyal support that I have received over the past twenty-seven years as Company Captain. Now it is Mark Hoods turn, so please support him and the Company in the future *Dave Phillips*.



Adventure Ranger Corp

Adventure Rangers is for Boys and Girls from the age of eight upwards.

The meetings at John Hunt School are in the dining area, we get involved in lots of activities—map reading, field craft, cooking, shooting, scuba diving, canoeing, First Aid and many other activities. We also do expeditions Military Camps and Duke of Edinburgh awards.

The Adventure Ranger Corp was founded in 1993 in Tadley, young people had the opportunity to participate in new and exciting activities. We all take satisfaction in seeing young people enjoying themselves and achieving their aims and personal goals.

The adult staff within the Adventure Rangers are all dedicated volunteers, who are committed to helping our members to reach their goals through training and coaching of the individual and the group.

We use award rather than badges, Red, Bronze, Silver and Gold all of which are hard work but among the seriousness there is some fun, which at the end of the day is what it is all about. The Rangers have been to Brecon Beacons. In July they are off to Scotland, this is also for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We meet Wednesday evening's 1900 hrs to 2100 hrs

John Hunt of Everest Reunion

Class of 1978

Saturday 19th October 2002

To celebrate most of us reaching the ripe old age of 40 we are having a reunion in The Hampshire Court Hotel, in Chineham. Over 100 have already booked. Admission will be £12 by ticket only, available from

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Basingstoke Air Scouts

The Beaver Scout section welcomed a new leader Cori Keenan earlier in the year to succeed Sue Keetch (Rainbow) who led the colony since 1994. Many thanks Sue for all your efforts over the past eight years. It is thanks to your ground work in the dark, dingy, damp black wooden hut that is now little more than a memory that the colony flourishes today. Several Beaver Scouts took part in an Easter Fun Challenge in Popley Fields Community Centre in April. They had a splendid afternoon with 'flying bunnies' and activities based on an Easter theme. Later in the year they are off to Paultons Park for the day (plenty of opportunity for beavers to enjoy their favourite getting wet activity there!). Beaver Scouts meet on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. Boys and girls aged between 6 and 8 are welcome.

The Cub Scout section has had a busy time working to gain proficiency badges. Scientist badge proved popular as the Cubs enjoyed learning about the theory of flight, hot air and electricity with some practical experiments for them to try out. In June a coach load of Beaver and Cub Scouts are off to Gilwell Park (the home of Scouting in Essex) for an activity day of archery, shooting, climbing and lots of fun. Cub Scouts meet on Tuesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. membership is open to boys and girls aged from 8 – 10 ½ years.

Five members of the Scout troop joined in a Winter Patrol Camp weekend at Ferny Crofts in the New Forest over the Easter weekend. The programme was very active with cyclo-cross, abseiling, shooting, rafting, climbing, disc golf, an assault course and carting all featuring. Sadly there wasn't enough time for everyone to do everything but there is always a next time.....! The troop are currently planning their summer programme and hope to include sub-aqua and mountain biking. One of their number is off to the 20th World Jamboree in Thailand at the end of the year. Scouts meet Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. - new members (boys and girls aged from 10 ½ years welcome.).

Jan Saunders the Group Scout Leader has announced her intention to retire in June. Jan has seen the Group through a number of tough years and feels the time is now right to hand over to someone younger. She still intends to keep contact with the Group however and has certainly no intention of hanging up her scouting hat just yet! It is appropriate that Jan has recently been awarded the Medal of Merit for her contribution to Scouting over the years. The award will be presented at the Group Annual Meeting on 25th June. All past members of the Group welcome to attend.

Basingstoke Air Scouts was first registered in Popley in 1976. In the past 27 years many changes have taken place and yet more are in the offing later this summer. The most significant change will be the introduction of a new section of Explorer Scouts for those aged between 14 and 18 which will enable the troop to concentrate more on activities suitable for the 10-14 age group. The leaders attended a 'launch' of the new programme on 18th May and learned what the changes meant for weekly programmes and how best to introduce them to the young people.

Enquiries - contact Jan Saunders at 9 Orkney Close, Popley on (01256) 410514

Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley

Base 2000 continues to widen its appeal to community users by the addition of a Christian Youth Group to the facility on Friday evenings from 6.45 to 7.30 p.m. The building also hosts a camera and video club which meets fortnightly on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. Regular daytime users include WEA and Voices who both run a creche for young children of their members. Opportunities for casual day-time use and/or weekends is still available. Hire charges start from £3 per hour. For more information or to arrange a viewing contact Jan Saunders on (01256) 410514.

*Beryl Mullender
6 Holly Drive, Old Basing RG24 7LE
(01256) 321596*

Basingstoke Camcorder Club

Basingstoke Camcorder Club is an evolving club that meets at fortnightly intervals at Base 2000 Scout Hall, Carpenters Down, Popley, Basingstoke. Our members encompass various styles and technique, both with the camera and in the editing. We endeavour to illustrate the basics - after all, there is no absolute "right" or "wrong" way to make a video. All are welcome to come along, regardless of age or ability, to learn/share experiences on the planning, shooting and editing of productions of varying lengths and sophistication. Our current membership is £30 per year which includes free use of a chair at meetings plus tea, coffee and biscuits are all laid on. For more information about the club, please telephone the Secretary Adrian Barrett on 01252-511142, or visit our website which contains much more about us and some of our projects, plus a map of how to find us. Look forward to seeing you!

ADRIAN BARRETT, Secretary

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WEDNESDAY 6:30pm VIABLES CRAFT CENTRE

THURSDAY 7pm METHODIST CHURCH, OAKRIDGE

THURSDAY 7pm OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 6:30pm CHURCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD

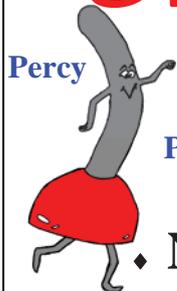
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