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POPLEY MATTERS

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December 2003 to February 2004

Issue 34

Supported by the :-

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Forum



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Closing date to submit articles etc. (13-02-04); Adverts (06-02-04)

Message From the Editor

Here we are December already and another year gone. It has been a really eventful time in Popley since the last edition. At last the Chemist shop was officially opened by Rob Donnelley Leader of the Council and Popley Councillor, after going out to tender then repairing and refurbishment the chemist opened and I know Dave and Naina are hoping to get a pharmacist and that will be most welcome.

The new bus number 10 started on November 3rd it does not answer all the needs required for Popley but thanks to County Wide at least you can get from Popley Poets to Popley Abbeys. The bus goes directly to the railway station and up to the top of town and all for a £1. The bus goes up Popley Way because that is where our two sheltered homes are four schools and two churches all face Popley Way. I am hopeful that if we use it and can prove the need it may be able to take more of Popley on its journey. Use it or lose it is what I am being told by this local independent company. Time table on page 3

The Pen and Punch Up, Marlowe House and Dryden Hall were demolished and hopefully we can make better use of the land they stood on. There was quite a bit of Popley history and nostalgia for the old times. The pub sign was taken to the Willis museum I took it there myself with the help of Paul Frankum as it sure was a solid heavy sign.

Outline plans have come in for the John Hunt site and the play area in Trinidad and Tobago should have just about started by the time this magazine is delivered. Youth facilities is also out for consultation and the plans for all these items are at the council offices and anyone is welcome to look at them.

There were some changes to the committee firstly Popley Forum Chairman now is Terry Jones, Vice Chair Ron Rowe, Secretary Alison Walker, Treasurer Andrew McCormick, Liason Officer Jane Frankum.

Popley Matters Editor Jane Frankum Sub Editor Paul Frankum Treasurer/Secretary Andrew McCormick Distribution Manager Iris King

We still need volunteers to help with the delivery of your Popley Matters. Contact Jane at 405 Abbey Road phone 819924 or email at

popley.matters@btopenworld.com

Last but not least

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jane Frankum Editor and all the Popley Matters Team

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, What is the council thinking about only collecting the rubbish once a fortnight? Do they live in cloud cuckoo land or does their rubbish not decay and rot like everybody else's. Can you imagine in the heat of the summer there would be this steaming cloud smelling of rotting compost hanging over Basingstoke and all its pretty villages? I have a large family and fill my allocation of two rubbish bins and one recycling bin easily each and every week. My children insist that we are a recycling family and they have had lessons at school about the environment. Don't you think we pay enough taxes to the council already or is this a ruse to get us to pay even more?

Editor; this is just one of those rumours that happen from time to time it is not true and has been officially denied by the Councillor whose responsibility it is. It has however been tried in other areas in order to increase the recycling rate. But it was soon noticed that once the normal rubbish bin was full people were filling the recycling one with ordinary rubbish and it was contaminating the recyclables and having the opposite outcome to what they wanted.

Dear Editor, Why did the taxis want to charge 50% more after 11 o'clock instead of 12 midnight. I can understand that they don't like having to put up with

abuse often from drunks but the people most affected will be people coming from the theatres or cinema and they don't usually drink that much. I finish work late on late night shopping days and I would have to pay so much more for my fare home I think I will be finding out if there are some buses or another way to get home I may even have to change my job because of this. I work in the catering industry and I am not paid enough to afford these massive increases that this will cause. The nightclubs and pubs don't close till two or three that is when you get your drunks and poor behavior, not at 11 o'clock. I expect Councilors don't use taxis.

Editor; I wholeheartily agree with you and wrote a letter to the papers about it. I use Taxis and private hire cars on a regular basis. Some council meetings finish after ten at night or even later. The drivers who in the main are hard working people and are trying to earn a living will take their breaks just before eleven o'clock because they will be able to charge 50% more at eleven o'clock we will have to wait and see what happens?

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.



The Head Quarters of the Community Wardens in The John Hunt School

Ten new Community Wardens and a logistics officer who will be dressed in uniforms with bottle green shirts will soon be a very welcome site around Basingstoke and Deane. They will work with residents by reporting any suspicious incidents they come across (in affect being the eyes and ears) they will also report dumped rubbish and abandoned cars they will talk to the public and youths and deal with issues such as neighbourhood disputes, graffiti, environmental issues, crime and disorder, fire and arson. They will be based in Popley running from John Hunt Community School and they will work in pairs within their own defined areas with South Ham/Bucksin/Kempshott target area one and there will be two teams there. Target area two is Popley, with two wardens and Oakridge with two more wardens, the remaining wardens will be involved in Bishops Green, Tadley, Baughurst and Pamber. The Community Wardens organiser is Nicola Hutchings completing the team is Paul Hayes who will be the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator the team will also help residents in community projects.

The Community Warden scheme has been funded for three years initially the scheme is being funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Sentinel and Kingfisher Housing Association and it is also welcomed by the Police.

The wardens will be attending the Popley Community Surgery that is held on the first Saturday of every month except on holiday weekends like Christmas and Easter.

We will be inviting them to write regularly in Popley Matters and give them every assistance we can. The scheme has worked in other parts of the country and been very successful.

Recently Popley was the first area that has had an Antisocial Behavior Order. Having the wardens walking around the borough will enable you to speak to them and they will deal with the issues, they can immediately or pass them on to the right departments. I see this as a huge step forward to making Popley and Basingstoke a happier, safer, healthier and much better place to live and bring our families up in.



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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Report From Summit Judo Club

Sunday 15th June was a very good day for Basingstoke Judo and Summit in particular. Three players, who train at Summit, represented the town in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Games. Marek Wisniewski (boys u27kg), Elliott Sumner (boys u55kg), and Laura Jarvis (girls u44 kg). Having won the first three matches against New Forest, Isle of Wight and Havant they were up against Gosport and fighting for the gold medal. Despite a very big effort from the team it was Gosport who triumphed 5:4 leaving Basingstoke with the Silver. Nigel McBrayne, Team manager and Summit club coach was very impressed with the teams performance and to come away with silver is a major achievement.

Friday July 15th saw the arrival of our friends from Euskirchen for the annual Festival of Sport. After a long day travelling they were met by the host families and, those that wished to, attended our normal Friday night training session. All those involved over the weekend had a great time catching up with old friends as well as making new ones. On the Saturday an evening games an B-B-Q event took place which was followed by a lunch and afternoon session on the Sunday. Oh and yes, we did have the annual judo match which I am happy to say was won again by Basingstoke. Our friends set off early Monday morning for their return trip to Euskirchen and we now look forward to our visit to Germany next summer.

September saw the gradings take place and we had several players move up through the grades. Also in September Tom Jarvis, who trains at Summit took part in a competition in Ipswich and put up an excellent performance to take the bronze medal.

October 12th was a busy day in Worthing at the Southern Area Trials for the National Championships. Congratulations go to Travis Sumner who gained automatic qualification into the National Championships (Group A) which will take place in High Wycombe on 7th December and Tom Jarvis who won through and will be in the Nationals (GroupD) at Crystal Palace November 9th. Congratulations also to Elliott Sumner and Laura Jarvis who both put up brave performances finishing third in their groups and making it into the Southern Area squad.

October 26th saw Hannah Graham, Paige Phillimore, Jordan Slaney, Travis Sumner and Michael Smith taking part in the Hampshire Closed Inter Club Competition at Portsmouth. Despite determined efforts from the girls they were unable to make it past the first phase. Jordan in his first ever competition came third in his pool and did not progress past the first phase. Travis despite winning his pool was beaten in the fight for bronze medal in the u30 kg but Michael, despite feeling unwell, managed to take Gold in the U34 kg.

We are currently looking for sponsorship in order to purchase two new crash mats which will help the players hone their techniques and hopefully lead to more success at county and national level. If there are any individuals or local companies that may be able or willing to assist in our endeavour please contact Club Coach Len Dunce.

Judo is a great sport and has regularly featured in the Olympics for many years. So, why not come along and give it a try. Join us on a Friday nights at John Hunt School - Beginners (6 - 10 yrs) 6:30 - 7:30, Juniors 7:30 - 8:30 and seniors 8:30 - 9:30. For more information contact Len Dunce on 01256 - 464526 or 07860 435831

Carers Together- a story

I have recently become involved with Carers Together who are a Hampshire charity with an office in Basingstoke. They work to help support and offer advice to ALL carers in Basingstoke and surrounding areas. It doesn't matter who you are caring for- whether it be a child, or a disabled or elderly relative or neighbour.

Caring for someone is a very hard job both physically and mentally- it is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is heart breaking to see someone you love struggling to do the easiest of tasks as they suffer with progressing Alzheimers Disease, or to know that your child will never be independent, that you will never suffer with the 'empty nest syndrome.' It can be very isolating- sometimes you feel you are the only person who feels this way or who is struggling to come to terms with caring.

Carers Together helps carers to feel that they are not alone, that they do have someone to talk to, who can point them in the right direction for advice and help. We also offer informal training for carers e.g. financial advice, lifting the correct way etc and the highlight of the year is a Relaxation day where we provide a day of pampering for the Carers. Any therapists out there please get in touch!

If you are a carer or know someone who is, give us a call. I can be contacted on 01256 489011 Monday to Wednesday 9.00-3.30, or e mail me on jane@carerstogether.org.uk. If you feel you would like to help in some way, please call- I'm sure there will be something you could do to help! *Jane Halls*

Number 10 Bus Route

Although not ideal and the bus still does not go both ways (yet) the new number 10 bus route by an independent local Countywide Travel is at least a good start in linking the estates. The bus runs up Popley Way past six schools two sheltered Homes and two churches. You can get your shopping in the town supermarket by the railway station. Below is the new route and timetable we hope that if we can prove the need by using the service it will be extended and go both ways.

HATCH WARREN - BASINGSTOKE - POPELY				MONDAYS to SATURDAYS				SERVICE 10 & 310					
	NS	NS	NS	NS									
Hatchwarren Sainsbury's	0755			0825	0858	0928	58	28	1558	1628	1658	1728	1853
Kempshott Fiveways	0800			0830	0902	0932	02	32	1602	1632	1702	1732	1857
West Ham Leisure Park	0803			0833	0905	0935	05	35	1605	1635	1705	1735	1900
Sarum Hill	0810			0840	0911	0941	Then	11	1611	1641	1711	1741	1905
BASINGSTOKE Alencon Link	0815			0845	0915	0945	at	15	1615	1645	1715	1745	1908
BASINGSTOKE Alencon Link					0918	0948	these	18	1618	1648	1718	1748	
Bennett Close					0922	0952	mins	22	1622	1652	1722	1752	
Popley Way, Shakespeare Rd		JHS			0926	0956	past	26	1626	1656	1726	1756	
Popley Way Tintern Close		0843			0928	0958	each	28	1628	1658	1728	1758	
Kingsclere Road, Merton Rd		0846			0931	1001	hour	31	1631	1701	1731	1801	
BASINGSTOKE Alencon Link					0935	1005		35	1635	1705	1735	1805	
BASINGSTOKE Alencon Link	0708	0818	0858		0938	1008		38	1638	1708	1738	1808	
Sarum Hill	0711	0821	0901		0941	1011		41	1641	1711	1741	1811	
West Ham Leisure Park	0717	0827	0907		0947	1017		47	1647	1717	1747	1817	
Kempshott Fiveways	0720	0830	0910		0950	1020		50	1650	1720	1750	1820	
Hatchwarren Sainsbury's	0725	0835	0915		0955	1025		55	1655	1725	1755	1825	



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	MORNING	AFTERNOON
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TUESDAY	2PM - 4PM BINGO	5PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE
WEDNESDAY	9.30 -11.30 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP	12PM - 2PM OASIS LUNCH CLUB 4.15PM ONWARDS CHARITY AUCTION 7PM SALE STARTS
THURSDAY	9.30 -12PM COFFEE MORNING	7PM WEIGHT WATCHERS
FRIDAY	9.30-2.30PM LODDON ALLIANCE	6.30PM YOUTH CLUB
SATURDAY	9.30 -12.30 PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE	
SUNDAY	11AM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	6.30PM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We also hire out our hall for private hire, children or adult party's Weddings, meetings etc. Please call 01256 420676 for information on booking. Debra Dainton is in the office 9.30 -11.30 am Monday to Friday.

Are you clearing out for Christmas, items no longer required. Can you donate to Melrose Hall for charity. We can collect Please call Iris King on 411113.

Thanks to everyone who helped us raise £56.32 on our largest coffee morning for Macmillan cancer relief

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

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

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours 2003/2004 Basingstoke and Fleet Offices

Wednesday 24 December 2003	Offices Open 9.00 am–12 noon
Thursday 25 December 2003	Offices Closed
Friday 26 December 2003	Offices Closed
Monday 29–Wednesday 31 December 2003*	Offices Open 9.00 am–5.00 pm
Thursday 1 January 2004	Offices Closed
Friday 2 January 2004	Offices Closed

* A reduced staff will be available in the Offices over this period.

If you have an emergency repair to report during this period, please ring **0800 195 5515**

Only emergency repairs reported during this period will be passed to the Contractors.

If you call in with a repair that is not an emergency the order will be raised on Monday 5 January 2004 (the repair completion target period will start from this date). This is because of the Construction holiday period.

Reporting Repairs On-Line?

Customers can use our on-line “repairs reporting” facility as follows: The web site address is

www.yourhousing.co.uk

When you enter the site, you are able to report a repair using the illustrations for guidance, if required.

Your message will be dealt with the next working day. The same timescale priorities apply for all repairs reported on-line as for telephoned requests. Please do not use this facility for emergency repairs. Phone emergencies through on **0800 195 5515**

**Seasons Greetings from the
Staff of Sentinel Housing Group**

Longfellow Parade Demolition

What a wonderful sight to see those horrible buildings finally get razed to the ground. Some children climbed on them and were throwing pieces of the tiles at passers by. Just to stop some rumours, because that is all they are I want to put the story straight. No one knows what will be put in the place of those eyesores but for a while the areas will be landscaped and grassed and it will not be huge blocks of flats. Of course in the future there may be houses built and a new play area, maybe some new shops or community hall but you will all have a say and be consulted in what is built there. Some of the residents from Popley poets took part in a scheme called Placecheck and came out with some fantastic ideas to improve the Poets area. The planning officers have taken the suggestions very seriously and they will be incorporated in the future plans for the Poets area.

Hurrah for the New Chemist Shop

After what seems ages the new chemist shop was opened by Councillor Rob Donnelly Leader of the Council. Over 60 people came to wish Dave and Naina Vayas and the shop good luck. The weather was glorious and the sun certainly shone on the parade of shops that Saturday morning.

It had taken many months to get a chemist shop to open there. The last tenants had moved to the new nearby surgery but did not hand over the shop until the lease had run out so of course there were some months of waiting wasted there. During this time Ann Souhila started a petition that finished up with over 700 signatures from people all over Popley and even some in Oakridge. The petition called for a chemist shop and that they wanted it to be run by the Vayas family as they are known for their work and involvement in the community, so much so that they won the Popley Community award this year and were nominated by every single person that made a nomination.

I took the petition to the cabinet and Paul and I asked for the cabinet not just to consider the highest tender but to look at the opportunity to enhance the atmosphere of the community with a facility that was much needed as the petition had shown. It was great when they all agreed.

There was still some hurdles to overcome, the interior of the shop was shoddy and needed a lot of work and it had to be decided who was responsible and should the shop have been left in a reasonable condition by the tenants that were leaving. There was quite a lot of work to do then finally it was ready for fittings and getting the stock in.

November 1st was the grand opening and anyone that goes to the shops in Abbey Road can see what a good facility it is.

Good Luck to the Vayas family and their new shop.

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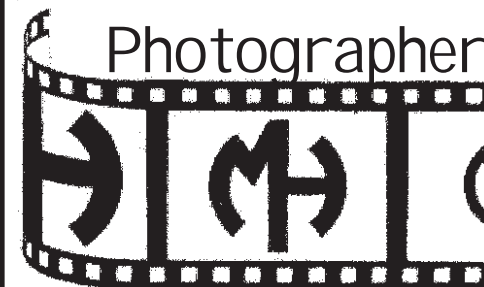
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Citizenship in John Hunt of Everest

Engaging young people is one of the most important areas of work for the Borough Council. Building relationships of value and meaning with our local community is the way to make sure that service's and resources are targeted in the right way.

Citizenship in Schools is one of the best ways to make that contact. Borough Councillors and Officers working with young people and teachers in schools to improve their knowledge of the democratic process really can make a difference. Ask yourself this, when was the last time I voted? When was the last time I stood up for what I believe? Do I know that my vote will make a difference?

People can be swayed by cynicism, you know the argument. I can't vote because I can't be bothered, or they are all the same, or even my vote doesn't matter, what difference can one vote make?

By challenging our young people to think about their issues, to consider others in their communities and to build up an understanding of how democracy and decision making works we can break down those taboos.

In every school in the Borough the Council has been welcomed because we are challenging, listening and responding. It is all about empowering our young people. Inclusion is real and it does make a difference. Ideas and comments from young people are being fed into the decision making process. Citizenship classes in schools across the Borough are having an impact on young people's lives.

I am proud to be leading this project with fellow Councillors, because this is what politics is about, really delivering for people on their issues. *Paul Harvey*

Trinidad and Tobago Play Area

It seems such a long time ago that the Trinidad and Tobago play area was promised. At long last it will be started and should be finished in January and if we are lucky with the weather even before.

Tewksbury Play Area

There will be plans and a further public consultation on a play area that is much needed for the older children. It is hoped that it will be ready to be built in the New Year and by Spring. For a long time now we have been saying that you can't just keep on moving the children on and not have somewhere that they can go and this area is the preferred area by Police Youth Workers and youths and has also come back as the best area from previous consultations with residents.

The idea is for an Ariel swing, youth open shelter and if we get the funding goal posts and extending later to have a ball wall.

We were really impressed with every one that took part in the consultations from the youths who were trying to pick a good area and one that affected the adults the least.

Look out for notices at Melrose hall to invite you to the next consultation.

“North Popley and John Hunt of Everest Development Update

Following the submission of the outline planning application on the North Popley area to Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority in August of this year, the County Council has also recently submitted its separate outline planning application regarding the future of the existing John Hunt of Everest School site to the Borough Council. With the proposal for the School to relocate into the North Popley development, this second application proposes the development of around 350 new homes and new public open space on the existing school site. The financial receipts from the sale of this land would then contribute towards the funding of the new school development at North Popley.

Again, as before, this second planning application can be viewed at the Local Planning Authority's offices at the Civic Offices on London Road in Basingstoke. If you wish to discuss further any issues or questions relating to the development proposals please contact Tony Davison (01962 846952) or Louise Hague (01962 846578) at the Estates Practice of the County Council.

HEALTH WALKS IN BASINGSTOKE & DEANE

Improve your fitness, and walk and talk by joining the “Walking for Health” scheme in Basingstoke.

Led by volunteer leaders, the walks are suitable for all abilities – the back marker always walks at the pace of the slowest walker – the walks are non-competitive and everybody is welcome – disability not a problem.

Monday walk: - meet at the Boathouse in Eastrop Park in the town centre at 11am.

Thursday walk: - meet at the Walled Garden car park, Down Grange, Pack Lane, Kempshott at 11am.

The walks last about an hour; approximately 1.5 – 2 miles and the routes vary. Wear comfortable clothing appropriate to the weather and shoes suitable for walking. If hot carry a drink to prevent dehydration and use sun protection /wear a hat.

Just turn up on the day or if you have any queries or would like further information about the Health Walks please call:

Jane Wilding (Health Improvement Team) on **01256 845574** or

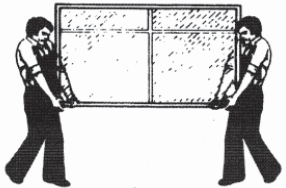
Marilyn Davies (Park Ranger) on **01256 845630**

**** NEW WALK TO START IN POPLEY AREA IN NEW YEAR****

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Councillors Report

I really enjoyed meeting so many of you when I opened the new Chemist Shop in the Abbey Road Shopping Parade. Many thanks to Ann Souhila who started a petition last year and Jane Frankum's persistent requests to have a much needed chemist shop to replace the Pharmacy that moved out and relocated in Shakespeare House Medical Centre. Over 700 residents signed the petition to say they wanted a community style managed chemist shop and not another takeaway restaurant. Dave and Naina Vayas and their family made everyone welcome and said they hope to open the pharmacy up again in the future.

I have also spoken to a number of residents who are concerned about the poor bus service, especially in Popley West. Although the new number 10 is welcome it only runs one way so it's still not possible to get to the medical centre/pharmacy by bus. The new number 10 also does not run along Abbey Road. I believe there may be another petition and letters going to the County Council in Winchester and I expect Jane will be presenting them to Basingstoke and Deane as well. **The number 10 bus and the chemist shop shows what can be achieved when residents work together and really fight and lobby for something they believe in.**

The two new community wardens will be starting their patrols in January 2004 and I believe they will make a tremendous contribution to Popley. They will be patrolling on foot around the estate and on will work with the community to identify environmental improvements like identifying litter hotspots, abandoned cars etc. They will also support residents by helping with projects within the community facilities. Based in John Hunt School but will spend nearly all their time out in Popley. **I want people to be even more proud of Popley and the wardens can work with you and the council to achieve that feeling.**

The first stage of regenerating the Popley Poets area has started with the demolition of The Pen and Parchment, Dryden Hall and the old Marlowe House Surgery. The area will now be landscaped **while we consult with you on what to do with the space that is left.** There are a number of opportunities to improve the area.

Basingstoke's first Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO) has been granted by the magistrates, the police applied for the ASBO following a catalogue of incidents in the Popley and Basingstoke area - we want to send out the message that as a Borough **we will not tolerate anti social behaviour in our wards.**

Well done and thank you to the young volunteers from the youth project in Popley Fields who cleared sixteen bags of rubbish out of the woods at the back of Carpenters Down, this is a fantastic achievement.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year in 2004
Rob Donnelly Popley East and Leader Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council



Bus Shelter at Abbey Road Shops



The construction of a bus shelter is due and may even have been started by the

time you read this magazine. When the bus stop was moved it was taken further away from the shops where you could at least get some shelter from the elements. I approached Ian Foley of Hampshire County Council highways department and asked for a bus shelter as it is the most used bus stop in Popley West. We were put "on the list" as a priority and it should give us some cover from those winter winds and snow.

Popley Fields Youth Project

6 Millennium Volunteer members of Popley Fields Youth Project are currently planning and organising a Youth Exchange for the summer to take place in the Basque Country.

They have attended a training weekend on the subject of cultural awareness to kick start them into action.

Now, after taking part in two planning sessions it has been decided to get involved with the Beach conservation that is still going on since a tanker spillage 2 years ago. they will also experience different outdoor pursuits and camping.

The next stage is to secure funding and fundraising ideas. **Jaynie Lewis**

Christmas Appeal December 2003

I know I ask every year so I will do the same again please keep a look out for each other and if you have not seen your neighbour for a few days just check that they are alright.

Could you also spare a can or packet of food for the homeless at May Place or needy people who live in our area. You can take your items to 405 Abbey Road, Fastfare Shop on Abbey Road or Melrose Hall and we will see that they get used. You can also donate shampoo, make up and other personal items.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

News from John Hunt of Everest Community School



Working to achieve success for all

The Family Learning programmes (those courses involving children and their parents) are doing really well; the advanced aerobics group will be going on to circuit training and the beginners on to Bums and Tums. The Music with Mum for Mum with babies (0-2.5years) has recruited well and our Literacy/Numeracy on Ice Bison project with Merton School has had a great start with 15 parents and their children attending. Other courses doing well include our steel pans for families and the GCSE Psychology for year 10 students and their parents.

Programmes scheduled to start in January include Computing for families (for those parents wanting to catch up with their children on new technology), drawing for families (for those that think they cannot draw – you will be amazed at what you can achieve in 6 weeks) and a series of sessions on 'what shall we tell the kids' (sex education for parents of teenagers).

The Polpey Festival Planning Committee is now in full swing, if you wish to have a stall at the next festival (Sunday 16th May 2004) then get in touch.

The holiday activities saw over 130 young people (aged 10-16 years) attending the various activities including a visit to watch Les Miserables in London, dance workshops on hip hop and Caporiaea and a drama production of a modern version of Romeo and Juliet were all part of the programme. A full multi-sports programme was also offered with visits to Woodmill Outdoor Centre. The October half term saw the weeklong hip-hop workshop and multi-sports. We are currently planning activities for the Christmas break and the February half term.

For any enquiries on the above contact Suki Binning, Community Manager on 01256 465303.

Story Time at Magnolia Court.

I would like to establish a Story group, the first one was so interesting and was held at Magnolia Court. It was so relaxing with a lovely cuppa and listening to the wonderful stories from the residents including travels abroad, wartime and old days memories and some funny ones to have a laugh over. If there is enough interest we could extend it to any one as we have been told that you would be most welcome if you are interested please call me Jane on 819924.

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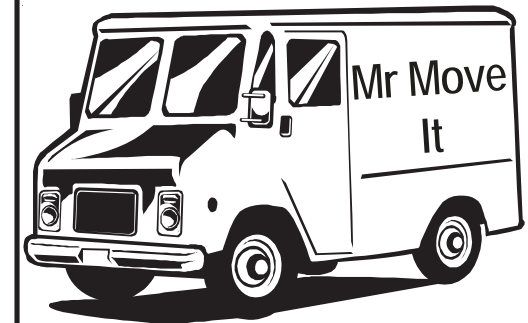
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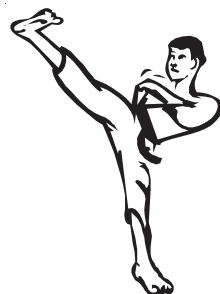
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connexions

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



POPLEY
PARTNERSHIP

Most residents will have spotted that the Pen and Parchment , Dryden Hall and the Marlowe Close ex surgery have been demolished .There continues to be a lot of activity in the area with regard to considering future housing needs and what residents would like Popley ,in the longer term, to look like.

The face of Popley is changing. Plans for the John Hunt School site continue to develop in the shorter term and long term there is much work to do with regard to any wider scale refurbishment or regeneration of the Longfellow Parade area. All future feasibility studies and consultations to discuss the extent of the project, the funding and the timescales –will all be within the wider community and will give residents ample opportunity for their comments to be made known.

Sentinel Housing Group and Basingstoke and Deane will keep you updated about any discussions in the new year



The need to look wider and longer term at the Popley area has been mentioned by me above –with my Chair’s hat on

From Sentinel’s point of view we will have to see how any timescales for redevelopment will work out and what shorter term works we might undertake in the Longfellow Parade area as a consequence

On another subject I would like mention Anti-Social Behavior. We have been undertaking a lot of work with Basingstoke Police and the Environmental Health team at BDBC to tackle troublesome neighbours who make other people’s lives a misery. Although at Sentinel we are in the business of finding people homes we do take action to weed out households who are spoiling the community for the majority

Last month we obtained a possession order at Basingstoke Court for a household in Popley that had been causing significant nuisance by their selfish and thoughtless activities. Hopefully that area will become a quieter place *Karen Ayling*



My name is PC Paul Thorne and I am currently working as the beat officer for Popley whilst PC Matt Deery is working elsewhere within the police station. At present I can only tell you that I will continue to be your beat officer until January 2004, when it will be decided whether Matt will return or not. I shall update your local Councilors and Popley Matters when a further decision has been made.

I have only been in this role for a few weeks and I am just settling in and beginning to make contact with some of the residents, businesses and schools in the area. I have been working in Basingstoke for over twelve months and as such I already have some knowledge of the issues in Popley which need to be addressed. I have already spent some considerable amount of time patrolling Popley and on my pedal cycle and I hope my face is already familiar to some of you.

The purpose of this article is to inform everyone of the change in personnel and to also offer my commitment to the residents of Popley in tackling issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behavior. I have already attended the monthly community surgery and would encourage any resident to attend who wishes to discuss an issue face to face. I hope that through this surgery I can meet many more people and get a better idea of the residents’ concerns.

I would also like to encourage all of you to contact the Police whenever you need to report an incident or a crime, through the usual number 08450454545.

In an emergency, where immediate Police attendance is required or a crime is currently being committed, please ring 999.

PC 200054 Paul Thorne

Community Surgery?

The Community surgery due on Saturday 2nd of January will not take place as it is a bank holiday The February one will go ahead. If you need to speak to a Councillor phone 819924 for the police 08450454545 or housing association Oakfern 0800 195 5515. we will also be available at the senior citizens surgery at Magnolia Court on the 7th January 2pm - 3pm

PENSION CREDIT: PICK IT UP – IT'S YOURS.

The Pension Service aims to put customer requirements at the heart of business processes and part of their vision is to deliver an improved service to customers. To help achieve this, the Local Service has been set up to provide direct contact with customers who require extra support, and to build relationships with partner organisations such as Local Authorities and Voluntary Organisations.

The Local Service provides a number of services for its customers and their advisers, we offer help and advice on benefits and entitlements, including the new entitlement **Pension Credit**, as well as state pensions, Attendance Allowance, etc. You can pop in and see us at the new

Community Surgery to be held at Magnolia Court, Popley Way on Wednesday 7/1/04 between 2.00pm –3.00pm.

We can give you advice that is specific to your personal circumstances. If it is difficult for you to get out then we can also visit you in your own home.

You may have already heard of Pension Credit: this is a new entitlement payable to eligible pensioners from October 2003. Pension Credit will give more help to pensioners. It guarantees that no pensioner has to live on less than £102.10 a week, (for a couple £155.80) but, in addition, for people of 65 and over, it will reward those pensioners who have modest savings in the bank or a small occupational or second pension..

You can apply for Pension Credit now.

The main way to apply is via the phone: 0800 99 1234 Or textphone: 0800 169 0133

This is an easy process and you should have details of your National Insurance number, any savings and any income when you make the phone call. The call will be free and the line is open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday.

If you would like us to help you fill in a Pension Credit application form, then please come and see us.

We will be able to help make applying for Pension Credit as easy as possible.

Remember: Pick It Up. It's Yours!

Marnel Junior School

A new head and deputy team started in September and the school has been very busy this term.

National Road Safety Week was held in September and was a big success, with two pupils winning new bikes in a competition to design a new Road Safety poster. The competition, which toured local schools, was run by Sainsbury's Road Safety Trailer. The pupils were presented with their prizes in November and appeared in the Basingstoke Gazette.

Year 5 had a trip to the dentist and Marwell Zoo.

October saw a spring bulb planting week, the Harvest Festival with food parcels for the needy, and a dress the pumpkin competition.

Christmas events including a Carol Service are planned for December 8th-12th.

Finally, the school Christmas Trip will be to see Cinderella at the Anvil in the last week of term.

8th December 2pm Xmas Carol Assembly

9th December 2pm & 6pm Xmas Carol Assembly

11th December 2pm Xmas Carol Assembly

12th December 10am Xmas Carol Assembly

17th December 12noon Xmas Lunch

18th December Xmas pantomime trip to the Anvil: Cinderella

Chineham Park Primary School

The Casino Night on 19th September was very successful and raised £400 for the school. On 24th October we had a fancy dress disco with a Halloween theme which went down well with parents and children alike.

Over 200 people took advantage of a free ticket offer to see the Basingstoke Bisons play the Nottingham Panthers on the 18th October. (Bisons losing 2-1 to the Panthers.)

The Festival Place Christmas lights went on on the 13th November and the school choir performed for 1 hour 20 minutes outside Marks and Spencers.

On December 1st we are taking part in the National Whole School Sing Event for Cancer in aid of Cancer Research UK. If enough people from schools across the country take part, we could get in the Guinness Book of Records.

Family Learning courses are held on Wednesdays: "Music with Mum" and "Early Learning". In the Spring term we will also be doing a Family Literacy course with an emphasis on finance.

Diary Dates:-

December 4th Buy a Song For Christmas 6pm.

Friends and family can sponsor the choir to sing a carol of their choice and the school guitar and recorder clubs will also be performing.

December 9th Christmas Production: Peace Child 2pm

December 10th Christmas Production: Peace Child 2pm and 6pm

December 18th School Carol Concert: starting at 1.30pm.