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# POPLEY MATTERS

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March 2004 to May 2004

Issue 35

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# Message From the Editor

Another Popley Matters it does not seem possible that we are into our 12<sup>th</sup> year. So much has changed since I first moved into Popley in February 1971; I think you will see what I mean on page 18.

What are your memories of when you moved in? I moved from the now demolished maisonettes in Oakridge with my friend Mary. Mary and I moved while our husbands worked at Lansing Bagnal, we pushed our two prams full to the gills with items for our new homes. I can't remember how many journeys we made but Mary moved in one week and I moved in the next we shared an old Vine potato van when a kind neighbour offered his works van for us to use for the large furniture.

I am so proud of Popley I suppose that it is obvious to many of you as I am always talking about it. Popley has had such a varied history, one day when I get time I will write it all down, well maybe not all. The Pen and Parchment, Dryden Hall and the old Marlowe surgery have been removed and it looks so different with the landscaping. However, some of the biggest changes will come in a few years time with a new school, shops, doctor's surgery and other amenities. The new John Hunt School is due to be built and ready for January 2007 and there will be new houses. Popley North and Popley Fields will have around 1600 dwellings of which nearly 500 will be key worker and social housing, giving young couples a start much like many of us did in the 60's and 70's and it will be welcomed by the 4000 people on the housing list. Many families want to live near each other and Popley is a place that has a strong community feeling. I am sorry Sherborne St John residents are so against the development, and they would rather not see any Popley houses but most people in Popley are glad to see that there will be homes for young and elderly alike. It will also bring a better bus service especially to Popley West. Aldermaston Open space will be developed into a good family leisure facility nearby a sports field and an all weather pitch.

*Jane Frankum*

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 understand there is a place that I can borrow books without having to travel into town other than the mobile library. I am an avid reader.

**Editor; Yes there is, at Melrose Hall by Abbey Road shops (Mon & Thurs 9:30-12:30) Ann has a stall there and you can get a lovely cuppa there and meet some very nice people too.**

Dear Editor, Thank you Jane Frankum for getting us the Magnolia Court sign. We had been asking for one for a long time. When we wanted furniture and things delivered people just drove past and had to turn round. Taxis would do it too and of course that meant we had to pay extra fare money. It was lovely too that it was put there while we had the windows covered for our wartime songs which we really enjoyed, we looked out and there it was, thank you. Magnolia Court resident

**Editor; I am so pleased to hear you enjoyed the afternoon, the community wardens had a great time too and I ached for days after from doing the conga. I am looking forward to doing it again sometime.**

Dear Editor, It is good to see that the Gazette and the leader of the council Councillor Rob Donnelly are working together to promote "Pride in our Place". We could do a lot more if we picked up our own rubbish. I am proud of Popley and it is looking much better now. John Hunt School looks a mess but it is not just from the children, we constantly see three piece suites and electrical goods thrown in there. Popley resident against litter

**Editor; Rob Donnelly has suggested we could have a Spring Clean Up Day and we have spoken to Blanche Miles who agreed it was a great idea. Let me know if you are interested on 819924**

Dear Editor I recently read in the Basingstoke Gazette an article that said Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been awarded an EXCELLENT status. But what does that mean? I for one would like further information on what this means for me, a resident in the borough living in Popley.

I have always taken an active interest in the workings of the council and like to know what's going on in Basingstoke..

As the local magazine for Popley, could you do a feature on what this means for ordinary people? I for one would like to know what the council has achieved or is doing to warrant the EXCELLENT status?

Puzzled Trinidad Close

**Editor; Thank you for your letter. I am pleased that there are people who are interested in the council. The Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council website, [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk) has a section all about CPA - Comprehensive Performance Assessment. This is where you find the information that explains how the excellent status was awarded. However I know there are many people who do not have access to a computer so I will take your request on board and will endeavour with the next edition of Popley Matters to do a feature and we will arrange it look out for details on Community Halls and notice boards also in the shop windows. Perhaps we could do it as an interview with the Popley Councillor and Leader of the Council Rob Donnelly**

**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

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## Popley Festival 2004



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\*

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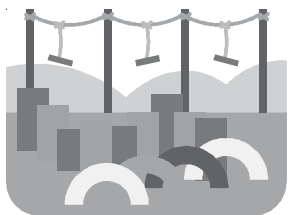
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Chineham Park Preschool Shakespeare Road, Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 9BP  
Registered Charity No. 1030396 Manager: Ginny Bloomfield



## YOUTH PLAY AREA

The consultation display by Tewksbury Close was very well attended and there have been many questionnaires filled in and returned to Ian Harris the council officer responsible for play areas. Most

of the visitors were nearby residents and it was good to see lots of young people there and hear their useful suggestions. It seems that the majority of people were in support of having an area that the youths can use. It has taken two years of consulting, looking at suitable areas to place the area and to find out the best ideas and equipment available. £25,000 was given by MEPC (Chineham Business Park, as it was then) and that does not go too far when an average size play area costs £85,000.

The previous consultations included Councillors, Police, Popley Forum, Popley Partnerships, youth groups, residents and youths on the estate. Everyone said the same, that an area is needed as we can't keep just moving the children on. They wanted a place that would not be too near to residents but not so far away that our children would not feel safe. People also wanted the location to be in an area that the police could watch over. The most central area of Pershore Road was the area that got everyone's votes. The Aldermaston Open space will be developed into a family leisure area when the new houses are built.

The equipment consists of a teen shelter and tyre slide and some goal posts - if we have the money to do it all.

At the consultation there were some negative remarks "I brought up two children and they didn't have this so the kids should not have it now" If we all felt like that there would never be any progress we would not have radio, TV, cars - the list would go on forever. In fact we did have youth facilities very near there in the area where the medical centre is now. You can still see where the pitch was and the lamp-posts where the lighting was and of course the building where they met is still there.

The youths themselves said that the site could be moved a bit further away from the nearest residents as they did not want to disturb them; I thought they were being very responsible. They also did not like the style of shelter and I agreed as it was bright blue and florescent orange and did little to any one shelter from anything.

The consultation has now ended and we await the final outcome.

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The first new school to be built in Basingstoke in a generation will set the standard for Hampshire and offer a new opportunity as a centre of excellence for our young people.

The head-teacher and staff on the current school site are an example of strength and of commitment. I've worked in education for ten years now, and been a Governor at John Hunt for the past two years. ***The staff at John Hunt are a shining beacon of all that is hopeful and good about Popley's future.***

John Hunt has such a vibrant community program. The school is a place where local groups, scouts, cadets, and adult learning and family learning can take place. The school is transforming the support available for our future generations. ***The new site in the North of Popley development will offer so much hope and opportunities for the school to improve and grow.***

The school and our young people have been successful in the Basingstoke and Hampshire Young Enterprise Business Project for two years in a row. The school was involved and led the Borough's Citizenship debate in Local Democracy Week last year. This year the school continues to offer real opportunities for young people in Popley to shine.

The new Study Support Centre is about to come online and that will provide a wonderful link to Southampton FC and support the personal development of young people around sport and key skills.

The leadership of Lesley Philipson and her teaching staff is a positive example for all of the Borough's school's. I can not underline strongly enough the admiration I have for all those people involved in the school, it is ***a real shining example of a school to be proud of.***

Cllr Paul Harvey  
Governor John Hunt of Everest  
Cabinet Member Employment, Skills and Learning  
BDBC

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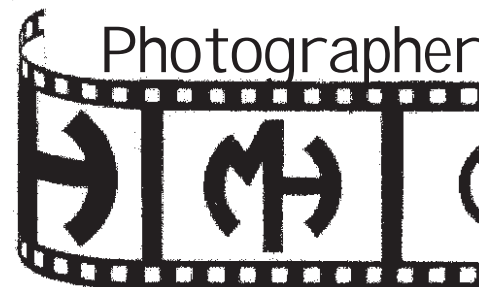
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Two local charities are looking for volunteers to become advocates. Speakeasy Advocacy and Basingstoke Advocacy Service are Lottery funded projects that have been providing advocacy for people in Basingstoke for 10 years.

### **What is advocacy?**

To advocate means to speak for either a person or a cause. Citizen advocacy is a world wide movement, where volunteers are matched with an individual to work in partnership. There are a number of projects throughout the UK, coming under the umbrella of organisations like the National Coalition of Citizen Advocacy Schemes.

### **Who needs an advocate?**

Anyone who is at risk of being ignored, disempowered, or socially excluded. Speakeasy gives a voice and support to people with learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders including Asperger syndrome, while Basingstoke Advocacy Service works with all other people who have difficulties in expressing what they want or getting others to listen.

### **What does an advocate do?**

An advocate will encourage and support people to speak out for themselves, but will speak for them if that is what they wish. The advantages of a volunteer advocate are that they are independent, loyal to their partner and listen only to their partner's wishes. The role of an advocate is varied and may include:

- Supporting people in deciding what they want
- Helping people say what they want more effectively
- Making sure the person is heard
- Supporting the person in making links with the community
- Accessing complaints procedures
- Providing practical support to resolve issues and achieve aims

### **Who can be an advocate?**

Anyone who believes that everyone has the right to be heard and be included in their local community. We provide the training and support for all of our advocates, and welcome enquiries from anyone who is interested. Get in touch with us even if you only have an hour a week to spare – that hour can go a long way!

**Speakeasy Advocacy** – giving a voice to people with learning difficulties, autism and/or asperger syndrome (01256 332795 or email [speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com](mailto:speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com))

**Basingstoke Advocacy Service** – working with all other people who have difficulties in expressing what they want or getting others to listen (01256 328080 or email [basadvocacy@onetel.net.uk](mailto:basadvocacy@onetel.net.uk))



## **MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS**

In the 3 years since MV started in the area the demand for volunteering has grown. We now have more than 350 young people on our books, some have come and gone but many stay in touch and let us know what is happening in their lives.

The vast majority continue volunteering after they have gained the “Award of Excellence” from Millennium Volunteers and have moved on to a different phase in life, whether to University, Employment or whatever.

We are now part of the Connexions Service funded by the Government, this is an information and advice service for all young people 13-19yrs ( however, the age range for MV remains 16-24yrs) We look forward to starting a new contract with Connexions in April this year.

In December we held a Celebration/Christmas party at Reading University in conjunction with projects from Oxford, Windsor & Maidenhead, Reading and High Wycombe. The party theme was the “Wild West” and a really wild time was had by all. Our local MV “DJ” Kyle Parker from Popley, provided a wonderful disco and great live entertainment was provided by MV James Mitchell with his group “The Guy Morgan Project”

Also in December we were lucky enough to be featured on Meridian TV in a series of programmes called “Just a Moment” 12 young people from Popley fields youth club contributed to one of the episodes, this gave us excellent advertising and also a good advertisement for Festival place as some of the filming took place there.

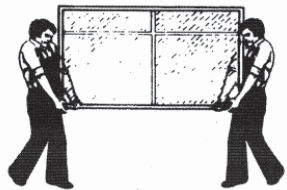
The next big event on the agenda is the “Millennium Volunteer of the Year Awards” to be held 28<sup>th</sup> March in London. Two nominations were sent from this project and one group has been nominated for a national award, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that they will win a national prize! The group is called “Respect” it comprises a group of young women who have developed a sexual health education display and video to tour the local schools. (this was organised by the Youth Service in Fleet) We wish them lots of luck!

We have recently become a member of Youth Action Network this organisation supports the development of voluntary youth action in England. We look forward to working with them.



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We hope everyone who came to our New Years' Eve Party enjoyed themselves and look forward to this years party, but we would like to hold more community events throughout the year.

Do you have any ideas for events you would like us to organise?

The centre is very busy at the moment with many regular bookings and lots of private functions, parties and other activities.

**Youth Club:** Our Youth Club has been bursting at the seams over the last few months. To offer a better service and more effective Youth work we have extended the opening times on Mondays 8 to 13 year olds from 6pm to 8pm 13 to 18 year olds can come from 8 pm to 10pm

This is being done for a limited trial, initially until the end of June.

If we could encourage more volunteers to help this valuable facility for the young people of Popley may be able to be extended! Could you give up a couple of hours every week or less?

**Health Walks:** These started last week and there was a great attendance. If you would like to improve your health by walking and meet new people at the same time, come to Popley Fields on Fridays at 11am or ring for details.

**Wood Clearance:** Following on from last years wood clearance, we plan to hold another litter-picking day this spring to tidy up the woods behind the centre. These woods are a very valuable leisure resource to a wide range of the community and it is amazing what we can achieve in just a couple of hours.

So keep a look out for the publicity once a date has been arranged and take part in a very rewarding couple of hours.

Popley Fields Community Centre is run by a dedicated group of volunteers. The roles can be very varied and if you have some spare time that you would like to fill with a rewarding volunteer role, please contact the centre on the above number.

Mark Head, Centre Manager.

## **“NORTH POPLEY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE”**

Following a series of negotiations between the applicants (Hampshire County Council and David Wilson Homes) with Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority, we have been informed that all three of the current outline planning applications for:

North Popley,  
Popley Fields,  
John Hunt of Everest School site,

will be considered by the Development Control Committee on the 10th March. No significant issues or changes have arisen with regards to the proposals and a more detailed update will be provided in the next Popley Matters after the committee date.

Contacts Tony Davison 01962 846952

Louise Hague 01962 846578

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## **Summit Judo Club**

Congratulations to Travis Sumner and Tom Jarvis who both fought in their respective Group National Finals in November and December. Although neither player came away with a medal, they can both be proud of the fact that they made the Nationals. Congratulations also to Paul Hamilton who took Silver in the Senior South Coast Open in November.

Over the winter months all members of the club have been developing their skills in readiness for the up coming competitions and gradings in 2004. On December 6th the juniors had a friendly training/competition session with Tadley Judo. There were some very keen encounters with Summit taking the trophy by 7 wins to 4. All the players from novice to the more experienced had an excellent evening with another meet to take place later in the year.

The 19th of December was trophy night and many of the junior players received medals or trophies. The awards were based on their performance over the period Jan-June and July -Dec 2003.

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



PC Matt Deery has now returned to Popley from his 4 month posting and is very pleased to be back. We are also very pleased to announce that PC Paul Thorne is staying based in Popley and we are working together to try and reduce crime in the area.

We are pleased to say at the time of going to press that crime in Popley is the lowest it has been for a while. Many of the crimes can be easily reduced and would therefore ask you all to think about how you can reduce your chances of being a victim of crime. These are often very simple things like not leaving valuables in cars. Most thefts are opportunistic and the site of a laptop computer, stereo, handbag or even a coat it would appear is too tempting for some. We also have numerous thefts of pedal cycles, which are bikes left unattended outside shops, front doors or in the garden.

Popley festival is nearly upon us again; make sure you make a note of the date in your Diary 16<sup>th</sup> MAY at John Hunt of Everest School. This event has gone from strength to strength each year, and is a great day and is supported by so many community groups.

We are pleased to see that in recent months Basingstoke & Deane have made some improvements to the area by demolishing unused buildings such as the old Pen & Parchment Pub & the Marlowe medical centre. These improvements have seen dramatic reductions of problems and complaints in the area.

We would like to welcome to the team of community wardens. Steven & Lesley have already had a large impact on the area and we will be working with them very closely to try and improve your community.

We would like to remind you all that a community surgery is held at John Hunt of Everest School on the first Saturday of each month at 1pm. No appointment necessary just call in if you wish to discuss any issues with local Police or a local councillor.

Crime should be reported on 0845 045 45 45 or 999 in an emergency.

PC20054 Paul Thorne  
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### Community Surgery's

We now hold two community surgeries, we still have the first Saturday of the month at John Hunt school with Councillors, Police and Industrial Relations consultant from 12 noon till 1pm. We also have a surgery at Magnolia Court from 2pm to 3pm (every 4th Week on a Wednesday) it has proved to be very popular with Pension Entitlements, Carers together, Citizens Advice Bureau, Downland and Sentinel housing officers, Community Wardens and local Councillors. Any one is welcome if you have a problem I am sure one of us will be able to help or advise. We have already had residents visiting us from Oakridge and they were made very welcome with a cup of tea. Ring me on 819924 or watch the press for the dates of the surgeries. Jane Frankum

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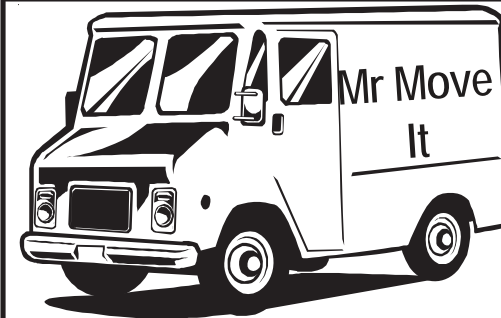
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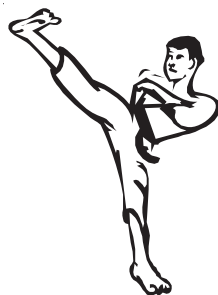
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## **Walking for Health**

The Health Improvement Team and Park Rangers at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are encouraging everyone to improve their fitness in 2004 by taking part in the "Walking for Health" programme.

A new eight-week pilot scheme started on Friday, 13th February leaving from the Popley Fields Community Centre at 11am, where free car-parking is available. The walk will last about an hour and will be between one-and-a-half and two miles long, returning to the Community Centre for a welcoming cup of tea and chat with fellow walkers.

The walks vary each week and are suitable for all ages and abilities; those who may be recovering from an illness and need gentle exercise, those who don't like walking alone, those who would like to work off those extra pounds after Christmas and those who simply want to meet new people and make new friends. The walks are non-competitive as everyone is encouraged to go at their own pace. The leader stays with the fastest walker and the back up volunteer takes a leisurely stroll along with the slowest. Everybody will be made welcome.

Jane Wilding, Health Improvement Officer, said "If the pilot scheme proves successful, it may become a permanent fixture in the local calendar, similar to the regular events at Eastrop and the Walled Garden. The Monday Eastrop walkers celebrated their third anniversary recently with a Nature Walk followed by a very enjoyable pub lunch in Chineham. The events at The Walled Garden are also increasing in popularity, with participants joining us from Kempshott, Buckskin and Hatch Warren. This group is continuing to grow in numbers, leaving from the Walled Garden each Thursday at 11.00am".

Those interested in joining the Popley, Eastrop or Walled Garden groups or who would like further information about the "Walking for Health Scheme" are asked to call Jane Wilding, Health Improvement Team, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 845574 or leave a message on the answerphone. Alternatively, Marilyn Davies, Park Ranger, will be available on 01256 845630 or email [marilyn.davies@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:marilyn.davies@basingstoke.gov.uk).



I thought the readers of our magazine might find these two old photographs, which turned up when I was searching for something else, of interest.

They were taken about 33 years ago when I first moved to Abbey Road.

The first picture shows Abbey Road, from the corner opposite where "The Popinjay" was later built, looking towards Sherborn St John.

The two things that became immediately apparent in this photograph are the lack of shops; we used to cross the bridge to the Co-Op Oakridge Road, and the absence of parked cars. When we first moved to Basingstoke, and all the estates were owned by the Council, we were asked if we owned a car and if you replied "yes" you were allocated a house with a garage. Most of us were only too pleased to use our garages, as this was a luxury unheard of in London! This was a time when we all had young families and we didn't envisage three and four cars to a house as the children grew up.

The second picture shows the Ring Road with Oakridge Towers to the right. The most obvious difference between then and now is the lack of traffic using this road.

When we first moved to Basingstoke we lived with my sister, and her family, in Stratfield Road, and watched our estate being built from her upstairs window. Our houses used to arrive as giant "flat packs" on lorries! The plywood sections were then faced with the bricks and cladding.

Despite our misgivings as to the unconventional construction of the houses we truly couldn't express our delight at being allocated a three bedroom centrally heated house for only 10 shillings (that's 50p to you youngsters!) a week more than the rent we were paying for one damp room, and a shared bathroom and toilet in London.

I have seen many changes to Basingstoke in the 33 years I've lived here, as we all have, mainly for the better. I have excellent neighbours; I feel part of a community and with one or two notable exceptions the local children are friendly, helpful and polite. On balance I'm still delighted to live in Abbey Road.



Following the demolition of the Pen and Parchment, Dryden Hall and the Marlowe Close surgery, the sites have now been landscaped.

Sentinel Housing Group and Basingstoke and Deane are in discussions about the possible refurbishment or regeneration of the Longfellow Parade area. Once we are clear on the future, and if a regeneration scheme in the area is possible, we intend to set up a project team including local people to progress things.

All residents will be consulted on any future feasibility studies, the extent of the project and the timescales.

If a redevelopment scheme is possible, it could not take place for several years as it would need to await the availability of Government funding. Bearing this in mind, Sentinel Housing Group will need to consider what shorter term works we might undertake in the Longfellow Parade area.

## **Magnolia Court Sing-along**

What a great time was had by the residents, the community warden's, children from Merton Junior school, guests and yours truly at Magnolia Court. We all had our wartime identification cards which entitled us to a really good old fashioned home made nosh up. I am surprised we still found the energy to sing from all the song sheets provided. Although I wasn't born until the war was over I was surprised by how many of them I knew! Two of the Community wardens played musical instruments, the trumpet and trombone - what talent.

And Jack? Well he played the organ and encouraged us all to sing along. I would like to thank all the community wardens that came, I know you enjoyed yourselves, as I know I did too. Thank you to Julie Pior (manager) for being a gracious host. We all decided we must do it again and next time invite as many people that would like to come. We got even more ambitious and thought it would be a good idea to have a big old dance party with real dance band and sing song next year at the memorial park, and have all of Basingstoke and its lovely villages invited. Wow what a party that would be.

Dear Readers,

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have just announced their 3 year council plan and budget and as part of that process have set the council tax for 2004/05. This year there is an increase of 2.5%. The average household in Popley, living in a band C property currently pays £915.11 per year in council tax. Of that £915.11 only £77.91 is collected by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The majority goes to Hampshire County Council and the Police. With the 2.5% increase the average Popley resident will be paying an extra £1.95 per YEAR for the services the council provides. That equates to only an extra 0.44p per week. Less than ½p a week.

So what is it paying for? The council tax contribution that goes to the borough pays for the regular emptying of dustbins, the emptying of recycling bins and banks, the regular cleaning of the street environments, the parks and green areas. It also pays for our community centres and the regeneration schemes that are happening or going to happen in some of our local areas.

Popley residents have seen the regeneration in Longfellow Parade start with the demolition of the pub and toilets, and regeneration is earmarked for the Milton and Keats Square. Some of the other noticeable regeneration achievements in Popley can be seen at the Madeira and Abbey Road shops.

The increase in council tax will also contribute towards the continuation of the Community Warden Scheme over the next 3 years. The wardens are out and about in Popley and I know they have met a number of the community groups and residents in the area. They are also working with the council and police to ensure that Popley stays clean, is safe and remains a pleasant place to live. The wardens are there to help communities, to work with residents and community groups - feel free to approach the wardens if you see them around.

So I am pleased to inform you that with the lowest council tax in Hampshire, with the lowest council tax increase in the Country, with the introduction of the wardens and the regeneration schemes planned for the future, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have been awarded EXCELLENT status by the Audit Commission. They have said and I quote - **"The council is in a much better position to face future challenges"** *Cllr Rob Donnelly Popley East*

# CommuniCare



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# WHATS ON AT MELROSE HALL

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY	9.30 -12PM COFFEE MORNING	1PM - 3PM FREE COMPUTER COURSE
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.

Dont forget the Wednesday Auction there are hundreds of bargains Popleys own Bargain Hunt every Wednesday bidding starts at 7pm Viewing from 4:15pm

## Sunday Outdoor Boot Sales at John Hunt Community School NEW starting time for Melrose weeks

March 14th/4th April/2&3rd May/23rd May at 10am

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Popley Wardens are here!

We are Stephen Bate and Lesley Batchelor and we are the Community Wardens for Popley. We form part of the Community Safety Team for the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane. We will be patrolling

throughout Popley and aim to work closely with the various associations and organisations that are here in the area. You will recognise us by our distinctive green uniform with its blue and white Community Warden logo.

Since we started our patrol duties at the beginning of January we have spent the last few weeks familiarising ourselves with Popley and those of you who live here. We have been really impressed with the attitude of everyone who lives and works here. The majority of people really want to work together to make Popley a much cleaner, safer and pleasant place to live.

However, we have seen a few issues that we will be looking at closer, these are litter, graffiti and vandalism. We hope to work together with the relevant associations, authorities and residents to improve the environment of Popley.

We have visited each of the schools on Popley and have been involved in taking assemblies, taking classes and extra curricular activities in order to develop relationships with young people and help them appreciate the importance of living responsibly in the community.

We have also been to the Melrose Hall and Popley Fields Community Centre and getting to know the residents of Popley who use the centres for different purposes. It is good to know that the centres offer such a wide range of facilities for the community - coffee mornings, mother and toddler group, play group, youth clubs, auctions and adult learning sessions.

We are building a good relationship with the residents of Magnolia Court and have had a really successful afternoon event with a Wartime Sing-along, which included a number of children from the Merton School. We would very much like to bring the younger and older generations of Popley together as we feel they have a lot of positive things to offer each other.

We are really excited about the future of Popley, and getting to know the people who live here. You will see us out and about so please feel free to say hi, stop us for a chat or let us know of any concerns you may have.

*Stephen Bate and Lesley Batchelor Community Wardens for Popley*

## Popley's very own Community Wardens

Stephen and Lesley (pictured below) can be contacted on 01256 845508 or Email on [community-wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:community-wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk)

You can stop them in the street and talk to them about the concerns you have on Popley.

They will be working together with Councillors and other people like the Police and Popley Partnerships.

They have promised to write for us in Popley Matters and let us know how things are going. They will also be visiting several events and meetings and getting stuck in.

I hope you will join with Councillors, police, community leaders and residents in wishing Stephen and Lesley good luck in this new job within our community.

Welcome to Popley.



Useful Numbers:-

Andrew Hunter MP The House Of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA ☎020-7219-3000

Leader of the Council Cllr Rob Donnelly 14 Norden Close, RG21 5PS ☎07973 765347

Cllr Andy McCormick 1 Warwick Road, RG23 8DX ☎01256 419376 or ☎07879 436985

Cllr Jane Frankum 405 Abbey Road, RG24 9EL ☎01256 819924

Cllr Paul Frankum 55 Winklebury Centre RG23 98BU ☎01256 472496