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# POPLEY MATTERS

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March 2003 to May

Issue 31

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Link2Learn				

# Message From the Editor

Spring is a time for new beginnings and Popley Matters will see some changes to its committee. Dave Phillips is moving to Morecombe with his faithful dog Blue. Dave has been a tireless worker for the community in Popley. I first met Dave when my two sons joined Boys Brigade twenty four years ago. Dave has run Jumble Sales, Boot Sales and the Public Auction all to raise funds for local charities. I am sure we all wish Dave well and we will be sending him a regular copy of Popley Matters.

Iris King who has been the chairman for many years of Popley Forum and Popley Matters has decided to stand down as chairman and try to take life a little easier. Iris is a difficult lady to find because she is always out helping someone as volunteer for NeighbourCare or in Melrose Hall, Popley Fields or visiting. I just cant see Iris not being around and she will at least still be in Popley and be in charge of the distribution of this magazine. We are going to need a new chairman. Any offers! Talking of new beginnings, Popley will soon have its new and completely restyled Web site with lots of information and a message board to send in your comments. we already have an Email address that you can write to, it is popley.matters@btopenworld.com

Popley Matters again is packed we hope with information that you will all find useful but we always like to get some feedback or ideas for new articles, so please we do actually enjoy hearing constructive criticism.

Don't forget Popley Festival on May 18<sup>th</sup> it is turning out to be one of the biggest events in Basingstoke and Deanes area. there will be many more attractions this year and all the old favourites too. The committee works the whole year to make this one day a great success.

*Jane Frankum Editor*

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9EL

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/Secretary Andrew McCormick; Advertising/Liaison Kate Lomas; Committee Member

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Still very busy, lots of things organised for the Boys. But, We feel that we could do better. We need some more Adult help, Male, over 18yrs old and Female, over 16yrs old. If you have any skills that you feel that we may be interested in, please contact Mark Hood, the Company Captain at 51 Shelly Close, or drop in to John Hunt School on a Monday evening between 6-15pm and 9-30pm.

Christmas, has come and gone but again we were busy, Anchor Boys (aged 6rs to 8yrs) and the Junior Section (aged 8yrs to 10 1/2yrs) hired to Fun house for an afternoon. Mind you older boys and Staff also -joined in. The Company Section Boys (aged 10 1/2yrs to 18yrs) visited the Bowling Alley and this Cinema as part of their Christmas celebrations.

Lots of fun, lots of games, and lots of activities, for fun Friendship - it has got to be the Popley Boys' Brigade.

Visit our web site and see our main advert on page 21

---

## FARWELL.

Well, the time has come to say goodbye, 30 years of voluntary Youth and Community work in Popley has left me many happy memories.

My main interest has been the Popley Boys' Brigade and St Gabriel's Parish Church. But I have been able to join in with you on many projects, Popley Ponds, Popley Festival, this wonderful magazine, Popley Forum, Popley Car Boots and the Public Auction etc.

Popley is often put down by the town, but I have found it second-to-none, with its community and its people.

Well, illness has made me decide to take an early retirement and so I will be moving to Morcambe, Lancs. Only 4 minutes from the sea, Blue and I will be very regular visitors to the beach. Blue has already made friends "up north" (and we don't move until March), and already knows where to go to beg a few biscuits.

I have a little unfinished business here over the next few months, so will still be about for the odd occasion.

Thank you for being you, it has been a pleasure to work with and be along Side you. Dave P. Phillips.

*Editors Note:- Dave Phillips I first knew over 24 years ago has given most of his time to Popley with the Boys Brigade, St Gabriels Church, Popley Festival or raising funds, running many of the Sunday Car Boot Sales and the Public Auction on a Wednesday. Popley owes Dave a big thank you and we are going to miss you.*

# POPLEY FESTIVAL 2003

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 11-4pm

This year's Popley Festival looks to be the biggest and best yet. We are expecting the usual Walls Fun Fair to be on site with fun filled rides for all the family. The car boot sale looks like being even bigger and more varied than last year - no booking needed, just come along on the day. The plant stalls will be present as will a large number of charity stalls. There will be live entertainment from the John Hunt of Everest Steel Pans Band, Black Gospel and Rap, a rock band and various other groups.

There will be local team competitions (if you want to enter call Mark Head at Popley Fields), lots of prizes for raffles and face painting.

We are also planning a range of delicacies through the Food Court.

All this and more. Anyone wanting to get involved, or wanting to have a stall, contact Suki Binning, School Community Manager at John Hunt of Everest on 465303.

Hope to see you there for a first rate family day out with fun for everyone. There were over 6000 visitors last year so don't miss it.

---

**The Summer Adult Education Programme** will be available from 26th March so if you want to learn some basic language skills for your summer holiday, improve your fitness or to simply to learn something completely different you can get your free copy by phoning the Education Office on 01256 306347/355 or BCOT customer services desk on 306484. Programmes can be picked up at the library, Sainsbury's or your community centre.



# Treasure Isl and Play Group

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

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

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



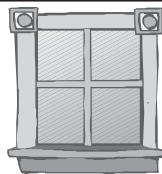
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<b>Basingstoke:</b>	<b>01256 851231</b>	<b>Shothanger Barn Kingsclere Road (A339)</b>
<b>Hook:</b>	<b>01256 761717</b>	<b>7 London Road Hook</b>
<b>Thatcham:</b>	<b>01635 860866</b>	<b>59 Station Road Thatcham</b>

# FASTFARE

Dear Popley residents & customers,

We have now been informed officially by the local authority that our bid for shop no.3 on Abbey Road Shop has been accepted by them. For which all the credit goes to all the local residents and our customers who initiated the petition, Anne Souilah and our local councillor Paul Frankum and Jane Frankum. All the well wishers and the local shop supporters please accept a thank you from Dave, Nayna and family from Fastfare at Abbey Road shops for your kind support.

We are currently awaiting for council to do all the legalities and in the mean time we would like customers views on to what you would like us to keep as a range of products in the shop as it is your local shop and we intend to provide what you want, providing the lease clause permits us to do so. As per the current requirements of our residents it is going to be a kind of super drug store and we would add on things like we did at Fastfare as and when needed. But please talk to Dave and Nayna at Fastfare and express your views about the same so we can all build our own community parade together.

And once again we all thank you for all the kind support you have given us. *Dave, Nayna & Family - Abbey Road Shops*

## Basingstoke Camcorder Club

We are an evolving and growing club that enjoys lively, busy meetings at fortnightly intervals at **Base 2000 Scout Hall, Carpenters Down, Popley, Basingstoke**. Here, we learn from and share experiences regarding the planning, shooting and editing of productions of varying lengths and sophistication. Our members encompass various levels, styles and technique, both with the camera and in the editing afterwards. Last year, the club covered parts of the Basingstoke Festival, our biggest and most ambitious project to date while currently we are attempting a range of smaller projects within smaller working groups. Visit our website for more details at [www.geocities.com/bascamclub](http://www.geocities.com/bascamclub).

All are welcome to come along, regardless of age or ability. Our current membership is £30 per year for around 25 regularly scheduled meetings per year. Tea, coffee and biscuits are laid on. Contact us for more information. We look forward to seeing you!

Telephone the club Secretary **Adrian Barrett** on **01252-511142** or email him at: [bascamclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bascamclub@yahoo.co.uk)



The area is still suffering from a large amount of car crime. In previous months the majority of the crime had been at certain "hotspots" This is no longer the case and damage and theft from cars are occurring all over the Popley area. The majority of these crimes are theft from Vehicles, which involves either smashing the window or gaining entry through forcing the door lock. These thieves will steal whatever they can get their hands on and have been known to break into a car for the handful of small coins left on a centre console. Vehicle crime has a very high priority in the Police and every effort is being made to try and apprehend these thieves. We rely on help from the public and would ask that any information or suspicious activity be reported to the Police. These thieves are making life very difficult for many people and I have dealt with numerous local residents who are unable to afford to repair their cars which are needed for work or transporting their children to school or childcare.

On a more positive note as a direct result of information received from local residents series of arrests have been made in relation to Graffiti appearing all over the area. Details have also been received in relation to nuisance motorcycles in the area. As a result of this we have seen a large reduction in this anti-social problem.

Police are currently investigating forged £20 notes, which are being used in the Popley area. Please ensure that you check any note given to you, and again please pass on any information you may have or any suspicions as to who is passing these notes.

Any information can be passed either direct to the Police on 0845 045 45 45 or anonymously through crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A reminder that the Popley surgery is still running on the first Saturday in the month at John Hunt of Everest School between 12 and 1pm. This is a chance for local people to call in to speak to a local councillor or myself. No appointment needed just turn up.

Popley Festival is fast approaching and any help or support from local people would be greatly appreciated by the planning committee. Any willing volunteers please contact either myself or Suki Binning at John Hunt School

I can be contacted either through the Hants Police switchboard 0845 045 45 45 or via Email on [basingstoke.communitybeats@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:basingstoke.communitybeats@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Finally a sad farewell to Dave Phillips who is moving on to pastures new. Dave has been a great supporter of the Popley community and the Boys Brigade over the years and I would like to wish him well in his new venture in sunny Morecambe

PC3126 Matt Deery



First a reminder that the last of the monthly Table Top Sales are on March 8th and April 12th. Everyone agrees it is nice to be able to buy and sell at very good prices and be dry and warm as well. The hot dogs make for an extra bonus. Unless there is an overwhelming request to carry on, the sales will cease until the cold winter weather hits again at the end of the year. But don't forget we have good bargains at our John Hunt Boot Sales.

The Wednesday evening auctions go from strength to strength with people coming from as far afield as Ealing in London. The bargains have to be seen to be believed, I promise myself that I will be working not buying but then end up buying a bike because it is a bargain and I need to lose weight and get fit.

Is there anyone out there feeling low or lonely, do you not have anyone to celebrate your birthday with? Come on down to the social coffee mornings and I guarantee that without you telling them they will know when your birthday is and make sure it is celebrated in the right manor. They don't care what age young/old, any excuse to have an enjoyable time.

Now for some sad news. We have an inconsiderate person called DAVE PHILLIPS who for the last 30+ years has worked for the people of Popley community and Boys Brigade, Popley Festival, Popley Matters and Melrose Hall. Why inconsiderate? Because he is leaving and moving to Morecombe in the next few weeks. (For a small fee I will give you his address so you can call at his house) It is my way of getting my own back for making me the butt of your jokes by yourself and the rest of the Wednesday Auction crew. I am sure everyone who has worked with you including myself wishes you a happy retirement *Iris King*

## Merton Infant school

The Midas-Touch The children and staff have begun the new year by turning to gold The school introduced five "Golden Rules" Do be kind and honest Respect each other. Look after your environment. Do listen carefully. Always try your best. As a reward for keeping the Golden Rules, each class chooses a child who is then invited to the "Golden Tea Party" with Head Teacher Mrs Clement. The children also have Golden time in their class where they choose special activities to share with one another for example, board games, cooking, model making, chess and all classes have a "Golden Post-box" for children and staff to receive and post letters congratulating one another on keeping the Golden Rules. Head teacher, Mrs Clement said "The Golden Rules are having a positive effect on the atmosphere in the whole school.

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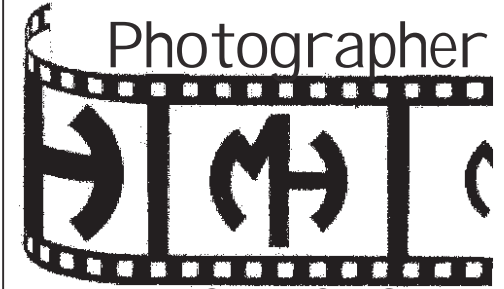
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Monday Night 6:15pm to 7-30pm  
Main School Gym

Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

Monday Night 7-30pm to 9-30pm  
ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14

All Sections Meet at  
John Hunt School

Answer Phone for formation ☎ 323564

<http://6basingstoke.boys-brgade.org.uk>

# Basingstoke Air Scouts.

The implementation of the New Scouting program left Basingstoke Air Scouts with a few less members at the beginning of the year. The older members of the group having moved on to the newly formed Explorer Scout groups at Chineham and Old Basing. This left us with a few vacancies, which have gradually been filling over this past month.

At present, the newer Scouts are learning about safety issues and other Do's and Don'ts at airfields, with our resident skills instructor. Hopefully this will be put to good use on a weekend camp soon at Popham airfield. Meanwhile the other Scouts are working towards their Emergency Aid and Hobbies Badge and have just started the Astronomer Badge.

Some other items planned for the future include a visit to Duxford Air Museum, and hopefully later in the year a weekend camp at the Kemble Classic Jet Airshow. More details can be found on the Scouts website at [www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk)



## John Hunt of Everest Community School Community Events Update

The family learning programmes have really been popular. Our steel pans family band is now full, as is the aerobics for families. We will be repeating these and other courses, so look out for parenting skills for parents of teenagers (starting in March), Insight into Antiques (March), PC Troubleshooting, French for Families (starting 3<sup>rd</sup> April) and as part of International Women's day we are holding an afternoon of activities on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2003 from 2-4pm which will include aerobics, what colour is your personality and Indian Head massage. All courses are free and open to all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Phone Suki Binning on 465303 to book or to find out more.

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### **How does this training work?**

A qualified assessor sets up a scheme of training and tasks to be carried out at the workplace with the co-operation of the employee's supervisor. The assessor meets with the employee for approximately one hour every 3 weeks to verify the tasks undertaken and to discuss the next period's work.

The whole course lasts approximately 12-24 months depending upon the employee's previous work experience and chosen subject.

There are two ways to access this training:

**As a Foundation Modern Apprentice**, you apply to Basingstoke ITEC for a place on our scheme. You must be aged between 16-19 and able to attend training full time (so not in work during the hours of 8.30am – 4.00pm). You will attend the centre for a period of up to 6 weeks, during which time you will learn how to use word processing, spreadsheet, database and graphics programmes, how to work in teams, interview techniques, development of your key skills and much more .... After your initial training, you will be placed with a company to enable you to gain your National Vocational Qualification – prove yourself to the employer and in the majority of cases this placement will result in a real job.

**OR**

**As an Advanced Modern Apprentice**, you must be in full employment and aged between 16-23. Your job role must be relevant to the training areas of IT, administration, customer care or call handling (but, these are broad based qualifications, so can apply to a large variety of occupational areas – you can always call us for advice on whether your job role is relevant to our training courses). With the approval of your employer you can access our scheme, at no cost to you or your employer. This might all seem confusing, but it is really user friendly and if you would like more information we are at the end of the phone to talk you through the process.

## **Whats happening in health at Shakespeare Road?**

The team at Shakespeare Road are offering some new groups, these include:

- ◆ Weightwise for those of us who would like to eat a little healthier and lose a few pounds, this is a confidential support and advice service on healthier eating and weight loss. It runs on Friday 10-11 starting on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Early Days is for all new parents out there be it your first, second or more babies. If you would like to meet other parents and get support and advice on life with a new baby then come along to the group.
- ◆ Health Visitors Clinic continues on Mondays 1-3 pm for weighing and general advice.
- ◆ Baby Massage- a qualified massage teacher is coming to the Early Days Group on the following dates:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> March
  - 1<sup>st</sup> May
  - 19<sup>th</sup> June
  - 21<sup>st</sup> August
  - 16<sup>th</sup> October
  - 11<sup>th</sup> December

If you do not wish to attend all the sessions but would like to attend this taster session, (ideal for calming crying babies and soothing frazzled nerves), then please come along. Please ring on 01256 375470 for more information.

- ◆ Home-Start is a project being initiated by health that is volunteer run and is designed to help families with children under 5 in their own homes, come along to the public meeting in March and show your support, it could benefit you or someone you know.

---

## **Are you a new parent? Would you like to meet other new parents and learn about your baby?**

**Then come to our Early Days Group at  
Shakespeare House Health Centre, Shakespeare Road, Popley.**

**6 weekly sessions on Thursdays cover:**

- ◆ Weaning
- ◆ Play and Development
- ◆ Childhood Illnesses, Immunisations, First Aid and Accident Prevention.
- ◆ Feelings Adapting to Being a Parent.
- ◆ Sleeping and Crying.
- ◆ Baby Massage and Relaxation.

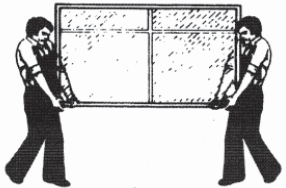
Please contact your health visitor for when the next group starts on 01256375470. Everyone welcome, refreshments provided.

**We look forward to seeing you.**



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## Access Group for Basingstoke and Deane

The Group was formed in 1989 by a former Councillor, now deceased, who, because of his disabilities understood what was needed by people with disabilities.

Since then a lot of work has been done in the Borough, particularly with regards to access to public buildings.

We are a group of about 15 people, some of whom have some disability or are working within a caring and helping environment. We also have an Architect with us our Access Officer, who attends our meetings and advises us on many matters.

We therefore have a lot of expertise in matters concerning disability and access.

What do we do? Our main concern is that Developers adhere to the building regulations as regards disabled access to public buildings, and toilets and to make sure that a wheelchair is able to enter the building. Amongst other things we try to ensure that there is easy entry to shops and other buildings, disabled parking bays and signs are clear, that life for those with mobility difficulties is made easier.

We also publish a newsletter which contains articles on disability and access matters and with it we enclose a list of those local organisations that are able to help people.

It is my personal wish that we can help and advise people with access difficulties and respond to their queries

*John Blairman Chairman Access Group for Basingstoke and Deane*



## 1st Popley (Everest) Scout Group

Our group have been extremely busy over the past few months and we are now organising the annual St Georges Day Parade because this year we are the host group. The parade will take place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm at the top of town proceeding to the United Reform Church for the service at 3pm.

**Beaver Scout Section (meet Tuesday 5pm-6-15pm)** The Beavers have been on a very exciting visit to the fire station and have taken part in various interesting theme nights including a beach party in November and a West Indies night with Limbo Dancing! They are looking forward to an Easter Challenge event, a sleepover and a summer trip to Paultons Park.

**Cub Scout Section (meet Tuesday 6.30pm-8pm)** The cubs are looking forward to various weekend camps and a fun day at Gillwell Park in June.

**Scout Section (meet Tuesday 6.30pm-9pm)** The troop are busy preparing for the annual cooking competition and are hoping to enter two teams this year so good luck to them. At the end of February some of the patrol leaders are going on a training weekend at the Gordon Brown Centre near Rotherwick.

We all meet at St Gabriels Church Hall, Tewkesbury Close, Popley. We have vacancies in all sections at the moment and all sections are open to both boys and girls. Please phone Andrew Sumner 01256 355671 for any further information.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax : 01256 418529



E.mail:

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Charity Reg No : 1052133

## **BASINGSTOKE MENCAP SERVICES**

**Basingstoke Mencap** provides support, advice and information for people with a learning disability, their parents and carers in the Basingstoke & Deane area. We are affiliated to the Royal Mencap Society, and our office is in YMCA House at Eastrop Way, Basingstoke. We are managed by a board of trustees and employ 3 members of staff who are based in the office and about twelve support workers who work mainly in client's homes.

Our services include the Basingstoke Mencap Support Worker Scheme, various social activities, and links to care and support organisations.

### **Social Activities:**

The **Tuesday Club** meets at the YMCA, Eastrop Way each Tuesday evening from 7.00 to 9.00. Club activities include organised games, arts & crafts, cooking and quizzes. Our autumn programme included the launch of drama and music sessions. Club evenings are very informal and friendly and we are always pleased to see new members. Current entrance charge is only 50p per person. Volunteers are always welcome.

The **Mencap Coffee Morning** is held at the YMCA, Eastrop on the first Tuesday of the month from 10.30 to 12.00. It gives parents, carers and friends the opportunity to meet up for an informal chat to share ideas and problems. Everyone is welcome, please drop in.

**New Projects:** we hope to launch a gardening project in the spring and would be grateful for the donation of any spare tools. Enthusiastic gardeners willing to work as volunteers on this project would be very welcome. Please contact **Samantha Martin on 01256 331199**.

**Information:** we have a collection of leaflets, books, and information packs on the issues and needs associated with learning disabilities which we are continually extending and updating. If we do not already have the information required we will find it for you or direct you to the relevant organisation.

**Support Worker Scheme:** this consists of a small hard working team of well trained support workers and is run from the Mencap Offices at YMCA House, Eastrop. It is managed by a co-ordinator assisted by a senior support worker. The majority of our clients are referred from Social Services but we also support private clients who have often been recommended to us by people we have supported in the past.

Our main role as support workers is helping clients to stay in their own homes by supporting their everyday needs i.e. shopping, some personal care and with chores around the house. We also support them in education and leisure activities. Most of our clients are adult but we also give support to children living at home with their parents.

We are always keen to recruit new support workers. The hours can be very flexible - we do our best to ensure that you work the hours that suit you - and you will find great job satisfaction. We offer ongoing training and support for staff. If you have a few hours or more to spare a week and feel that you would like to make a difference as a paid Mencap Support Worker please contact the **Acting Scheme Co-ordinator, Samantha Martin, on 01256 331199**.

If you would like more information about Basingstoke Mencap Services or any issues relating to learning disabilities please ring the Administrator, **Vivienne Green on 01256 331199**.

Thank you to everyone who came to our New Years Eve Family Night. I know that a great night was had by all who came. But could we make any improvements for next year? Any suggestions would be very welcome as we love to get feedback on events we put on. And what other events would you like to see throughout the year? We, as a Community Association are trying to provide a varied programme of activities for you, the people of Popley.

But without you telling us what you want, we have to guess. So let us know what you would like to see and we will try to provide it!

We also need more volunteers to help on our Committee or simply to help out at events we put on throughout the year. You would be surprised how little amount of time this takes up and how fulfilling it can be!

The Youth Club is now running regularly on Mondays and the range of activities is increasing. But we would like to get hold of some games consoles and any board games. Do you have any old Playstations lying in your loft or garage which you would be willing to donate?

**And we really need some adult volunteers to help out during our Youth Nights.**

**Can you spare a couple of hours, weekly, fortnightly or even monthly to carry out a valuable role for the community and help to ensure the continuity of the Youth Club? You may be surprised how rewarding this role can be!**

**Please call Mark Head, Centre Manager for more details.**



**Popley Fields Community Centre is available for hire for Children's Parties.**

We are now able to offer Bouncy Castle, soft play and Disco equipment hire at very reasonable rates. Party options range from 'Do It Yourself' parties to 'Supervised Parties' right up to 'The Ultimate' where almost everything is done for you.

**Call us now for detailed prices and an information pack.**

**Tel: 01256 414494**



Richard Aldworth  
Community School

## TOTALLY FREE!

(No Centre fee/Registration fee/Exam fee)

**Daytime computer course**  
**NEW!! - E-QUALS SCHEME**  
Wordprocessing, Database & Spreadsheets

Also offering tuition in Internet,  
Desk Top Publishing, Powerpoint and  
much more!

Courses start 06/01/03 and are held at  
Popley Fields Community Centre

For further information please call in and see us  
or contact Dawn King on 01256 473698



## John's All Seasons Gardening

*Grass cutting, weeding, Hedge  
trimming, Gardens cleared, Gutters  
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*General garden  
maintenance,  
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You are warmly invited to  
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at  
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Centre

Carpenters Down  
Popley

Basingstoke

Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:

Graham and Barbara on  
(01256) 363692

New Testament Church of God



www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk



Richard Aldworth  
Community School

## TOTALLY FREE!

Basic Computing for beginners

Suitable for everyone - young or old - if  
you have little knowledge or none at all  
- you work at your own pace with no  
pressure - learn about computing from  
how to switch the computer on - social-  
ise - don't be scared!!! Enjoy.

Every Monday afternoon from 1.00-  
3.00pm. at **Melrose Hall, Popley**

Call in and see us! Start: 06/01/03

For further information please contact  
Dawn King on 01256 473698

## STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

● Sheena Brown is  
available for Chiropody  
treatment in the comfort  
of your own home.



● Please telephone  
(01256) 336853 for more  
details or to make an  
appointment.





Oakfern and Hart Housing Association (based in Fleet) are in the process of harmonising their operations as part of the Sentinel Housing Group

One outcome of the harmonisation is that the traditional housing officer role that was undertaken by Oakfern's staff will change.

The new **Neighbourhood Co-ordinators** will be able to spend a lot more time out on the estates sorting out issues with residents. Hopefully this will assist the good works carried out so far by the Popley Partnership which looks to improve residents quality of life in general

The Neighbourhood Coordinator for Popley is Melanie Purves. Many of you will have met the previous Housing Officer Mary Curtis who worked in Popley for about 4 years. Mary is now a neighbourhood Coordinator in the Fleet area. She is enjoying the change of area and feels that Popley will benefit from a new face on the streets

Melanie has worked in housing for a couple of years and is studying for her Housing Qualification. She is a native of Basingstoke so understands some of the issues that face the town today.

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## Play Area Consultation

After nearly a year, the Borough-wide consultation about the risks associated with play areas is complete. The extensive consultation covered 19 wards within the Borough and affected over 165 play areas. The results of the consultation were discussed with the Councillors from each of the wards and the recommendations were agreed.

Information about the results of the consultation and about the agreed final recommendations can be found on the council's website at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community) complete with photographs of the play areas.

The majority of the work will be completed between April and October 2003 and will be timed to avoid the school holiday periods. Notices will be put up on the play areas before the work is carried out.

In Popley new facilities will be built at Tobago Close and improvements will be made to the provision for older children and young people in line with the wishes of local residents.

For more detailed information about individual play areas visit the website or contact Ian Harris, Parks and Open Spaces Manager on 01256 845712.



## ***HOME-START FOR BASINGSTOKE????***

Home-Start is a voluntary organisation committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under five years of age. Volunteers offer regular support; friendship and practical help to families in their own homes. Local health Visitors, in partnership with other interested agencies, would like to set up a project in the Popley/Oakridge area. To find out more please ring 01256375470 or attend the

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

AT

Shakespeare House Surgery

ON

**MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>**

FROM

**10am to 11.30am**

***CRÈCHE FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED.***

*Why not come along and let us know what the community really wants*



# **FREESTYLE KARATE & KICKBOXING**

- Self Defence
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**Tuesday & Thursday Popley Fields Community Centre**

Come along & try a lesson free!

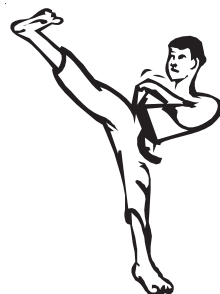
2 x World Champion Instructors

Beginners most welcome

Regular Tournaments

Age 4 yrs to Adults

Fees Under 10yrs £3.00 – 10yrs + 3.50



For more info phone P.Cannings  
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Link2Learn is a FREE information and advice service helping adults 20 years and over, with a wide range of issues such as improving the quality of life through learning new skills, seeking new employment and finding information on training and careers.

The service is available to everyone, whether in work, out of work, bringing up children or retired.

Kerry Wiggins is the Link2Learn Outreach Worker for Popley. Kerry is keen to meet local residents to offer free impartial advice on any of the following;

- **Learning and training opportunities.** What can you learn? Where are the courses held? How long do they last? How much do they cost?
- **Careers advice.** Use computer guidance packages to search for careers ideas.
- **Jobseeking.** Get help with writing CVs, filling in application forms and going for interviews.

You can arrange to meet Kerry at a mutually acceptable time, date and place. Phone for an appointment on: 07714 064 189

You can pick up leaflets and further information about Link2Learn at any of the Popley Link2Learn signpost sites: Popley Fields Community Centre, Melrose Hall, John Hunt of Everest School, the WEA, or log on to [www.link2learn.co.uk](http://www.link2learn.co.uk)

**BASINGSTOKE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Festival Place has now opened with lots of exciting job opportunities.**

**FREE COURSE**

**Return to retail work...  
A programme to get you  
back into work.**

The course will include the following:

- **Customer Care**
- **Introduction to IT**
- **Retail Practices**
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For start dates and more details call Gill Scuffham

**01256 306311**

You may also be eligible for free travel and childcare costs



Basingstoke College of Technology Worting Road Basingstoke RG21 8TN



## Popley Partnership

As the outgoing Chairperson of Popley Partnership I have been asked to give you an update on what the partnership has achieved to date and the way forward.



The Popley Partnership was formed in 2000 after a petition from members of the community was sent to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Oakfern Housing asking for something to be done to improve the lives of those living on Popley.

The first thing we did was to commission consultants to carry out a consultation involving all residents of Popley to find out what the main concerns were. This was a thorough process involving a mailing to everyone, completion of face to face questionnaires in residents homes and various workshops to gain public opinion. At the end of the consultation an action plan was compiled and this was presented to residents and has been used by the partnership to improve the environment for all on Popley.

Some of the things the partnership have done or had a hand in accomplishing are;

- Setting up of the monthly Community Surgery at John Hunt Community School

- CCTV cameras at Longfellow Parade to help reduce crime in the area
- Increased awareness of and the removal of abandoned vehicles

- Provision of more dropped kerbs for easier access for the elderly, disabled, nursing mothers and the repair of footpaths

- Cleaning up and painting of the subways

- Provision of a Cycle Route

- Replacement of vandalised dog litter bins and stickers

- Provision of a half pipe for the youth

The future for the partnership involves working with the agencies and the community to continue improving the environment on Popley. Matters still to be addressed are parking problems, landscaping (maintenance of the shrubs and trees), ongoing repairs to roads and footpaths, provision of Community Wardens to work on the estate, more CCTV cameras, more facilities/activities for the youth and ongoing action by the various agencies to deal with anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership are also working closely with those involved with the North of Popley Development to ensure that the existing Popley and the new development integrate together as one community.

Due to my job at Oakfern Housing changing I am handing over the role of Chairperson to Karen Ayling, Neighbourhood Services Manager, and wish her, the other members of the partnership and you all in the community my best wishes for the future. I am sure the partnership will continue, as it has up to now, to work with and for all in the community to improve the lives of those working and living in Popley.

**Councillors Report** More good news for Popley The Shakespeare House Surgery has at last had the deep ruts in the car park filled in. I was appalled at the state the site was left and after much insistence the road was repaired by the council and the developers who should have done it will foot the bill. I also noticed that there was no safe way to approach the surgery from the back, especially for the disabled in electric wheelchairs, and children were having to run-in between cars in the car park. I have also secured funding to have the pathway joined up at the rear and it should be done within the next few weeks, once ownership of the piece of land is established. Glastonbury Close by the bungalows was so uneven I secured the replacement of the slabs with a much safer surface of Tarmac. If you know of an area in Popley that needs dropped surfaces please get in touch with any member of your Labour Team Paul Frankum, Andy McCormick, Jane Frankum or Rob Donnelly.

Talking of safe paths Councillor Jane Frankum and myself went on a walk around Popley with Martin Bennett as we were concerned that there were areas that it was difficult or imposable to cross the roads safely and there will be a program of supplying dropped curbs. The road improvements near Chineham Park school have made it a lot safer thanks to Andy McCormick's hard work with the residents.

After a long battle to get money already donated by Bewley Homes when Specklewood was built the play area in Trinidad and Tobago should be replaced well in time for the Summer.

The reuse of Bermuda Close old surgery looks likely soon as a pre school in partnership with a local school, Hampshire County Council and led by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Marlowe House old surgery is a dream of all your Labour Team to see it used as a Family Centre and we are progressing all be it too slowly but it should be going before cabinet soon. The empty shop left when the pharmacy moved out has been taken by Fastfare and Dev and Nana would like to know what type of goods you would like to see sold there. We were pleased that the wishes of Popley's residents won the day.

The community surgery is held the first Saturday of the month and there are usually County and Borough Councillors, Police, Oakfern and a Industrial relations consultant (for work related problems). We have also had Link to Learn, Health visitors and Welcare to name a few. If you have any concerns why not come and see us at John Hunt School from 12 till 1 on the first Saturday of the month.

I would like to add my best wishes to Captain Dave Phillips who I have known since I joined the Boys Brigade twenty four years ago. It was a great experience for me and I enjoyed going away to camp. Dave had a real influence on my life and I hope you have a long and happy retirement with Blue by the sea in Morecombe. *Paul Frankum.*