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POPLEY MATTERS

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March 2005 to May 2005

Issue 39

Supported by the :-



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Message From the Editor:-

I hope you find this Popley Matters full of useful information. I have a fantastic team and some really intrepid people who help to deliver your Popley Matters magazine, of course we could always use more help with delivery. You need only deliver about 50 and it will be appreciated and help us to keep the magazine being delivered to all, it is voluntary as is everything else, except the printing costs which are covered by charging for advertisements.

The letters page is there for you to write on any subject to me as the editor at 405 Abbey Road Popley Basingstoke RG24 9EL we do not however print anonymous letters but will withhold your name and address from being printed if requested.

I am always pleased to get articles from residents of Popley and would like to see more in this edition we have an article from a young fire fighter on page 8, there are updates on the new developments in Popley pages 21 and 27 and including the new church. Page 36.

We have a Popley Forum meeting in the newly refurbished Bermuda hall it is entitled "Question Time" and there will be a panel of people and you are all welcome to come along. We held a question time before and the last one was at Popley Fields Community Centre and it was lively and interesting and the residents that came all felt that they were able to get useful answers and those that could not be answered on the night were answered within a few days.

There have been some distraction burglaries in Basingstoke and Deane all genuine callers have identification and expect you to ask to see it, the people that rob the elderly and vulnerable are the lowest kind of people. Please be careful and just don't let them in, if you do not have a safety chain on your door you can get one fitted. Did you know that you can also get a free fire safety check from the Fire brigade, that goes for all residents?

Have a lovely Spring, the next Popley Matters is in June so you have plenty of time to write an article for us after all this is your magazine and it is for all people in Popley who live, work or visit us.

Jane Frankum Editor

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke.RG24 9EL email:popley.matters@bopenworld.com The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

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New Church of St Bede Popley Way

You cannot travel down Popley Way without noticing the work taking place to the west of St Bede's Primary school. After a number of years of consultation designing and planning, at last the Catholic Parish of Holy Ghost is building its new church, parish centre and presbytery.

The parish of Holy Ghost covers an area from Statfield Saye in the north to Black Dam and Oakley in the south, and from Wooten St Lawrence in the west up to Newnham in the east. Because of the Parishes geographical size and its small church (at the southern end of Sherborne Road) the parish uses a number of other churches on a Sunday, St Mary's Old Basing, Good Shepard Winklebury and the Baptist Chapel Sherfield as well as the school hall in Popley. Every weekend roughly 800 people come to Mass. Because of our understanding of Sunday worship, our reduction in priests, and our scatterness it was generally felt that the way forward was the construction of one centre.

And here we are!

The project involved a team of parishioners, together with others at Diocesan level (we belong to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth) After deciding to go forward a number of architectural practices were contacted, interviewed and visited until we chose our currant architect. He and his team, after listening with our needs designed the building which will soon be rising from the soil!

The complex will consist of a landmark church, church hall and meeting rooms, parish office and priests house (presbytery). More about this at a later date.

Father Vincent Harvey.

Popley

To Celebrate Nine Years of the Popley Forum

Forum

The next Popley Forum meeting is on Thursday March 24th 7pm at Bermuda Hall, Bermuda Close with a "Question Time" theme an invited panel with representatives from the Council, Sentinel, Police and Community wardens who will be there to answer your questions.



The beginning of 2005 opens up a great deal of opportunity for Popley. We now have a new Community Warden, Sarah, who began working in Popley in November. We have also received the crime statistics for 2004, which are extremely encouraging indeed.

Crime and disorder has fallen sharply here, and it's a great credit to all who live and work in the area.

We are currently working hard on projects with many of the schools in Popley, as well as a re-launch of Mocktails, a non-alcoholic cocktail bar for young people. This bar will be open at Popley Fields Community Centre every Thursday evening from 7pm.

We have also noticed a decline in the level of litter and fly-tipping in the area, which is encouraging to see.

With the new Community Furniture Project now in operation, where bulky household items in good re-usable condition can be collected free of charge, we expect this to improve further. See www.cfpbasingstoke.org or telephone (01256)320700 for more information about this.

Hi from Sarah. I am really excited at the opportunity to help make Popley an even greater place to live. Both Steve and I look forward to getting to know many of you and working with you in the coming year. We are involved in, and planning, many great projects which will improve the quality of life for us all.

A very important message would be to ask all residents of Popley to ensure that you keep your household waste and recycling bins within the boundary of your property. This is good practice and will help to improve hygiene on the estate. This is part of the conditions of having wheelie bins, and should be adhered to at all times.

Also, please make sure to dispose of glass responsibly as, whilst out on patrol, we come across many bottles. Some of these have been smashed into pieces, which poses a great danger to residents and animals. There are glass recycling bins located at Abbey Road, in the car park between the row of shops and the Popinjay pub.

*Best wishes to you all and we hope to see you whilst out on our patrols,
Steve and Sarah, Community Wardens for Popley.*





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Bermuda Community Association

(Formerly Popley Two Residents Association)

We have moved into the old surgery at Bermuda Close. Although we are not yet quite fully operational, we are getting there. So much had to be done and it is still on going new external and internal doors, fixtures and utilities etc.

The meeting room is not quite ready as yet due to materials taking up the space awaiting to be distributed and or used for fixtures. The main hall is available for hiring evenings and weekends. Contact 411264.

In my last report I referred to more room and storage to be had in this hall in fact the main hall is just slightly smaller than Madeira Hall was and we have the added space within the meeting room which can be hired at any time, the storage area is better than at our previous hall.

A section of the new hall is taken up by Marnel Explorers pre-school group, being segregated by a wall. Places for the pre-school have been expanded from 18 to 24.

As much as we liked our premises at Madeira Close it had been deteriorating structurally letting in the weather etc. There was a time when we thought we wouldn't get another building and we knew Madeira Hall would have to go. Our thanks must go to Jane Frankum also June Balcombe and the community team for their efforts in saving complete closure of our association.

As you read this can I make an appeal to you to consider joining our new committee, especially if you like a bit of a challenge or perhaps you would like to join us as a member. Contact myself Ron Rowe on 417858 or our secretary Lorraine Woodforth on 812079.

We are holding our first AGM as soon as possible after the end of March date to be announced nearer the time.

Ron Rowe Chairman.

Ron Rowe Chair

Quit Smoking Clinic

Your local NHS is offering another free Quit Smoking Clinic at Melrose Hall. The seven-week clinic starts on No Smoking Day Wednesday 9th March at 10.00 a.m. A trained and friendly quit smoking adviser will give advice and information, and help you get stop smoking "medication" (such as nicotine patches) on prescription. The quit date is not until week three of the course (23rd March), so you have time to prepare properly and get ready to stop. As places are limited you need to call 0845 602 4663 to book a place.

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The family would like to thank all the wonderful residents and customers for all their support in our effort to provide the much needed pharmacy the appeal was successful. The notice of the official opening will be displayed in the shop

Dev & Nayna and the Fastfare family

Popley Festival:

Coming soon to a senior school near you

Yes it's that time of year again when we gear up for the Popley Festival, the biggest and best festival of its kind in Basingstoke.

This year it will be held on Sunday 15th May and as it could well be the last Festival ever to be held on the current John Hunt campus we intend to make it one to remember. Last year we had over 10,000 people. This year we hope to top that.

Our star attraction will be the tethered balloon, which (providing the weather is good) should offer unmissable views of Basingstoke and the surrounding countryside. The view from the top of Oakridge Towers will be nothing compared to this.

Kestrel will front the entertainment, and will have their own staging and PA systems. We also have our fingers crossed that we might get some coverage from Meridian TV or South Today. We are promoting the festival as one of the largest events in Basingstoke, and we hope that will do the trick.

We will be having a bigger Police Display this year. The Fire Engines will be back again this year, plus the usual fun fair, ice cream, barbecues, car boot sale and stalls, and a welcome return of the Mocktails stall, this time to be run by the Millennium Volunteers. We are also looking to have the Rubbish Raiders from Sentinel Housing Association for the first time this year. Last year we had some stall owners disappointed with their pitches so this year hopefully with a re-jig to the site everyone will be happy.

One more important thing: Beer tent - licence applied for – hopefully we won't run out of beer like we did last year when we had 10,000 thirsty people on an extremely hot summer's day!

We are always on the look out for volunteers to man barbecues, bars, or help out, and this year we are looking for volunteers to dress up in costumes for the children. Apply to Suki Binning at John Hunt if you are interested in getting involved.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Andy McCormick (committee Member)

Diaries from the Old Codger

When I first started to write the old codgers diaries in Popley Matters a couple of years ago little did I know what kind of response I would get. A lot of you ask questions about a wide range of subjects and it has been good and pleasing that you take the interest in what is said. But on the subject of Popley Matters I read with interest the letters of members at junction 6. It is great to see our youth get involved with the community, and are willing to go out of their way to think of others less fortunate than themselves To me it shows what some of the next generation are going to grow up like, caring for others and not thinking of themselves as we see so often. Well done to you all and the Old Codger wishes you every success. Now where do I go from that, well our dear old editor just wait till she sees that word (OLD) I WILL BE EXECUTED. Like a lot of people on the Popleys we arrived here at a young age and a lot of us have matured with the area and it is good to be reassured that we are well catered for by people in the community. The editor works long hours with her team to put Popley Matters out or to bed as they say in the print industry. What is needed are some young volunteers to help get them to the houses on the estates I know the Editor and her team tramp all over delivering them, so give her a ring and let her take the weight off her feet after all the hard work.

In the winter months we have a lot of problems with the ice, snow, leaves on the ground do you know of a senior citizen that has a path that needs clearing so they can get out safe a lot of the elderly and disabled end up in hospital with broken bones due to falls, 70% of these happen in the front of their houses, please don't go round knocking on doors asking if they need a path cleared only go to them if they know who you are. To our senior citizens don't open your doors unless you know who the person is. You hear time and again about people that are duped by people doing this. Can any one say what Popley Matters means to them? well to me it means thinking a head, thinking of a future, thinking about the young on Popley, thinking what we all can do as a community to make Popley a place for all of us to be proud of. Not just a place to move to and expect things to be done for us, it is all our voices that are heard by things like Popley Matters. Popley Forum, the local police, community wardens, conservation, volunteers and all the schools. Have your say have a mind to come up with good ideas then Popley can continue to lead the way for all.

Our dear old Arthur Attwood noted one time the word Popley derives from the word pop: meaning pebble we have thousands of these pebbles in Popley and joined as one can make a mountain. You the people of Popley are that mountain.

The Old Codger

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Exodus 15²⁶ "...for I am the Lord,
who heals you." **NIV**



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Councillors Page

A lot has happened since the last Popley Matters just before Christmas.

The appeal to have a pharmacy licence was at last won and it should be opening by the end of March it was a truly great effort by everyone all working together, it shows if you are persistent and have a good case you can win against the big companies.

The number 5 bus route to the hospital was saved at least till July, around 80 people came to the meeting and two representatives of Stagecoach. We all told them how it would affect us and a nurse who was there representing the nurses who live in Popley and Oakridge and spoke up for all the other members of staff said it would have a catastrophic affect on whether they could stay nursing in Basingstoke. As a cleaner on the children's ward for nearly 28 years I know how much I used to rely on the bus to get me to and from work. Paul Harvey and I had a further meeting with Stagecoach and Mary Edwards Chief Executive of Basingstoke Hospital and we hope to meet again soon. Please write to John Mariner, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester as they will be putting the bus service out to tender soon and we need urgently to tell them why. The the more letters we write the better the chance of keeping the number 5 service.

The new John Hunt Secondary School site has started with the first step being the planting of the new trees and landscaping.

Bermuda Close Surgery was saved from demolition and is now opened as a new Community Hall and Pre School, I really enjoyed the handing over of the key ceremony it reminded me that I had been privileged to cut the ribbon and opened the then new pre-school which Val Mills (Marnel Head Teacher at the time) Di Mallet and I worked so hard to get when it first started in Madeira Hall. Ron Rowe has written in his report how at that time it saved the hall from being demolished and we could have lost a valuable facility for our community.

In mid March the play area in Bermuda should be finished with seating and new landscaping. The youth facility by Popley Fields should have started too.

The two Jumble Sales in Melrose Hall and The Hall for All across the bridge in Oakridge were very successful with about £2000 and lots of items being shipped over to help with the relief of the Tsunami Appeal. It was great to see people going to both and helping to make it so successful. Many of our schools joined in and Marnell donated Toys and other items.

Jane Frankum

Basingstoke Air Scout Group



Beaver scout section (for boy and girls aged from 6 to 8 years)

Meetings: Tuesday 5.30 - 6.45 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down

Leader 'Yellow Beaver' Eve Alexander 73 Falkland Road, (01256) 346510



The colony has been very busy since Christmas. Several beavers gained the Faith Badge having taken part in the short Christmas Story presented to parents and friends at the end of the autumn session composed their own prayer and found out about another place of worship. Ten attended a mammoth New Year Party for all Beaver Scouts in Basingstoke at the end of January and William was unlucky not to win the biggest ever 'musical chairs' event using two concentric circles (great excitement!). The colony has explored star constellations and made mini-constellations to show the shape and how stars can help to guide travellers in the right direction. The Beavers have also experimented with 'cress heads' and made dragon masks for Chinese New Year. Soon we will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes, preparing for Mothers' Day and as always) having lots of fun with games and activities. The colony has so far raised over £58 by collecting small change in water bottles for the Tsunami Appeal

New recruits welcome – simply come along or contact Eve Alexander for more information



Cub scout section (for boys and girls aged from 8 to 10½ years)

Meetings: Tuesday 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down

Leader: Elaine Devenport 87 Saffron Close, Chineham (01256) 323453

Before Christmas the cubs spent several evenings exploring to achieve the Local Knowledge badge. They visited the town centre to find several significant 'landmarks' and had a conducted tour of St. Mary's Church in Old Basing. Several took part in the Young Eagles flying programme with Popham Flying Club. The Pack spent some weeks working on Air Activity Badge and most cubs were presented with the badge at the end of January. Seven members all gained their Chef badge. having cooked a simple meal and learnt the major rules of food hygiene. Several cubs are getting ready for the Chess competition and hope to win through to the County Finals. Others are preparing for the annual District Cubs' Six-a-side Football competition at the end of February and developing tackling and tactical skills under the guidance of Coach Mr. Tustain. Future plans include participation in Pro-Act Badge Challenge weekend with adventurous and outdoor activities forming much to the programme.

The section was sad to lose the services of two cub leaders recently due to other commitments and thank both Penny and David for their support and help for the past two years. New recruits welcome – simply come along or contact Elaine Devenport for more information.



Scout section (for boys and girls aged from 10½ - 14 years)

Meetings: Monday 7 - 9 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down

Leader: Colin Karslake 14 Gilbert Close, Popley (01256) 410559

Some of the troop have been working on Information Technology badge recently and learning more of the rules governing procedures for air-fiekl and flying to qualify for the Airman badge. Two teams took part in the District Scouts' Six-a-side Football competition and were unlucky not to reach the final. All enjoyed the visit to JJ's at Christmas. Work has started on the GIMME 5 Challenge being promoted by the Scout Association running in conjunction with 'World Wild Life Fund' and 'Protect the Planet' charities. Some of the funds raised from this project will be donated to the Tsunami Disaster Fund. Plans for summer camp are already in hand which should prove exciting and adventurous.

New recruits welcome – simply come along to sample an evening or contact Colin Karslake for more information.

Pat Brown, the Group Scout Leader has been unwell in recent months but is now making good progress following an operation. He hopes to return to more active Scouting soon. Meantime please direct enquiries to section leaders as listed above.

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Tsunami with Daniels Trust

I'd like to Thank Labour Cllr Jane Frankum for all her support in assisting and getting involved in a very big way with The Tsunami appeal Mass Jumble that we organized for January 29th as most people know I lost my Son Daniel to Cancer in June of 2002 he was only 2yrs old.

This is why I set up a registered charity, Daniel Bowler's Memorial Trust Fund, to help support children with terminal illnesses and their families, I've seen a lot of children suffering all over the world, and knowing what it feels like to see a child suffer, I could not sit down in front of the TV, I wanted to do something positive, I knew they needed us so I had to do something to try and relieve someone's suffering so Daniels Trust Members came together with Cllr Jane Frankum and organized a mass Jumble Sale at The Hall For All In Oakridge Basingstoke, we also asked for the help of Paul Harvey Our Local Labour Parliamentary Candidate who was only too pleased to help he stayed all the day of the sale and assisted in the organization, Cllr George Hood attended in support making teas and refreshments for the public. Paul Frankum drove around picking items up and generally helping to organize, Andy McCormick manned one of the tables, because of their input and support and the fact that they were prepared unconditionally to support us it was more successful than we hoped for. There were also many helpers I can't name them all, but they know how much their help was appreciated. Rucstall Primary School held a book sale and brought in their toys to go over to the children devastated by this Tsunami. With a special thank you to Michaela, Cheryl, Jane who went to the school to say thank you they came back talking about how wonderful it was and lots of the children were in fancy dress. They took on the organisation when I was rushed into hospital. To my wonderful wife thanks for everything. We managed to raise £800 and 8 Pallets of vitally needed equipment, dry foods, soaps, nappies, blankets, clothes, soft cuddly toys, pens, paper etc that were donated, sorted by volunteers, packed and sent to Asia last week,

As for the Labour Cllrs for what you did for us all on that fundraising event, and for the children and families in Asia, so on behalf of all the volunteers and members of the public that also supported us

I, Mike Bowler Chairman Of Daniel Bowlers Memorial Trust Fund would like to Thank you all so very much. For all your support and it does prove in some thing like this Labour does care about its people and its Communities.

Just a little note to say thanks Mike but it was done by me as a mother and because 28 years of working on the children's ward made me appreciate the true meaning of life and what is important in life, it was a privilege.



Fire Fighters Association (YFA)

We are a group of teenagers who belong to the Fire Fighters Association (YFA) based at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. The club has been running since March 2004 under the guidance of Station Officer Terry Evans who leads the volunteer group.

To name but a few we have been taught a variety of skills including hose running, ladder drills and first aid.

We have accompanied and assisted the regular fire crews at many different events including Odiham Fire Show and Milestones Festival of Fire Fighting, demonstrating our various skills. We have also taken part in the charity fund raising car washes and at the station. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony for volunteering us to take part in this event as we enjoyed cleaning filthy cars in the freezing cold getting soaking wet!!! It was great fun really as we got our own back in the end.

In this year 2005 we hope to be able to travel to Croatia and attend a European fire cadets training camp. We need to be able to raise the funds to cover the cost of this trip ourselves and are looking for people to come forward and sponsor us. We would like to thank you for taking time in reading this

Any enquirers and for more information on how you can help Please contact Station Officer Tony Evans at Basingstoke Fire Station 01256 818883 On behalf of all YFA cadets
Naomi Tomkins



Do you want to get a little fitter?

Join the "Walking for Health" scheme – the sure way to health and fitness. It's free and easy and a chance to meet new people and make friends.

We would love a few more volunteers to help us run the Popley Health Walk on Friday mornings. If you have a few hours to spare on a monthly / weekly basis please contact Marilyn Davies on 01256 845630 or Jane Wilding on 01256 845574 for a chat and further details.

The "Walking for Health" scheme is an initiative of the British Heart Foundation and the Countryside Agency.



Base 2000

Carpenters Down Popley RG24 9DR
www.base2000.co.uk

Base 2000 has had many diverse users since it opened in May 2001. More recent arrivals include The Prince's Trust who started a twelve week course for young people aged 16 to 25 years on 7th February. The

Princes Trust is run by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service with assistance from Hampshire Constabulary, S.E. Hampshire YMCA, Milton Keynes College and Southampton Football Club. The scheme offers a personal development course designed to help young people improve their skills and attitudes to be better equipped for the world of employment. The programme includes a residential outdoor activity week, community projects and work placements and/or possible further education opportunities. Enquiries Louise Judd 023 8064 4000 or princes-trust@hantsfire.gov.uk

Basingstoke Air Cadet Force held a splendid Dinner Dance in the building just before Christmas. Both halls and the foyer were transformed with sparkling lights (and sparkling ladies, and young men in evening dress - one even sporting full highland dress) for the occasion. Several schools and or Fairs play-groups used the building for Christmas parties and Father Christmas managed at least two visits in his busy schedule!

Regular users include groups of Rainbows, Brownie Guides, Guides, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Melrose Christian Fellowship. CMA Kick Boxing hold a Ladies Keep-Fit evening in the main hall on Wednesdays from 7.15 p.m.

Cost of hire ranges from £3.50 per hour mid-week for the small hall to £11 for the main hall at weekends Enquires/bookings to Pete or Jan Saunders (01256) 410514 or e-mail base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com

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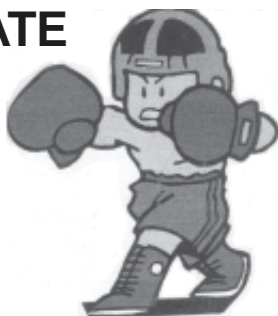
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SENTINEL HOUSING GROUP LONGFELLOW (POPLEY POETS) PARADE CONSULTATION MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2005

Hello Everyone

I would like to introduce myself; I am Lynne Thomson, the Regeneration Liaison Officer for Sentinel Housing Group.

Longfellow Parade is one of the projects that I will be working on to explore how we can jointly improve this part of Popley. As part of this task one of my first jobs was to organise a consultation evening on possible options at Chineham Park Primary School on the 21 February 2005

The event was well attended, with over 60 local people turning up, where they could view the possible redevelopment options for the area and to pose any questions about the proposals to the architect or any of the other Sentinel project team. A model was also constructed of the design proposals which helped everyone to understand at first hand what the redevelopment may look like. The majority of those who attended liked what they saw and were very complimentary about the proposals. The main concerns raised were the safety aspects of crossing the road to reach the shops if they were to be relocated next to the Surgery.

As part of the consultation I drafted a short opinion survey which all attendees completed: the results are currently being collated and I will share them with you at a later date. There was a wide range of age groups in attendance, so hopefully the survey will reflect the views of both young and old. Initial review suggests that there is overwhelming support for redevelopment of Longfellow Parade and relocation of the shops.

Redevelopment of the area therefore appears to be the community's No.1 choice. This is supported by Sentinel Housing Group, although progression of this option will be dependent upon the scheme being financially feasible and viable for all. In order to progress matters, Sentinel's Board have given approval for the Association to submit an outline planning proposal, based on the display at the consultation. This is the first key step to making the project happen, but it is early days and a lot more work is required before Sentinel can fully appraise the project, and a firm commitment given to deliver the project.

We will, of course, keep you informed of all ongoing matters, and intend to issue a regular update to the local community.

If you have any questions about the Longfellow Parade regeneration please don't hesitate to contact me on 01252 788730.

Lynne Thomson
Regeneration Liaison Officer

Melrose Tsunami Appeal

You may have heard we had a mammoth sale on the 29th of January and that together with the Melrose bucket and Fastfare tin, plus a stall at John Hunt car boot sale the week before meant that you, the great people of Popley raised the sum of £1,110.16p. The Cheque has gone to “Feed the Children” for the Tsunami appeal. Thank you to all those who worked so hard on the day to make it a fun day, as well as fund raising day for a good cause. By the time you read this we will have had a children’s items only Jumble Sale. This is to clear some of the backlog after sending only the light summer child’s clothes for Tsunami plus some education items, blankets, cutlery etc.

I know I said no materiel items but that criteria changed when “Feed the Children” notified us on 4th February, that they are only sending what has been requested by the area in need at the time of need. Please please do phone before you want to drop anything off at Melrose Hall, we are not able to cope otherwise.

We also have another thank you to our new office administrator, Coo Cookson, who’s first three weeks in the job has been like working in a warehouse!! Welcome aboard. Debbie our previous administrator is enjoying her new position and we all wish her the best, but don’t be a stranger Debbie.

Melrose Community Association Car Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest School will start at 10 am on Feb 20th March 13th April 3rd and 24th May 8th and Bank Holiday.

Our very successful Auctions will be starting in March on a fortnightly bases starting Wednesday 2nd of March Please come and support us while getting some bargains. Iris king Trustee.

Age Concern Hampshire (in Basingstoke) Community Services Update.....

Activity Centres run in Popley, Oakridge, Winklebury, South Ham and Kingsclere - some spaces available. Please call for details.

Foot Clinics - low cost toe-nail cutting. Very good value at £12.50. Clinics running in Oakridge, South Ham, Brighton Hill, Town Centre, Oakley, Winklebury and Hatch Warren. Please call to make an appointment.

Yoga classes run Wednesday evening at John Hunt, Popley. Town Centre classes on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. New class starting in Winklebury Thursday evening. Please call to book your place.

For more information and for bookings, contact Beverley Jones at Age Concern on 01256 423874.

Don’t forget the Age Concern cafe every Wednesday morning at Church Cottage 10.30 til 1.00. All ages welcome and we offer reasonable prices and a friendly atmosphere!

The Computer Drop-in centre runs at Fairfields Art Centre each Tuesday from 10.00 til 1.00. Informal atmosphere where you can find out about computers at your leisure. Free of charge.

As always, to run our services we would love to have some more volunteers!! If you have some time to spare then please get in touch with us on 01256 423874

Marnel Junior School

For the first time anyone can remember in the school’s history we have a waiting list of 5 people. This is testimony to the amazing turnaround in the school’s fortunes in the past 18 months, thanks to our new management team. Our SATs were well up last year as is our recently issued PANDA report, we even got an A in Level 5 Maths. Our Value Added scores have also catapulted us into the top half of Basingstoke’s schools. We recently held a pupil attitude audit and the results are very encouraging as the percentage enjoying school is above the county average. Overall the results were very positive, although there are two questions we need to answer: are we stretching the more able pupils and (much harder) can we get boys to enjoy their homework? (Boys never enjoy their homework, it’s one of Life’s 3 great certainties – Ed).

Cllr Andrew McCormick – Co-opted Governor

Chineham Park Primary School

We are very pleased to announce the sponsorship of Chineham Park Primary school by BNP Paribas Lease Group, whose HR director Yvonne Ebdon joins us as a sponsor governor. Staff members from BNP Paribas are coming into the school and are listening to the children read.

Southampton Football Club have started their coaching sessions at Chineham Park. They are sending two of their football coaches along free for 11 weeks to coach all of the Key Stage 2 children (year 3 to 6). The scheme has been a resounding success and the younger children are now desperate to join in. The BISON ice hockey family learning group has also been a success and is now coming to a close.

We have invested about £20,000 in Promethean whiteboards in every classroom and they are going down a storm – the staff and children are really pleased with them.

Finally, we have started a new drop-in group for parents to come in and talk about their children and any issues they may have, plus we have a school open day coming up, details below:

Chineham Park Open Day: March 18th

all parents and prospective parents/pupils welcome!

Cllr Andrew McCormick – Community Governor

Summit Judo Club

Summit judo club are still very active. There is not a great deal to report this time regarding competitions although we did have one notable success in the Hampshire closed in Portsmouth at the end of last year. Congratulations go to Jordan on winning silver in the under 34's especially as it was his first.

Training sessions continue every Friday night at John Hunt School (see below for details) as well as the grading sessions which take place approximately every three months.

On the coaching front, we are able to draw on a wealth of experience with Len, Nigel and Eric and the odd occasional guest sessions by Steve from Hurst/AWE. We also have a new addition to the team with Paul Hamilton. Paul, who has been a member of the club for many years, has recently qualified as a club coach and is now starting to lead some of the training sessions.

Once again we will have nominations in the Gazette Annual sports Awards. Last year we saw Elliott Sumner make it through to the County awards where he made the final three for referee of the year. We hope that we can build on that this year with Len, for Services to sport, and Nigel, for coach of the year.

Following various fund raising events , and with generous donations from outside the club , we have been able to purchase a new crash mat. This is used during sessions by all players to help practice and develop new and more complex skills of the sport. It is hoped that in the near future we will be able to purchase at least one additional mat . If any one can assist through sponsorship or donation then please contact Len on the number below.

We are all looking forward to July and the Annual Festival of Sport. Once again we will be hosting our friends from Euskirchen in Germany and are looking forward to renewing old friendships, organizing social events and of course competing with each other.

At last we can confirm that our long awaited web site, www.summitjudo.org.uk is up and running. At the moment it is in its early stages but we aim to keep it updated with all the news and information relating to the club and its activities. 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 Friday nights at John Hunt school.

Beginners (6 to 10yrs) 6.30 to 7.30 Juniors (10 to 15 yrs) 7.30 to 8.30 and seniors (16 to very old) 8.30 to 9.45. for more information contact Len Dunce on 01256 464526 or 07860436831. *Andrew Summer*

News from John Hunt of Everest Community School

The February half-term activities have gone really well we had over 50 students aged between 11-16 year doing activities such as horse riding, self-defence, basketball, jiving, making valentine cards and mixing music, all activities were free. This was a joint venture between us, Sentinel Housing and Basingstoke Plus. Look out for more for over the Easter break where we are planning to have rugby and jive running every morning and trips and other activities in the afternoon.

Planning for the Summer term Family Learning activities is now in full flow, we still have some places on the creative arts workshops running every Saturday starting with mask making on 19th February, we have jewellery making , silk scarf painting, making a family book and a pottery workshop. Give me call on 01256 338725 if you are interested, all workshop are open to families and are free, children must be over the age of 5 years.

Next term we have a family magic day planned for Saturday 21st May, family Spanish, family Genealogy, for those wanting to find out about your family history. The SPOT (Supporting Parents of Teenagers) courses have been really successful so we are planning another one starting in May.

You may have heard our school steel pans band play at Festival place on Sunday 6th February, the band gave up their day to play and collected over £300 for the Tsunami Disaster Fund, there are other activities happening in the school to add to this amount.

The planning for the Popley Festival is going well, we have Kestrel Radio with us and they will front the entertainment schedule and we are planning to have a tethered balloon, sponsored by Sentinel Housing, as well as the usual funfair and car boot. We hope to see you all there on the day- Sunday 15th May 2005. *Suki Binning School Community Manager*

Marie Curie Cancer Care

The Marie Curie Cancer Care Day is on the 19th March. They look after seriously ill people with cancer in the comfort of their own homes. This is their major fund raising event of the year if you can spare an hour to help to collect at Chineham shopping area they would be most grateful call on 02380263123. Last year the volunteers raised £553.84. They have asked that we thank every one who helped or donated.



WHATS ON AT MELROSE HALL

MONDAY	MORNING 9.30 - 12PM COFFEE MORNING	AFTERNOON 7.30 - 10.30 Healing & Holistics
TUESDAY	9.30am - 11.30am TINY ACORNS CHILDMINDERS	6.30-7.30 PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE OF DANCE
WEDNESDAY	9.30 - 11.30 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP 9-45AM-11-30 STOP SMOKING CLINIC	12PM - 2PM OASIS LUNCH CLUB
THURSDAY	9.30-12PM COFFEE MORNING	7PM-8.30PM WEIGHT WATCHERS
FRIDAY	10AM 3PM LODDON ALLIANCE	6.30PM YOUTH CLUB
SATURDAY	9AM - 1PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE	
SUNDAY	10AM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	6.30PM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We also hire out our hall for private hire, children's or adult party's Weddings, meetings etc. Please call **Coo Cookson** on **01256 420676** for information or booking or Email melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk

Don't forget the **Wednesday Auction** there are hundreds of bargains Popleys very own Bargain Hunt fortnightly on a Wednesday, bidding starts at 6.30pm viewing from 4:15pm opens again on the 2nd/16th/30th March and fortnightly after that.

Sunday Outdoor Boot Sales at John Hunt Community School the boot sale will run throughout 2005 comencing at 10 am

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EXCITING TIMES AT ST. GABRIEL'S

Perhaps exciting isn't a word you normally associate with church, but here at St Gabriel's there is a real sense of excitement and anticipation of what God is doing among us here, and in our community.

It hardly seems possible that I've been here with my family for a year! So much has happened in the past twelve months and there have been many changes in the life of the church at St. Gabriel's. I want to pause just a brief moment and pay tribute to the family of St. Gabriel's. Throughout our first year they have been gracious and encouraging in accepting the changes. That real sense of being part of a family that first drew us here, has proved a stronghold as they have supported and cared for us and remained loyal in what has been, for some, a difficult year in many ways. So what's exciting about church?

NEW SERVICES: We now have a Family Communion Service on the first three Sunday mornings of each month and a new All Age Family Service on the last Sunday, all at 10.30 a.m.

We also hold a monthly service of evensong in the main lounge at Magnolia Court on Popley Way on the first Sunday of each month at 6pm which is a quiet gentle time of worship and open to all.

At the end of January we launched an informal evening service under the banner of PACT (Popley Action Churches Together). It's a lively, bouncy time of worship with teaching and prayer ministry that will hopefully appeal to all ages, it takes place on the last Sunday of each month at 6pm.

JC4KIDZ: This is our new Children's Club open to kids aged 5-11 years and held on Sunday mornings from 10.30 till the end of the morning service. The children have their own time and space for worship and activities in the hall before joining us at the end of the main service. We've been really blessed by the number joining in and we're looking forward to even more taking part.

ALPHA: Someone once told me that Christianity is not a crutch but a life support system! How true I have found this to be over times past when life has been really tough, with hindsight I can see clearly how God helped me when I was in the mire up to my neck. But it isn't just about the bad times! God is interested in all the aspects of our lives and loves to share the good times too. I would have missed out if I hadn't bothered to check out the claims of Jesus for myself! That's what ALPHA is all about – an opportunity to check it out for yourself and ask those questions you've always wanted to ask. Alpha is coming to St Gabriel's starting in April so watch out for advertising details around the community in the next few weeks.

I'd love to go on about so many of the other exciting things happening in the life of your parish church but space is limited. It's been amazing to meet so many of you through baptism, weddings and funerals and to get to know you. I hope that you'll come along to any of our services and see for yourself what God is up to here at St Gabriel's and may this Lent and Easter time be a real blessing to you, your family and friends as the living Christ is revealed through the Easter story.

With love in Christ, your Vicar, Arthur Botham

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**Are You Fed Up with Motorcycles Riding dangerously
in Popley ?**

Local Police and the Community Wardens have launched a programme targeting the riding of motorcycles dangerously in and around Popley.

This scheme is aimed at motorcycles (including mini bikes), which are ridden on paths and playing fields, which is dangerous, anti-social and causes local residents numerous problems.

New police powers are to be used and persistent offenders will have their motorcycles seized and removed, but for us to be able to do this we need YOUR help.

We need you to report all incidents of nuisance motorcycles to the community wardens office on 01256 845508 and you will be sent a diary sheet to record all future incidents. This information and any description of the bike or its rider are needed by us to reduce this problem.

Have you seen a motorcycle being ridden in your neighbourhood?

Do you know anyone who has a bike and rides it?

Maybe you have seen a neighbour taking his bike out from the garden?

All of these things are what we need to know to help this community reduce this problem, but we can't do it without your help!

Phone the Community Wardens office on 01256 845508 to report an incident or to give information (this can be anonymously)

“North Popley/John Hunt of Everest School - Project Update”

Following the grant of detailed planning consent for the replacement school, first stages of the spine road and part of the ridgeline planting in November, good progress has been made regarding the “implementation” programme for the North Popley project.

- Earlier this month saw the commencement (and now near completion) of the first part of the ridgeline planting (Area C) to the west of Sherborne Road up to the first shelter belt to take advantage of the current planting season.
- The first phase of archaeological investigations has now been completed (covering the proposed replacment school site. The formal evaluation report is awaited, and whilst a well shaft was discovered similar to that found in Oakridge, and a further area of strip and record investigation is needed, nothing has been found of anything more than local significance. It is hoped that a more detailed summary can be provided in relation to the findings in due course. In the meantime it is now proposed to extend the archaeological investigation to the remaining land that lies between Sherborne Road and Chineham Lane (to commence in March).
- A scheme of enabling works will start in March also to effect the demolition of the Wellfield Farm buildings, undergrounding of the two existing over head cables affecting the site, also installation of the acoustic fence at the top edge of the site.
- March will also see the commencement of the first contract to provide the required advance infrastructure works for the North Popley site. These involve a light control improvement to the junction of Chineham Lane and Popley Way and also the construction of the school access further up Chineham Lane. These works will involve a series of road closures and local diversions and more detailed advice regarding this, contact details for the contractor and project mananger will be sent to local residents nearer the time.

Continued progress is being made in respect of the replacement school project with advance earth works to prepare the school playing fields due to start in June with the main school build contract to follow on after to meet the programmed opening date of January 2007.

Following agreement with the Governing Body, May will see the commencement of the marketing of the first phase of development land at the existing John Hunt of Everest School. At a recent meeting it has been agreed that this sale will be in timed to allow the Popley Festival to be held on the school site in May 06 for the last time before the school transfers.

The near completion of the first part of the planting and proposed commencement of the highway contract next month in Chineham Lane mark the start “proper” of both the North Popley development and in particular the replacement school project. This represents an important milestone for the combined project. It is recognised that the initial construction works and the proposed building of the new school and associated housing on the North Popley and John Hunt of Everest School sites, will cause some local disruption, but it is believed that the longer term prize will be worth the short term inconvenience and measures have been taken to minimise any disruptions.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

poplefields@hotmail.com

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service: As I am sure you are aware the fire brigade plan to have a crew based at the centre from April this year. The process is in full swing and we are looking forward to the benefits we hope it will bring to this side of Basingstoke and especially to us in Popley.

Youth Shelter: The long awaited Youth Shelter is coming to fruition. It is hoped that it will be finished before the end of April and will give the young people of Popley a nice place to hang out without causing too much nuisance to any of the residents.

Youth Club: The Youth Club remains bursting at the seams. We continue to staff the Youth Club but we desperately need some volunteers as this would enable us to increase the range of activities on offer to the young people. So if you have a couple of hours to spare a week or month, please contact us. It can be incredibly rewarding and the benefits to the young people are obvious.

Out and About Partnership: We are members of the partnership. The aim is to run a few outings, trips and activities for the older persons of Basingstoke.

The first trip is due to be a visit to Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Farnham on Tuesday 7th June. Transport will be available from various points around Basingstoke. So if you are interested and want to know more, please contact us for more details.

A Tea Dance is also planned to be held at Popley Fields on Wednesday 24th November.

Popley Fields is a registered charity and is run by a small group of committed volunteers.

We are keen to recruit some new volunteers who may be able to help oversee the management of the centre over the next few exciting months and years as it develops.

If you are able to spare a small amount of time, or would like to find out more about what is involved in helping to foster community spirit in Popley, please contact Mark Head at Popley Fields.

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Popley Advice and Information Drop In

(Formerly Community Surgery)

We are changing our meeting place for the Community Surgery on the first Saturday of the month. We will be in St Gabriels Church and it will be renamed Popley Advice and Information Drop In it will start on January 8th then first Saturday every month at 12 to 1pm. You can drop in just to say hello or to ask advice on just about any subject. Police, Oakfern and Councillors will be there. There is also a further meeting every first Wednesday of the month in Magnolia Court with Pensions and Benefit, Citizens Advice Bureau and Age Concern along with myself as your County Councillor if you have any problems or need information just drop in, there is no appointment needed, confidentiality is assured. It has been three years since I started doing a community surgery as a new fresh idea of reaching people and making it easier to get help or advice, I have been informed that other areas in England have started doing the same, it is great to hear that it is achieving the goals we set out all that time ago Phone me on 819924 or 07974098131 for more details or if you have any concerns.

Jane Frankum County and Borough Councillor.



Working for Safer Communities

In this article I have included numerous frequently asked questions, which have been asked whilst patrolling the area:

Q. Who are the Police Beat officers for Popley?

A. Popley has 2 full time community beat officers PC Matt Deery & PC Paul Thorne

Q. Why do I never see a Policeman walking the beat anymore?

A. The Popley beat officers roles are to reduce crime and to reduce the fear of crime in the area. This means that a large percentage of our time is spent “on the beat”. We are both equipped with mountain bikes and these have been used over the last 2 years to enable us to cover more of the area. Patrolling is an important part of our role and is targeted, looking at crime patterns. These patrols are regular and cover the whole estate and often carried out in the evenings, but unless you spend your days and evenings looking out of your window then it is very possible you will not see us.

Q. Who should I phone if I want to report an incident to the Police

A. All emergencies should be reported on 999 but all non urgent incidents should be reported on the main switchboard number for the Hampshire Constabulary which is 0845 045 45 45. Details will then either be taken over the phone or an officer will be despatched.

Q. Can I phone my local station?

A. No, all incidents should be reported on the main switchboard Number 0845 045 45 45

Q. How can I contact my local Beat officer?

A. If you have an ongoing problem or an issue you want to raise with the local beat officer then call on the main switchboard number and ask to leave a message for the officer and he will be sent a message and will call you back. Remember this officer may be away and therefore is possible it may be some time before he returns your call. Alternatively a monthly drop in is held at St.Gabriels Church, Pershore Road on the first Saturday of each month 1 – 2 pm. Hopefully you may see one of us about in your neighbourhood in which case just flag us down and speak to one of us direct.

We can also be contacted via Email on:

matthew.deery@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

paul.thorne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

We will be having a large stand at the Popley Festival this year on 15th May at John Hunt of Everest School, so why not come and introduce yourself?

Q. Has crime increased in Popley?

A. No I am pleased to say that in 2004 crime in Popley has reduced 28% from 2003. This is excellent news, but crime is still much higher than we all want and we need your help. The police alone cannot beat crime: We need the support of our communities. We need you to take some simple security precautions to help you avoid becoming a victim of crime; we need you to tell us about crime in your area and about the people who are responsible for committing those offences.

We all have a part to play in ‘Creating Safer Communities’. I have no doubt that, by working together, we can make Popley even safer.



The Rights, Respect and Responsibility learning program

John Hunt and Popley are pioneering a new approach to behaviour and learning in school. The Rights, Respect and Responsibility learning program aims to give children the rights of the United Nations Convention on Childrens Rights as well as teaching about responsibilities and respect.

This hugely successful scheme has been rolled out across Canada where it has had a huge impact on standards and results in schools. Hampshire County Council are now piloting this scheme here in the UK in Popley, backed by the Labour Government and the Department for Education and Skills.

John Hunt is really leading the drive to inspire our young people to make the best of their time in school, and the relationship between the school and parents is crucial. The school is at the heart of the regeneration of North Popley and the massive investment that will be going into the Popley area over the next few years. Transforming the environment and buildings is one thing, helping the community feel rightly proud of Popley is also a huge part of the way forward.

Popley is a great place to live, and the school and the future of our young people is so important.

By bringing business, education, and community groups together with the two council's the opportunity to really deliver something special for Popley is brought a step closer to reality. We can make such a difference and I know that everyone involved is incredibly positive about the future.

Paul Harvey Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills and School Governor