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# POPLEY MATTERS

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September 2003 to November 2003

Issue 33

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# Message From the Editor

Hot, hot, hot we certainly had a hot summer and what worse time could there be to have drains overflowing the stench was truly awful. I spent about 5 hours at Tintern Close. It took a long smelly time before the right contractors with the right equipment got to the site. Being a glutton for punishment I stayed till the clearing up was started. Thames Water have now done a proper job of cleaning the pipes and soakaways. Thanks for the coffee.

The report on the Forum shows how successful the open "QuestionTime" was and there were many remarks about what a good idea it was to be able to ask all the different people questions that they can answer. There were many remarks about the changes to the bus routes, and they are being used to negotiate possible improvements. Unfortunately only if we can get some extra funding from different people or companies. Stagecoach are set and will not budge without this. There is an interesting letter on page 22

There were concerns raised about the amount of rubbish that doesn't seem to get moved and this was taken back to the council as we had been complaining for some time. A new system will start from the beginning of September and there will be more workers and equipment it would help if some people did not leave rubbish, bottles and cans around the estate. There seemed to be a lot more rubbish than usual as lots of people have been sitting outdoors eating and drinking, most cleared up their rubbish but it only takes a few not to and the whole area looks a mess. Don't forget you can come to the community surgery any first Saturday of the month Councillors, Police, Housing Association and an Industrial Relations Consultant for work issues are usually there at John Hunt School from 12 till 1pm

A lot of our young people seem to have had a great time going away with their groups Scouts, Boys Brigade and Wessex Rangers. I hope most people got at least a break? Why not write in and share your stories.

I am trying to get a Youth Consortium so that we can try to tackle some of the issues around the youths if you are interested please call me on 819924. There are some plans to get some facilities in Popley because we cant just keep moving the problem we need to try to solve it, any good ideas will be welcome especially from the youth themselves.

Again we need people to help deliver the magazine. If you could spare an hour once a quarter to help deliver the magazine, to volunteer please get in touch with me 819924 or Iris King on 411113 *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.

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## Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor; I know this is an old subject that has been covered many times before, and I'm sure will be again in the future. I am getting increasingly concerned about cars being parked on Shetland Road opposite John Hunt School. At times there is a complete line of cars from Malta Close to past Gilbert Close turning.

This makes driving conditions very difficult and I believe will lead to a fatal accident soon. Whilst trying to exit Gilbert, Timor or Malta Close it is near impossible to see any traffic that may be on Shetland Road. I was myself nearly caught just a few nights back whilst trying to exit Gilbert Close, if it had not been for the quick thinking of the other driver, there could have been an accident.

When pulling into Shetland Road, any car travelling east has to pull onto the wrong side of the road to be able to see if anything is coming down, leaving very little 'escape' space to dive into. Just a few nights back at dusk, I saw a car narrowly avoid being hit by a Police car which was travelling west, well in excess of the 30 limit (needless to say with no lights).

What has caused this sudden increase in cars being parked on the road? Is there not enough car parking space? Timor Close car park is nearly always empty. Why can't we have some lay-by, Abbey Road has them. Or is it down to the poor quality of the local public transport system that has increased the need for more cars.

Let's see if this can be fixed before somebody gets killed.

*Editor; There was a petition a few years ago that was for the wall around the garage area to be lowered I know because I presented the petition to the council and Oakfern who did have the wall lowered to enable the residents to see the cars it worked for a while but now as you say the cars are back along Shetland Road there has been a parking survey done and it reported that we had enough car parking spaces but*

*often in locations that people did not want to use because they can't see their cars. The estate was built in the 70's where the car ownership was very much lower to be honest I don't know what the answer is when some households own three or more cars all I can at this stage say is that it is being looked at by Popley Partnerships which is represented by many agencies.*

Dear Editor; As one of the organisers of the Sunday Car boot sale at John Hunt School, can I point out to Popley residents that attend the sale, that the gate opens at 11 O' clock. For some reason just recently Sellers/Customers have been arriving over half an hour to an hour early. This is causing some major problems to traffic flow on Popley Way at times. If you are unable to get into the lay-by at John Hunt please come back later on. Notices will be going out at the sale to the same effect.

For those that have never been to the sale, we have regular stalls including, Fruit & Veg, Kids toys, Household goods, Plants, plus many other things. Burgers, Ice Creams. Entrance, £3.50 per stall, free to Buyers. Many Thanks Basingstoke Air Scouts / Popley Scouts.

*Editor; I am a regular visitor to the Sunday boot sale and have picked up some great bargains I usually get there shortly after 11am but one week I was dropped off earlier. I was amazed at the traffic build up and I was told by one of the organisers that this coming early could jeopardise and lose the Boot Sale, as there were complaints from residents and the police. Maybe there is a need to look at the start time and move it forward or give the sellers a discount if they arrive after 11. I realise that it is difficult to ask the buyers to come later and maybe we do not realise that the people that are running it to get funds for their groups have to pay per hour and on how much area they use. Perhaps you could put posters up explaining what the problem is.*

Editors Note We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we can not accept letters that are sent anonymously.

Please send your letters to :  
The Editor, Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Rd, Basingstoke. RG24 9EL

We do need your name and address but will not print them if you ask us not to.



## POPLEY FORUM AGM 23 June 2003

Popley Forum Committee Elections:- Chairman: Terry Jones, Vice Chair: Ron Rowe, Secretary: Alison Walker, Treasurer: Andy McCormick, Liaison Officer Jane Frankum  
Committee members: Iris King, Kate Lomas, Paul Frankum

The Popley Matters Community Awards were presented By Councillor Jane Frankum to Iris King who retired as Chairman after many years of dedicated service The Group Award for service to the community went to: Naina and Dev Vayas and the staff of Fast Fare for their work in helping and serving the community.

### Question Time:

A lot of questions were asked about Stagecoach cut to the No.4 and No.9 bus routes. John Mariner from Hampshire County Council said he was able to keep the No.9 going with a subsidy as there was a clear social need, although to keep it running to South Ham would mean the frequency of service was reduced to every 90 minutes, the route was too long to be cost-effective with a 60-minute service with the subsidy from Hampshire County Council of £70,000.

Hampshire County Council have no power to tell Stagecoach to keep routes open, any more than they can tell Tesco's which foods to stock on their shelves. However there was nothing to stop anyone setting up their own service to replace the No.4 there was an offer from the floor to start up a service of their own and John Mariner offered the information for them to apply.

Stagecoach are diverting the No.5 to cover West Popley with a half hour service into town replacing the No.4, this goes via Oakridge and not down Kingsclere Road to the railway station. This disappointed a lot of people who need to use the station, Sainsbury's, Allders or Wilkinsons, as they will now have to walk half a mile to the bus station with shopping or luggage.

A lot of people could not understand how Stagecoach were able to say that East Popley could have a service every 7 minutes but West Popley had only one every half hour, and to be told it's not viable to have a bus that connects one end of Popley with the other to the Doctors, Tescos and the Hospital.

John Mariner was very brave in fielding some hostile questions from the floor but it became clear that his hands were tied. Some people asked why there were not any representatives from Stagecoach present at the meeting, but had they been there who knows what sort of reception they would have had!

Stagecoach have a new timetable in operation. With the East Popley service reduced to one every ten minutes and changes to other routes in Basingstoke.

Many people wanted to talk to PC Matt Deery about crime and nuisance issues. Serious crime has been down with a very quiet period in Popley and across the town. The Police caught 5 burglars in June/July and there were no burglaries at all in the entire town for weeks afterward. A series of drugs busts has also done a lot to reduce drugs related crime and a lot of hard drugs users are now going out of area. Motorbikes was highlighted again and abandoned cars.

Parking was also an issue and the audience were told that there is a report expected soon that may help with some solutions. The meeting closed at 9-30pm



# 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

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If you are a pensioner, or have a disabled member of the family and the thought of a move has always put you off, we are willing and able to help you pack – move – unpack.

**Please call Alison 01256 306814**

Dear Editor; As an ex-employee of Stagecoach, we were constantly being told that Basingstoke depot was making no profit. Well I'm not really surprised.

Buses don't go where the passengers want them to go, they don't go when they want them to go, they don't run according to the timetables and they cost too much.

A few years back, there was a 57 and 58 service which went clockwise and anticlockwise through Popley, stopping at bus station, Popley, Chineham Industrial estate, Houndmills Industrial estate and the railway station. This was a very popular service with the locals of Popley as there was the option of the quick route to the Bus Station, Town Centre, or depending on your location in Popley, a slightly longer journey to the Railway Station, then on to the Bus Station. Many locals in Popley used this service not only to get to the Railway Station or Town Centre, but also to get to and from work in Chineham, the Hospital, Bagnells, Eli Lilly, and at Sainsburys Warehouse areas. Starting or finishing at 06:00 hrs, 22:00 hrs. Others used the service to commute to the Rail Station and on to Waterloo, so full was the bus that some mornings that a relief had to be put on.

The earliest that you can get to the Rail Station now from East Popley is 06:40 and that's after a good long walk. West Popley is worse for getting to the Railway Station, as there is no service now that it has changed to the number 5. And what about the workers that start and finish work at 6 O'clock on the Industrial Estates, at either end of Popley? I have spoken to many people over the past months and many have said that they would be happy to pay to get from Popley to the industrial Estates.

Just a few days back I saw a Popley resident waiting for the no.3 bus, 40 minutes later he was still waiting for a bus to take him to town. When the bus did eventually arrive he was charged over a pound for a 5 minute journey. The number 3 route in Popley is advertised as running every 7/8 minutes. Many times throughout the day I have seen as many as 3 buses on this route, travelling within minutes of each other, needless to say the two rear most vehicles were empty.

This brings me on to fares. Why is it that Stagecoach like paying drivers to drive near empty buses around, with a handful of passengers paying over a pound to get to town. Would it not be better to have a full bus of passengers paying 50p. The maths is simple, a Low floor Dart, (the type used on the number 3 route) can carry a full load of 52 passengers, 37 seated and 15 standing, at 50 pence that's 26 pounds. At present most buses during the day are carrying, lets say 10 passengers at a pound each, that works out to 10 pounds.

Just as an after thought, has anyone seen a bus recently without any dents in it?

I propose that Stagecoach; Find out what time residents want to get to work, and what time they want to come home. Run the Buses to the published timetable. Revise the Fares and invest more in driver training. Ex employee and resident of Popley

*Editor; I agree, I have lived in Popley for 33 years and remember when we had a really good bus service. Many people choose to use the cab service now it is only slightly dearer but more reliable.*



## Sessions Available

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Kerry can also help you create a winning CV or discuss the best ways to write an application form. She can give you new job hunting ideas.

If you are not ready to return to work or your career days are over, you can still get advice about local classes and courses. It's never too late to learn!

Interested in learning and training, careers or jobhunting? Phone Kerry on 07714 064 189 and book your free appointment.

*Link2Learn is a FREE information and Advice service available to anyone over the age of 20. You can make an appointment to see your local advice worker Kerry Wiggins, at a time and place to suit you.*

*Kerry is based at the Connexions Careers Centre, Basingstoke She is an outreach worker and is able to make appointments to see you at a local venue if travel into Basingstoke is difficult.*



# What's on at Melrose Hall

Abbey Road, Popley

**Monday** we have coffee morning 9-30 -12pm, then 1pm -3pm we have a computer course which is free.

**Tuesdays** we have Bingo at 2pm and dancing from 5pm -9pm.

**Wednesdays** Mother and Toddler group 9-30-11-30am 12pm -2pm is Oasis Drop in Lunch Club from 4-25pm we have our Charity Auction

**Thursday morning**, same as Monday morning. In the evening it is Weight Watchers.

**Fridays** we have Loddon Alliance drop in group 9-30-2-30

**Friday evening** at 6-30 pm we have a youth club

**Saturday morning** as Tuesday evening

**Sunday** we have Melrose Christian Fellowship 11am-1pm and 6-30-8pm

**Friday 26th September Melrose is taking part in the biggest nationwide coffee morning in aid of Cancer Relief. Our doors will be open from 9-30am every one is welcome come and help us support this vital charity.**

We also hire out the hall and meeting room for children's parties, weddings and other functions. Call Melrose Hall 420676 for more information

We are also looking for more volunteers at the centre if you have some time to spare and would like to do something to help in the community we would make you feel very welcome.

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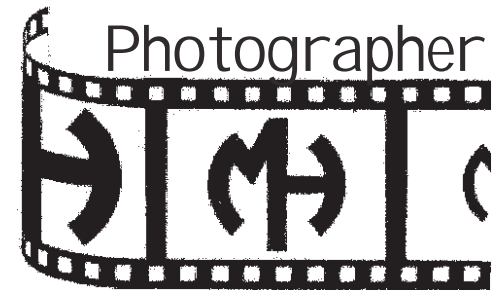
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## Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self help Group

There is a new group that started in January they meet once a month on a Tuesday at the ARK Conference Centre (at the back of the hospital). It is a self help group for women who have had breast cancer and would like the opportunity to meet other women who have had similar experience.

Breast cancer affects women from all social strata and walks of life. The initial diagnosis of the disease strikes fear coupled with feelings of isolation and despair, however we wish to promote that women can come through this traumatic experience to lead a full and healthy life.

The group have taken part in the Race for Life and raised over £2500 to go to Cancer Research UK they will hold a fashion show at Audleys Wood Hotel Sunday 26th October proceeds will go to the new cancer ward at the hospital. For more information Phone Angela 762573

## Southern Focus Trust Care and Repair

Care and Repair is a service to help older people and people with disabilities to remain in their homes in comfort and security by offering a variety of services.

Home Improvement Agency assists with the organising of all repairs to your home. It includes designing adaptations for people with a disabilities, writing specifications of work, obtains estimates, advising on funding and overseeing the work.

Home Safety and Security: Have a free home safety and security check carried out. Our team can advise you and fit a door chain and spy hole free of charge if you receive Income Support, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. Everyone else can have these items fitted at a cost of £8.

Handyperson Service: Low cost repairs in and around your home, a reduced rate for those people in receipt of Income Support, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. Our Handyperson can carry out most minor jobs in your home, such as changing tap washers, putting up shelves and changing locks. We do not do work on domestic appliances, erect fences or work on roofs.

Energy Efficiency There are various ways that you can get help with insulating your home, many of them are free of charge depending on your circumstances. Give our office a call to see if you qualify for help with insulating your home or improving the existing insulation. Contact 01256 423880 Supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

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**The Air Scouts** teamed up with the Air Scouts from Salisbury and have had two visits to Kemble Airfield just recently. For those that don't know, Kemble is an ex RAF airfield that is just north west of Swindon and used to be the home of the Red Arrows display team. The First weekend was spent helping with the running of the Kemble Air Show, whilst at the same time being able to see a show of Vintage jets and camp for free. On the last visit to the Airfield the Scouts were given the chance to have a go at Paracending. Paracending is when you are strapped into a paracute harness and pulled along the airfield by a 4 wheel drive vehicle, if the conditions are right you can get over 100 foot in the air.

Over the week leading up to the August Bank Holiday, the Scouts joined up with other scout groups from around Hampshire at the Annual County camp in the New Forest. The weeks activities included archery, Survival Skills, rafting, a hike around the forest. Some of the older scouts did a bike ride from the camp site to Lymington, across to the Isle of Wight on the ferry. Then riding to another campsite on the Island for the night. Returning to the New Forest the next day via the Cowes, Southampton Ferry.

The Scouts are at present looking forward to a mornings flying at Popham in a few weeks time. Colin Kerlake

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Email [apache@base2000.co.uk](mailto:apache@base2000.co.uk)

## The Fight Goes on for Better Bus Services

Along with John Mariner the Public Transport Officer for Hampshire County Council we have been talking to Sainsbury's to see if they would help fund some route number 5 buses at off peak times to call at the railway station to help those members of the public especially the vulnerable and elderly to avoid a long walk through the Festival Place with their heavy bags. I paced it out myself from the railway station bus stop to Simsbury's was 70 steps now you have to walk 685 steps, nearly 10 times as far.

We are also in negotiation with Tesco's and other people along the number 9 route to see if we can get funding to get the service back to hourly.

Stagecoach have stated they are a company and have to be responsible to their shareholders I wonder how many shareholders are totally reliant on public transport, I suspect very few if any. Jane Frankum

## Family Learning @ John Hunt of Everest Community School



Working together to achieve success for all

### Autumn Term Programme 2003

Activity	day	time	duration	Start date
Steel pans for families	Thursdays	6pm - 7pm	30 weeks	Thursday 25th September
Aerobics for families(refresher course)	Mondays	6pm - 7pm	10 weeks	Monday 22nd September
Aerobics for families (beginners)	Tuesdays	6pm - 7pm	10 weeks	Tuesday 23rd September
Music with Mum (0-2.5 year olds)	Tuesdays	9.15am - 10.15am	6 weeks	Tuesday 4th November
Skills for living (crèche available)	Fridays	1pm - 3pm	8 weeks	Friday 12th September
Pamper yourself family learning day	Saturday	2pm - 4.30pm	N/A	Saturday 11th October
Basics skills using laptops (crèche available)	Mondays	1pm - 2.30pm	variable	Monday 3rd November
GCSE Psychology for year 10 students and their families	Tuesdays	6pm - 8pm	33 weeks	Tuesday 23rd September
Key Stage 3 maths for parents(introduction)	Tuesdays	7pm - 8.30pm	2 weeks	Tuesday 7th October
French for families	Wednesdays	6pm - 7.30pm	10 weeks	Wednesday 24th September

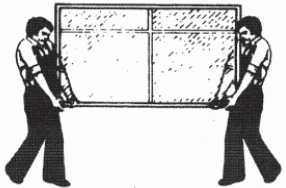
To book on any of the above courses ring Suki Binning, Community Manager at John Hunt of Everest Community School on 01256 465303.

**All courses are free**



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## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

The summer months of brilliant sunshine has meant plenty of 'out-of-doors' fun for all sections.

The **Beaver Scouts** particularly enjoyed a day at Paultons Park with all the rides, a picnic in the park and an evening finding out about water and how it reaches our taps. They made model 'boats' and floated them in the 'pond'. Another meeting involved a walk through the woods following a trail and a BBQ. Several members gained the Experiment badge and one completed the Creative Challenge by taking part in a dance show and telling all about the experience. One older Beaver Scout (soon to move on to the Cub Scout section) joined with others from Basingstoke East District for a 'sleepover' in Chineham Scout Headquarters. All the activities were themed on Jungle Book. Everyone had faces painted as tigers, wolves or other animals featured in the Jungle Book and took part in a 'snake' hunt in the woods, using old socks to make snake puppets and all wore special 'T' shirts which they'd printed with a jungle animal. I don't think much sleeping went on but they all certainly had a great time.

The **Cub Scouts** have been busy. They had meetings about communications to find out several methods of communication and how we communicate using telephones, computers and even tried Morse code. One evening they planted an Oak tree that had been grown in a pot from an Acorn and, if the deer don't nibble its leaves too much they hope they can watch it grow over the years. They had great fun on one of the hotter evenings with a water fight and water bombs followed by a BBQ. Nearly all the pack went to camp at Ferny Crofts with 11<sup>th</sup> Basingstoke (St. Michaels) Cubs and had a super time with abseiling, wall climbing and archery featuring on the programme – not to mention the slippery water slide.

The older **Scouts** from the troop visited Kemble International Air Show in July and spent the weekend as a service team as well as being enabled to visit many of the exhibition stands and see many of the aircraft at close hand. Later all the troop enjoyed a weekend camp there and experienced paragliding for the first time. In the autumn they will be taking a flight in a light aircraft as part of the Young Eagles scheme, which concentrates on introducing young people to flying as a leisure pursuit. Firstly though, comes summer camp based in the New Forest. Some members will be taking a cycle-cross ride to the Isle of Wight via ferry to visit another troop camping on the island overnight whilst others will try out backwoods cooking a building bivouacs in which to spend the night, air rifle target shooting or abseiling and wall climbing.

**New recruits are always welcome. Weekly meetings take place in Base 2000 Carpenters Down. All sections are open to both boys and girls.**

**Beaver Scouts** (aged 6 to 8 years) Tuesday 5.30 to 6.45p.m. Contact: Elaine Devenport ' 323453

**Cub Scouts** (aged 8 to 10½ years) Tuesday 7 p.m. to 8.30p.m. Contact: Elaine Devenport 323453

**Scouts** (aged 10½ to 14 years) Monday 7 to 9 p.m. Contact:: Colin Karlake (01256) 410559

**Group Scout Leader Pat Brown 7 Remembrance Gardens, Chineham Telephone 07787 340313**

### What's New At Popley Fields

#### Childrens Parties

**Bouncy Castle , Disco  
and halls for hire.**

Ask now for details of our great  
value party packages.

**Youth Nights are now  
Mondays 6.30 - 8.00pm  
For 8 - 18 yr olds.**

**Baton Twirling & Pon Poms  
Boys and girls, 3yrs +  
Thursdays 5.30 - 6.30pm**

**Kick Boxing  
Children and Adults  
Tuesdays - 6.30pm to 8pm  
Thursdays - 7pm to 8.30pm**

**Call now for more information  
on any of the above.**

### **Have you got?**

**Any old games, playstation  
games, toys or sports  
equipment lying around  
that need a new home.**

**We are constantly looking  
for things to keep our  
youth club members  
occupied and any  
donations of equipment or  
skills would be  
appreciated.**

**Do you have any spare  
time to help on Mondays?**

### Did you know?

You can hire Tennis courts  
and Table Tennis tables here!



## Welcome Back to the Auctions

After a months long break while the floor in Melrose Hall was replaced it is welcome back to the Auctions they are on every Wednesday and there are usually around 300 lots. This means loads of bargains from the very smallest of items to the very biggest.

Lots can be viewed from 4:30pm sale starts at 6:30pm Happy Bidding

## Village News

If you have some news to share everything from special anniversary to an achievement, social or charity event why not let Brian Mellowship know and he can put it in his weekly village column in the Basingstoke Gazette to get in touch with Brian ring 07900384299.

## Next Issue of Popley Matters

The next issue of Popley Matters is due in December and will be our Christmas issue if you have events or something to publicise get in touch with Jane Frankum, Editor and I will try to get it included. Write to the Letters Page or send us your memories of Popley this magazine is for and about Popley and its people, Popley Matters is produced completely voluntarily and delivered by Popley People. It is intended to inform and amuse you. If you have any constructive criticism you can get in touch by phone 819924, Email [Popley.matters@btopenworld](mailto:Popley.matters@btopenworld) or write to 405 Abbey Road, Popley, RG24 9EL

## ALLOTMENTS ON SILVESTER CLOSE

Basingstoke Council are seeking people who would like allotments for the Silvester Close Site. It is now a good time to rent a plot you have an opportunity to clear and prepare for spring sowing as encouragement plots are free till September 29 2003.

If you require an application form please telephone 845643 leave your name and address and a form will be sent to you.

Popley Fields is available for hire for Private Parties,  
Wedding receptions, kids parties, A GM's, B.B.Q parties  
and so much more.

But what activities would you like to see held in your centre?  
What courses or classes would you attend? Let us know.

We also need volunteers to help out at our various  
Association activities and to help on our Committee.

*If you have some spare time and can help call Mark on 01256 414494*



Richard Aldworth  
Community School

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Popley Fields Community Centre

For further information please contact  
Dawn King on 01256 473698

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Sunday Morning

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Graham and Barbara on  
(01256) 363692

New Testament Church of God



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



Richard Aldworth  
Community School

**TOTALLY FREE!**

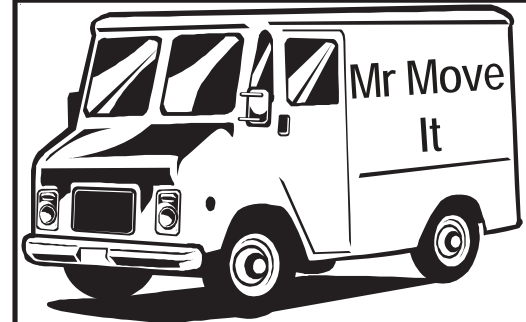
Introduction to Computing

Suitable for everyone - young or old available at a venue near you!

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Melrose Hall, Popley  
East Oakley Village Hall  
Old Basing Village Hall  
Westside Community Centre  
Viables Craft Centre  
Sherfield Village Hall  
Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere  
Penwood Village Hall, Newbury



For further information please contact  
Dawn King on 01256 473698



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- Keep Fit
- Weapon Training

**Tuesday & Thursday Popley Fields Community Centre**

Come along & try a lesson free!

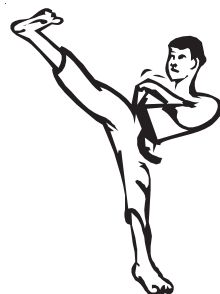
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Age 4 yrs to Adults

Fees Under 10yrs £3.00 – 10yrs + 3.50



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01256-422687 07966489110 DAY  
07766678097 EVE & W'END

## **Bus Shelter in Abbey Road**

After moving the bus stop, the shock of the changes to the bus routes I saw people waiting ages for their buses so I approached Hampshire County Council to ask for a bus shelter by Abbey Road shops.

I am pleased to say that there will be a bus shelter erected there and hopefully by November in time for winter and those chill winds. Jane Frankum

## **Age Concern**

Age Concern have a new Benefits Surgery that meets at the Orchard White Hart Lane(at the back of the Civic offices). Pension service staff are available to give help and information on your State Pension and other related entitlements. You can call and make an appointment on 01256 423874.

The Age concern Christmas bazaar is on November 29th at St Micheal's Church Tables available for charities and Crafts. £12 a table. Call 423874 for more information.

## **Merton Infant School Wins Prestigious Award**

As a governor on Merton Infant school I am proud to congratulate all the pupils and staff on the National Achievement Award. from David Miliband, Minister of State for School Standards. This is an award that takes three years to materialise, and as the letter says" I am writing to congratulate you and your staff on winning a School Achievement Award. These are for schools that substantially improved their results between 1999 and 2002" "The hard work and dedication of teaching and support staff are crucial to a schools success. School achievement Awards are intended to celebrate and reward these efforts". Well done to all at the school. Jane Frankum

## **Viking Badminton Club**

Friendly, competitive and social club is seeking new members. We have teams in the Basingstoke and Hampshire league.

Club night is every Tuesday from 7.30-10.00pm at John Hunt of Everest School.

If you are interested please contact 01256 326364 or 01256 771794 for more information. First club night is FREE!



## Popley Partnership

Another couple of months have passed and the Popley Partnership has met again. I am really pleased to be able to say that we have had some excellent representation at our meeting in July from the Police, ward councillors and staff members from BDBC especially those involved in planning some of the area's requirements for the North Basingstoke Action Plan which is part of the Basingstoke and Deane draft local plan.

There are lots of interesting ideas coming out from the recent Placecheck meetings in Popley to note just a few:

- Developing a range of cycle ways in the area
- Ideas for the future of Longfellow Parade
- Improving provision for teenagers in the area.

The Popley Partnership has really been gathering strength as a local voice within the planning framework for the areas long term improvement. However we still care about the day to day things like the provision of benches to rest on during the walk to the shops from schemes like Magnolia and Abbey Court.

Much of our "on the ground" voice comes from the fantastic work of the Popley Forum which is a good venue for bringing local needs to the attention of BDBC or HCC or for catching up with your local councillors

## Sentinel Housing Group

The walkabout at Longfellow Parade in April has brought about some small scale improvements

- The shrubs have been cut down in the parade square
- The shop areas are cleaner
- Where has that toilet block gone?

Karen Ayling Chairman Popley Partnerships



### NEW SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 13 to 19

Well we have had a great summer term and many busy days. I have seen 25 young people and enjoyed many of their talents and skills. Many of the young people have done projects, presentations and personal goal setting in the past few months.

A big community event was the Popley Festival which many students helped with. A special thanks goes out to Matthew Cooke and Ritchie Kavanagh for all of their time and effort in making a banner and posters for the popley festival. Marcella White was a great spokeswoman who announced the big event on the local radio station Kestrel FM. David Shortland and Matthew Stokes helped with displays and with mobiles for the day. I would also like to mention all of the workers and students at Junction 6 who created the stage banners and set up the entertainment of the day which was a huge success. Even though your name is not listed your help was greatly appreciated!!

Connexions now has a variety of workers who are working in different areas of Basingstoke and developing other projects with young people. In various schools we have information centres being created by staff and young people. Information, bulletin boards, websites and computers are just a few of the resources that will be available to young people. Locally we are working on joint surgeries where young people can gain information. To date I have had a meeting with various community and school based workers and we would like to set up surgeries for young people to receive information. The first surgery will be a health based one that talks about individual awareness about good personal health and will answer some of their questions about sexual health and relationships.

September brings us back to school and many busy days, some students will participate in group projects for the fall term and parents will be notified in writing.

At the Oakridge community hall I am holding workshops for parents in the September term.

Shola Cameron- Personal advisor - Popley and Oakridge  
Connexions office 01256-843022

# North Popley Urban Extension Update

In the last edition of Popley Matters I outlined the details of the County Council's proposals to develop its land at North Popley and the existing John Hunt of Everest School sites and provide new homes, a replacement secondary school, a new neighbourhood centre and employment. In addition I mentioned the support that the proposals had received from local consultation events in April and May of this year. I am pleased to say that this was all fed into our ongoing work on the project and on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, an outline planning application for the proposals for the main North Popley site were submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

This outline planning application is mainly seeking to establish approval for the principle of the development and to provide broad ideas of the proposals as indicated on the "Development Framework Plan" that was displayed at the various consultations and exhibition.

The Borough Council, as Local Planning Authority will be consulting on the outline planning application in the coming weeks and will be arranging to make the planning application available for the public to examine. If you are interested in viewing its contents and the development proposals for the North Popley Urban Extension this will be able to be done at the Civic Offices in London Road (Tel: 01256 844844).

The planning application comprises of a number of documents and supporting information including:

*A Planning Statement* introducing the proposals and their context.

*A Design Statement* illustrating the proposed development.

*An Environmental Statement* examining the impact of the development.

*A Transport Statement* examining the various transport issues.

If you would like any further information or like to discuss the proposals, please contact:

Tony Davison 01962 846952 [tony.davison@hants.gov.uk](mailto:tony.davison@hants.gov.uk)

Louise Hague 01962 846578 [louise.hague@hants.gov.uk](mailto:louise.hague@hants.gov.uk)

# Popley Festival

*Next years event will be held on Sunday 16th May 2004.*

Any interested groups, organisations or people who would like to help in any way are invited to attend the first meeting of the Organising Committee on:

**Tuesday 16th September 2003**

**At**

**Popley Fields Community Centre  
Carpenters Down**

**at**

**5.30pm**

**Popley Festival is Popleys' largest  
community event and we really need  
help to sustain the energy that the current  
volunteers and members of the committee  
put in to make it the event it is.**

For more information about what may be involved or to register an interest, please call Suki Binning at John Hunt of Everest School on 01256 465303 or

Mark Head at Popley Fields Community Centre on 01256 414494



In the past year there have been significant changes in the way the Police Service, across the country, record crime and incidents. There are now National Crime Recording Standards that all Police Forces will adhere to. They are audited on these by the Inspector of Constabularies. This change in the policy, which is an edict from the Home Office, has given rise to what appears to be a dramatic rise in crime. This, though, is not the case. We are merely seeing a rise in the reported crime level: crime which has always been present, but not recorded as such. This might include domestic violence on a minor scale, drug arrests, anti-social behaviour and all crimes related to the Crime and Disorder Act. These crimes, whilst dealt with by the Police Services across England and Wales, were not recorded, due to the manner in which the recording standards were set.

It is therefore important to balance this apparent rise in crime against the reality of crime and realise that the public's fear of crime is a perception that is not matched by the *actual crime*. Locally, if you look at trends over the past few years, most crime categories have been falling slightly, year on year. Violent crime is perhaps the exception to this rule, but again, more is being reported and discovered by CCTV systems: Crimes that often were not reported. This rise can also be attributed to the increase in the numbers of domestic incidents. 'Domestics' has they are colloquially known were often never reported and there were, and still are, great pressures which prevent victims coming forward. Greater awareness by the agencies, particularly the Police Service, has led to more victims having faith in the reporting and support systems that are now available.

In general terms local crimes against the person are fairly static, with most crimes of violence against the person occurring in two main categories: Domestic violence and late night street brawls in the town centre area. The latter, in real terms, though, being fairly rare and mostly the domain of a young age group range from about 17-25 years old. Daytime violence against the person in Basingstoke is very rare and even anti-social behaviour on estates is inclined towards the early/late evening times.

Incidents with transport are also comparatively low. Vehicle crime where vehicles are broken into is not uncommon and there is little change in the trend over the past year. Stolen vehicles are fairly infrequent, whilst thefts from vehicles are still prevalent due to business people 'advertising' their wares, such as Laptops, on the back seat of their cars. There have been no incidents reported on aggravated vehicle taking (theft with violence) and reported violence against the person on public transport remains a rarity within Basingstoke Police Division.

Taking all these factors into account I believe it would be fair to say that Basingstoke is a pretty safe place in which to live and/or work. With greater partnership working by the statutory bodies I am optimistic that areas of concern will be improved, such as late night Town Centre violence and thefts from vehicles. This is certainly a factor in my reason for living in this borough. I don't have to look too far to see other areas that have less amenities, higher fear of crime, higher actual crime and less surrounding countryside. All those things that improve the quality of life, which couldn't exist if crime and disorder really were as high as is sometimes perceived.

PC Ray Niblock Community Safety Office, BDBC



## Trinidad and Tobago Play Area

Yes; at last the play area in Tobago and Trinidad Close is coming.

There was a magnificent response to the public consultations and meetings especially the outdoor meeting when the caravan was on site in the play area. Residents of all ages came and gave their views. The play equipment that has finally been chosen is more than we had expected with better and more equipment. Children of all ages either wrote or drew pictures of what they would like to see there. One very kind gentleman made us a cup of tea he told us how he and his wife used to sit on the benches there and we thought it would be nice to have one on the opposite side of the path so parents can watch their children having fun and maybe chat to their neighbours.

We were really pleased that some of the older children came and we discussed facilities for their age group. It was a positive day all round.

The equipment has now been ordered and it will be full steam ahead to start the installation by late October.

Rob Donnelly Leader of the Council asked us to thank every one that has played a part in getting a new play area, it was a long job but we believe it will be worth all the waiting we have done.

## COMMUNITY SURGERY

12NOON-1PM Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
AT JOHN HUNT OF EVEREST

(Except Bank Holiday weekends)

People in attendance where possible:-

Police \* Popley Borough Councillors \* Basingstoke North County Councillor  
Industrial Relation Consultant \* Leader of the Council \* Oakfern Housing

There are all kinds of concerns and issues that you can bring to the volunteer agencies at the surgery, everything from youth nuisance, abandoned cars, highway, crime reports, overgrown hedges, school issues, parking, speeding, housing issues, road safety, employment, planning and many more.

There is no need to book an appointment just turn up and we will endeavour to help or advise you with any of your problems. As always confidentiality is assured

Any Enquires Please Call:- Cllr Jane Frankum on 819924

# Councillors Page

It is a progressive time for Popley and Basingstoke. Councillors in consultation with residents of Basingstoke and Deane are discussing the local plan, a document that outlines future development in the Borough for the next 10 years. We have a duty to consider the future for the people of Basingstoke and we have great opportunity to address that in Popley. We all have great hopes for the new John Hunt School; the new school should be the envy of Hampshire when finished. Your local councillors will work to ensure that it will have all the latest technical equipment and every thing from the books to the chairs will be new and up to date. The sporting facilities will be second to none, hopefully the best in the Borough.

As Leader of the Council and Chair of the Cabinet, it was a privilege to watch Councillor Jane Frankum lead the Popley Councillors in her valiant efforts to improve the Popley Poets area. Starting with the removal of the old toilet block and requesting that radical measures were looked at to improve the Popley Poets area Jane along with Paul and Andy have put a lot of effort in consulting local residents and as a council we are looking at real long term benefits for the area.

A number of Popley Poet residents' came to the Placecheck meetings and their comments and suggestions will be incorporated in the future plans for the area. The Pen and Parchment pub is to be demolished and for the time being, while we look at how best to use the land, the area will most likely be turned into temporary car parking and/or landscaping.

Many of you may have noticed the new landscaping in Chineham Park; we are implementing defensive landscaping to avert the encampment of travellers.

The North of Popley plans will take a stage forward with an opportunity for every one to have their say. It will be an exciting time as it gives the chance

to have vets, doctors, shops, restaurant, community building and some small units for people to start up businesses obviously not industrial in a heavily populated area. There will be open meetings and Jane tells me there will be a Popley Forum meeting devoted to the plan. Look out on notice boards in the shops and community centres in and around Popley.

Along with Jane, Paul Andy and many other Councillors in other areas we are horrified by the actions of Stagecoach who have radically changed the bus routes in Basingstoke. We are in the process of working with Hampshire County Council to try to soften this harsh blow.

The overflowing of the sewage drains in Tintern Close was a very trying time for the residents. Workman from Thames Water were there for several days, cleaning out and repairing the pipes and soak aways that had got clogged up with shingle, limescale and fats that had been poured down the sinks over a number of years. Thames Water assures us that the work they carried out should ensure that this situation should not happen again. They did remind us that we should be more careful in what we pour down our sinks and toilets

The community warden's scheme is progressing well and we hope to see trained wardens in Popley early next year.

The street cleaning teams will increase in the beginning of September; we now have six teams instead of four, extra teams and new equipment to make things move along quicker and more efficiently.

Finally, all your local councillors are always available on the first Saturday of every month at John Hunt School. Our police beat officer; Borough and County Councillors, an Industrial Relations Consultant and a Housing Association representative will attend. If you have any concerns or just want to talk about Popley just come along from 12 noon until one at John Hunt.

*Council Leader Rob Donnelly*