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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

June 2005

Issue 40

Supported by the :-



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Message From the Editor:- The Popley Matters has got so big now and so much is happening in Popley that we are proposing going to go to a monthly magazine instead of quarterly. This will enable us to have lots of different features from cooking to gardening and even the possibility of classified ads. We are a non profit residents group of people that have given our time freely for many years now and we all feel it is a step forward. It would mean that with all the extra work we would need to pay a part-time administrator and they would be paid a part-time wage entirely paid for by the advertising. This makes no difference to you the readers in cost, as Popley Matters will still be free. The magazine is nearly fourteen years old now and ready to grow. We would like to have a few more people to deliver just 50 or so at a time is useful as some of our helpers are delivering hundreds at a time if you can spare one hour a month it would be most appreciated contact Iris King on 411113.

There are some really good things to read in Popley Matters like the Popley Festival report, it was a sizzling hot day and there were throngs of people. The estimate is around 15,000 people. Families came from Reading, Newbury and even a visitors from Oxford. See the report and photos on page 16.

There is news from the Police, Wardens, Scouts and groups that help in all sorts of ways to make Popley a great place to live. If you belong to a group or club and would like to advertise with us or write an article we can be reached by phone Jane 819924 or Iris 411113 or if you have email you can email us on popley.matters@btopenworld.com We would like your holiday stories or something that your family want to share with us, or let us know if there is a special occasion or message you want to send as a surprise.

This is your magazine and we want you to enjoy it or all our many hours of work will be wasted.

Lets hope we have a beautiful and warm Summer this year.

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@btopenworld.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.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Vacant; Advertising/Liaison Kate Lomas; Committee Member Ron Rowe; Distribution Iris King; **Distribution Team:** Ann Allwright; Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Win Harris; Iris King; Kylie Humphries; Colin Karslake; Cherry Lewis; Val Lye; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Derek Nicholas; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Martin Stacey; Kim Taylor; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Alison Walker; **Youth Volunteers;** Nathan Barris; Alex Humphries; Laura Humphries; Ryan Humphries;

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I have a copy of the article in the last Popley Matters in front of me, in the report from the Community Wardens it states they and the police are targeting riding motorcycles dangerously. Surely it is for the police to say what is dangerous, not the general public it could have said illegally. Then there is the bit at the bottom, have you seen a motorcycle being ridden in your neighborhood? do you know anyone who has a bike and rides it? Maybe you have seen a neighbor taking his bike out from the garden?

I do all of these things and so do people in Popley, these statements seem too broad you could get people just phoning up because a chap takes his perfectly legal bike out, it seems not to be worded the best way.

I do not condone the use of bikes that are ridden illegally and I know it is a problem also in Brighton Hill as one of the chaps was telling me on Thursday. Some of the people at the Motor Cycle Action Group club have asked me to look into the matter. We used to have a problem with skate boarders and bmxers and now they have got parks to do it on, but the problems with bikes is insurance and they are not that popular with the general public Finding people to help to educate these youths on how to ride, fix and look after motorbikes might not be a problem as I am on good terms with Nick Robinson Motorcycles and Just Motorcycles. The problem of somewhere to do it is a bit harder, MAG Basingstoke

Editor; The report was clear that the aim was about illegal riding on paths and parks also the dangers of being antisocial. There is no criticism of legitimate and licensed motorcyclist. Back in my much younger days I was a "rocker" and rode pillion. The aim is to stop the noise and nuisance and dangerous riding on paths where there has already been an accident and people having to get out of the way. One lady who is severely disabled had to be pushed against the shopwindow to save her from being knocked down. I dread to think how badly she could have been hurt and this was a lady who works so very hard in the community despite her condition. This sort of behavior is just not acceptable and I am sure you agree. I have asked about a youth facility for repairing cars and bikes for a long time but there was no one to help or place to go where it would not disturb people. If there are people out there who are interested perhaps we could get together and see if it is a viable issue.

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

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

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



Being a Community Warden we get a chance to work with other agencies to help tackle some tremendous challenges and see some amazing results. When out and about on patrol we meet many people who share with us their worries and current issues as well as their appreciation for our work. This is probably the most valuable part

of our work.

Over the last three months we have been involved in re-launching the Mocktails Bar at the Popley Fields Community Centre with over 100 people attending each week. This is very encouraging to see.

We are pleased to have been involved with the Popley Festival for the second year running as this is a successful event which helps to bring us all together as a community.

Dates for your diary...

"I must let you all know about the next Community Warden Football Day which is going to be held on Thursday 2nd June 2005. The event will take place at the Sherbourne Road Playing Fields in Oakridge from 10:30 to 16:00. We want to see as many of you there as possible.

"Stephen and I are also starting a football afternoon once a week in Popley for a bit of a kick-around. This will take place at Pershore Road Open Space at 15:45 until 17:15 every Friday and is open to anybody aged 6 – 18 years. This started from the Friday 27th May 2005. If you're interested come along on a Friday and bring a bottle of water, shin pads (if you have some) and appropriate footwear with you." Sarah

"I've been delighted to see the continued downtrend in crime and anti-social behaviour in Popley. Some of the more low-level anti-social behaviour such as litter and graffiti has also been on the decrease and this can only be attributed to the strengthening sense of community we have here in Popley.

"Popley is becoming a place to be proud of, which is why we've combined the Community Warden 'Proud of Popley' initiative with Sentinel Housing Group's 'Rubbish Raiders' to plan a 'Great Clean-up Day' on Saturday 4th June 2005 at the Melrose Community Hall on Abbey Road. The event will begin at 11am with teams of people targeting areas which need a good clean up from both litter and graffiti. This will be followed by a celebration BBQ for all who have participated. Everyone is invited to take part on the day, and the more residents who get involved the cleaner the place will be.

"Please remember to say hi if you have any problems or just want a chat, and we'll keep working as hard as we can to make our community even greater." Steve





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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 will be the Popley Advice and Information Drop In it started on January 8th still on the first Saturday every month at 1pm - 2pm. You can call in just to say hello or to ask advice on just about any subject. Police, Community Wardens, Sentinel (Oakfern) have your Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and a tenant representative and Borough and County Councillors will also be there, no appointment needed, confidentiality is assured. If your concern cant wait I also have drop ins on the third Thursday of the month at Oakridge Hall For All and Third Saturday of the month at the United Reform Hall It has been four years since we started doing a these surgeries 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.*

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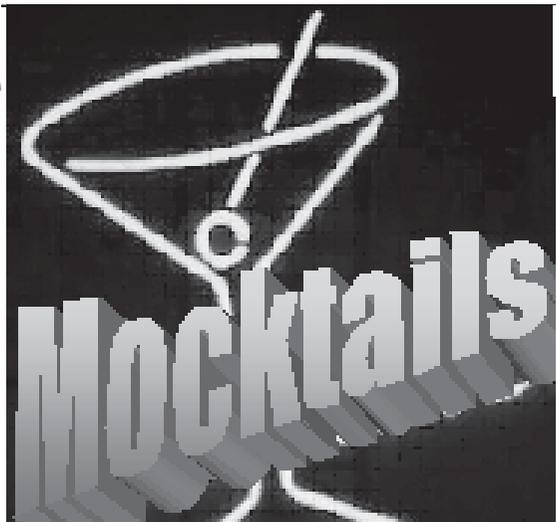
Help us to help you please ask us for your requirements and we will try to provide them

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



MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS



MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

Working in partnership Millennium Volunteers **and** The local Community Wardens at **Popley Fields Community Centre every Thursday 6:00pm – 8:30pm**
Come and try a Cocktail!

The non-alcoholic Teen Bar

The Mocktails bar is now self-funding and all profits will go towards enhancing the bar and youth facilities around it.

It is available for special events such as Festivals, Charity events and School proms.

The bar, managed by young volunteers, aims to provide a healthy drink option for young people, to educate them away from the belief that you need alcohol to socialise.

The cocktails are vitamin enriched to aid young people's usual bad diets.

Recent research shows poor diet can influence anti social behaviour.

The bar will act as a vehicle to signpost young people towards new volunteering opportunities, other youth provisions, onsite activities, development of workshops, Peer education and play an active part in running youth projects

If you would like to book the bar for your event or project
Please contact Jaynie on 01256 423812 or Shelagh on 01256 423821

Diaries from the Old Codger

Well summer is on us already, flowers in the garden are out birds feeding young. This year the lack of blue tits has been a bit of a worry as usually they are out fighting for nest boxes. but its great to see an increase of finches again on the popley's a lot of this is due to the amount of shrubs and trees we have in the area lets hope more can be done in this field to attract them to our estates.

Basingstoke's a place to be proud of awards is due soon and I wish all the proposed candidates good luck it is a great honour to receive one. the council and gazette have worked hard to get these awards off the ground and a lot of our citizens in Basingstoke will be honoured on the night for there contribution to our town, there may be a hand full of people that think it is rubbish but I say this to them why do you stay.

Talking of rubbish, I have over the last few years been recycling my refuse so has my next door neighbour. At one time my refuse bin was full up every week, now you are lucky to see it a third full but recycling has produced one large green bin every fortnight. Take that over a year you have recycled a lot of rubbish most of witch is turned into compost that you can buy for the garden and its good stuff. So come on every one lets see this increase, the more we recycle the cheaper the compost becomes. On the green bin situation have you noticed the amount of them laying on the grass verges because people are not taking them in I counted six in my road alone that were in the same spot for four weeks before they were taken in so a lot of good recycling material went in the normal rubbish.

Now I don't know if our editor will put this bit in I hope so. We have just gone thru a patch of viruses at the hospital closing down wards because of it; this is due to NOT washing hands. In the hospital at the main entrance you can see hand scrub, my nephew is two years old as soon as he gets in the main door he goes and scrubs his hands while countless adults walk past, and he is not told to do this he was shown once. Again it is the same on the wards, when he leaves again he scrubs his hands this is basic hygiene and the adults should be ashamed of themselves not to use this procedure especially when they see a two year old do it automatically. I hope you all have a good summer and holidays stay safe.

The Old Codger

“The Life of David”

Following the success of last year’s play based on the life of Christ you are invited to come and see yet another amazing one man show

Performed by Eric Petrossian

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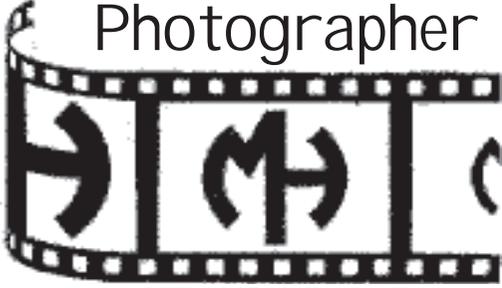
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Councillors Page

Thank you to every one who voted to re elect me on May 5th, I hope to achieve a lot in the next four years. The New John Hunt Community School will be built and the start of building new homes so that our children and future generations will have homes of their own to bring up their families in. With Paul Harvey as the Leader of the council and his interest in Education and regeneration Popley will be bound to benefit.

The youth facility should be finished soon by Popley Fields right by where the new temporary fire station is. The Fire Service are also offering a free fire safety check on all homes in Hampshire with advice on how to make your home safer and should you need a smoke alarm or your old one is past its best the fire-fighters are fitting them for free. You do not have to take their advice but it would make sense to do so.

Yellow lines will soon be painted on roads where it is considered to be dangerous to park and certainly near the Abbey Road shops is a key area. Lorries, vans and cars parked opposite the T junction are obstructing the view for drivers.

The pharmacy is opening soon a little later than was first anticipated but it is amazing how many different papers that have to be signed.

The new path from Dryden to Shakespeare House will be started once the public consultation has finished and if there are no real objections.

The number 5 bus service update: well the tenders are in for Hampshire County Council to apply to subsidise. Thank you to all the wonderful people that wrote letters to support the need to continue this vital service. I am more than hopeful in fact quite confident that we will keep this service and maybe still on the every 15 minutes.

What brilliant sunshine at the Popley Festival. This year was the biggest and best ever. Visitor numbers were estimated at 12000 to 15000. We are always proud of Popley but that Sunday was glorious I spoke to people from Newbury, Reading and lots of our villages they were all saying how wonderful it was. Read the report on page 16.

I hope you have all heard of Kickstart it is a scheme that we can all get involved with. The Police, Councillors, Community Wardens and Sentinel are all involved and you the community can help to stop the antisocial behaviour of these riders on what I call clown bikes. They remind me of clowns in full costume and red nose going round the circus ring looking so silly you want to laugh, but it is not funny they have no regard for other people on paths or in our parks and have knocked down one child and sent some of our senior citizens fleeing trying to get out of the way. If you know where they live or where they ride please call the phone numbers on page 11. This is not aimed at legitimate "bikers" who keep to the roads, insure and tax their bikes and wear proper helmets. This is just the start of campaigns to reduce dramatically the anti social behaviour that seems to be occurring everywhere in our borough. *Jane Frankum on 01256819924*



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: Eve Alexander 73 Falkland Road, Popley (01256) 346510

With the lighter evenings the colony has been out and about discovering tadpoles, frog spawn and pond dipping at Black Dam working towards the Outdoor Challenge badge. Four new recruits were invested at the beginning of May and we hope to invest one other later this month bringing the total number in the colony to 16. 3 of our older members are 'linking' with the cub scout section and will soon move on to yet more exciting adventures. The final total raised from collecting small coins in a water bottle for the Tsunami Appeal was £76. 10 Beavers attended District Easter Fun Day and won the competition for a model made from recycled materials. The prize was a simply 'gi-normous' Easter Egg which they eagerly devoured at the next meeting! Other activities involved making fridge magnets, bird feeders, decorating eggcups and planting bulbs. They also had lots of fun playing parachute games.



Cub scout section (for boy 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

The pack has been extra busy in recent weeks as the warmer days and lighter evenings allow the cubs to follow trails in the woods and explore the environment. Ten cubs took part in ProAct Badge weekend to gain Adventure and Outdoor Challenge badges whilst the remainder visited Middle Wallop Army Flying Museum. David Idicula won the District's Cub Scout Chess competition for those aged over 9½ years and went on to take 3rd place in the County competition winning three out of five games. Vashit Mokur came 3rd in the District competition for the younger age group. Twelve members attended ProAct weekend at Lyons Copse in April to complete the Naturalist badge. A day at Runways End Activity Centre kept the entire pack busy on the climbing tower, abseiling and clambering through the obstacle course but they still managed to fit in a visit to the Military Museum. Lots of other badges have been awarded including Physical Recreation, Outdoor, Caring and Fitness Challenge awards. Three cubs are in the final stages of completing the Chief Scout's Silver Award – the highest accolade a cub scout can achieve. Well done! Future plans include a visit to Gilwell Park the home of Scouting for the annual Cub Scout Fun Day with a 'magical' theme; a return visit to Runways End for archery, climbing and adventurous activity, canoeing and a visit to Lasham airfield.



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

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

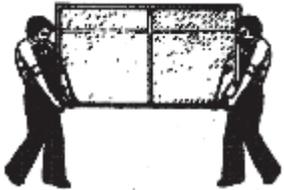
Leader: Colin Karstlake 14 Gilbert Close, Popley (01256) 410559

There has been a significant increase in membership since April. Attendance at Kemble Air Show in Gloucestershire is confirmed and will include tours of a number of light aircraft 'flying in', orienteering and a visit to the British Flying Museum. The troop also has an invitation to visit Popham Airfield during the Spring Bank Holiday. Several members joined the cub at Runways End in Farnborough for a day of adventurous activities. Summer Camp this year will be at Lyons Copse in August for an action packed week of adventure and challenge. Plans for the future include air rifle shooting, parascending and canoeing with the help of skilled instructors from Basingstoke East District.

Group News:- All sections of the Group took part in the District Annual St. George's Day Parade and Service in the town centre on 24th April. The parade through the 'top of the town' was led by the Royal British Legion Band from Old Basing. Pat Brown, the Group Scout Leader is getting back into the swing of things having been away for some while due to an enforced hospital stay. Welcome back Pat. He will be well to the fore at Popley Festival as the Group runs its annual BBQ – we have the best burgers in town. Make sure you try one! Pat can be contacted on 0774 609 1919

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Summit Judo Club

A frequently asked question is whether or not sport should be done for fun or only be taken seriously. At Summit Judo Club we believe that sport is something to be enjoyed by everyone. Our sessions are designed for those who wish to take up the sport for fun and a regular work-out but also for those who wish to take progress to a more competitive level. We welcome and encourage players of all abilities to come along and give it a try, at whatever level they choose.

We have, over recent years, had a fair degree of success with medals at events in Hampshire and Sussex. We have had players win places in the Hampshire and Southern Area Squads and have even had one young player reach the National finals. As for this year, we have already had success at the first event in Portsmouth and congratulations go to Hannah Graham who put in an excellent performance against more experienced opposition and came away with a Bronze medal. We hope to be sending a strong team to the Hampshire Closed Competition in Portsmouth on May 22nd and, over the rest of the year, will be taking part at further competitions in Hampshire, Sussex and Home Counties at both junior and senior levels.

Judo is a sport which was derived from the art of Jujitsu. In April we were joined at the club by players from the Basingstoke Jujitsu club. It was a very successful evening that provided an interesting challenge for their. There are certain moves allowed in Jujitsu that are not allowed in Judo but they are sure to get their own back when we join them at one of their sessions later in the year.

Summit will, once more, be hosting the qualifying trials to select a Basingstoke team that will represent the town at the HIOW games in July. Invitations are being sent to all Judo clubs in Basingstoke. We hope to continue the long tradition of having Summit players qualify to represent the team which is managed by our coach Nigel McBrayne and has won Bronze and Silver medals at past events.

As mentioned in the last edition we had a number of nominations in the Gazette Annual Sports Awards. As always the level of competition was very high and we were unfortunate not to have any winners at this year's event. In 2004 we saw Elliott Sumner make it through to the final three in the County Awards for Referee of the Year.

Plans are well under way for this year's Festival of Sport. We are again looking forward to hosting the players from Euskirchen, Germany who will be arriving on July 1st. This is a time where sport and fun come together in one event and enables us to renew old friendships as well as making new ones. On arrival they will join us in a training session at John Hunt on the Friday night with the competition on the Saturday at the AWE centre.

In the last edition it was noted that the club had finally got its long awaited web site, www.summitjudo.org.uk it is up and running but an improved version is currently being developed. The address will be given in the next edition of Popley Matters.

So, if you would like to take part in a sport, which regularly appears at the Olympics, for fun or at competition level then Summit Judo Club is the place to go. Come and join us on a Friday night at John Hunt School - Beginners (6 - 10yrs) 6:30 - 7:30, Juniors (10 - 15 yrs) 7:30 - 8:30 and Seniors (16 - very old) 8:30 - 9:45. For more information contact Len Dunce on 01256 - 464526 or 07860 435831

GREETINGS FROM THE POPLEY PARTNERSHIP

It has been a little while since you last heard from us, not because we have been doing little but so much has been going on!

The Partnership met on four occasions during 2004 and once so far this year.

We have been concentrating on three main areas where progress is being made through joint working; The Longfellow Parade Regeneration (refer to Issue 39 of Popley Matters); the North Popley Development and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Popley Project.

The Partnership is keen to be the eyes and ears of the North Popley Development so apart from receiving presentations on the key issues we are also being kept regularly informed as progress is made. In this way the Partnership can offer advice and guidance to the right people so that there is a local voice being heard.

The LSP Popley Project is in its infancy. This project is taking the information from all the surveys and consultations that have taken place over the years, along with Government Office statistics and looking at the key areas that you have said are important to you, education, crime and income. The Project hopes to bring together the agencies and other groups including local people to see what can be done to make improvements in these three areas. It is early days yet but the intention of the LSP is to use the Popley Partnership as one of the Groups that can help the Project move forward.

Other issues discussed by the Popley Partnership have been parking and garage problems, Sentinel Housing Group's Pride in Your Place Walkabouts, litter removal and the bus service.

At our last meeting in March we also had a presentation from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on the outcome of the 'Perception of Crime and Safety Survey'. This is very interesting and details can be found on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's website.

Finally, we have been spending quite a bit of time at our meetings reviewing and updating our original Progress Plan so that we can make sure that the issues outstanding are still relevant and if so progressed. When this review is complete we will celebrate with you and Popley Matters all the successes

Merton Popits announces it has won its accreditation

We are now accredited playschool. We are situated in Merton infant School.

As a parent I am overjoyed that they have been awarded this. We are a lovely playgroup the children are taught respect and encouraged to care for others and also to share, the staff are all extremely friendly. The children enjoy learning about themselves, families and healthy eating which they do every day by eating fresh fruit as their snack they also have milk or water to drink.

We have a committee of dedicated parents and encourage parental involvement. My child thinks of playschool as an extended family and somewhere to have lots of fun.

The children enjoy a wide range of activities including water and sand outside play (weather permitting).

Since my child has been at the playschool she has become a lot more confident in herself and a lot more independent. She has learnt to respect the environment more. She has learnt to respect her elders and her peers.

We are currently doing loads of activities to raise funds to buy new equipment one of which is every few weeks the children go in fancy dress to which a small charge is made and the children absolutely enjoy this. The playschool treats each child as an individual and caters for their individual needs, also since being at the playschool my child has learnt some sign language she has also learnt that everybody is different and that they all have different abilities.

If you would like anymore information on enrolling a child or have any items you could donate or help with fundraising please contact Jan 351036.

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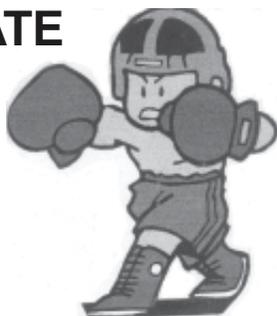
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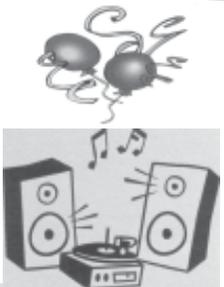
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Basingstoke & District Railway Society

The Basingstoke & District Railway Society is open to all those who have an interest in railways, both past and present. It has been in existence over 30 years, having been formed in 1974.

The Society normally meets on the second and fourth Wednesday in each month at the Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke from 20.00 hrs. to about 22.15 hrs. The programme includes film and slide shows given by guest speakers and Society members, as well as the occasional competition. The Society also has an extensive video library of railway subjects, which is open to members to hire at reasonable charge, as well as a sales table of books and magazines on various transport topics. In addition to club evenings the Society arranges visits by rail and road, and an annual dinner.

There is an annual subscription charge (currently £6), and attendance at meetings costs a further £1 per evening. This gives full Society benefits including the monthly *Newsletter* and advantageous prices for Society visits.

Forthcoming meetings include: -

11 May–Arthur Turner–The St. Pancras–Bedford Line 1944–1964

25 May–Members Quiz

8 June–Ron White–More from Colour Rail

22 June–David Johnson–“Will it fit?”–all about UK gauging

13 July–Chris Dann–The Southern Thumpers DEMU’s

27 July–Ian Clare–Cine Miscellaneous

If you would like to share our interest, do please come along, or contact either the Membership Secretary, John Priest on 01962 890872 or the Secretary Peter Tran on 01256 326096.

Different Worlds

Supporting Parents of Children and Adults on the Autistic Spectrum

We are a group of parents, carers, friends and relatives and all have personal experience of Aspergers Syndrome or other Autistic Spectrum Disorders. The group was set up by parents for parents and other carers etc to find, and, offer some badly needed mutual support in this very challenging and often distressing area of daily life. There was no other support or help available locally that catered for Aspergers Syndrome so the decision was made to start our group in December 2003.

We remember a couple of years ago when our son was uncontrollable, and not having a proper diagnosis, as a last resort we turned to the Social Services for Respite. We had no extended family. We were turned down after going through a humiliating assessment - which was full of inaccuracies, and mainly lies from my son's former school, but enough said about them.

We meet fortnightly and invite 'Guest Speakers' along to the meetings. We have had visits from Social Services, the Local Education Authority, and Alternative Therapists re. dietary advice etc.

We don't judge people and we genuinely want to help parents and perhaps it's because of our own experiences that we feel this way. Having two older 'normal' children - now young adults, we never knew of the horrors that parents could face until I had an ASD child ourselves. We knew nothing about Autism until our mid 30's so we had a lot to learn, especially as Steve and Michelle are 'normal'. We had no-one to turn to, and so Different Worlds was started.

Don't be worried about walking into our group as you can sit with someone sympathetic who fully understands the situation you are in. No-one will ask you embarrassing questions or make you feel awkward. You may be a single parent and think that you're alone here - you are not! Whether you're working or not, married or not, how many children you may have, race, religion or colour, you are very welcome.

Our sole object is to help Parents to help the children, so even if you come the once or can't make every meeting because of babysitters etc we understand, but do try and come along. We hope that you'll be pleasantly surprised and maybe make some new friends who understand your situation. The Group also welcomes adults with AS, as no-one knows the condition better than them.

Further information is available on our web site: www.differentworlds.org.uk and we can be contacted by phone, Sandra on 01256 474972 or Tony on 01256 358066 or e-mail Lyn at ls.fusion@virgin.net

Lyn and Tony

POPLEY RESIDENTS

Are you fed up with Nuisance Motorcycles?



We need your help to reduce this problem
Call the HOTLINE with any sightings or information

01256 845508





Firstly may I thank all the organisers of this years Popley Festival. This event is supported by Basingstoke Police and again this year has exceeded all expectations. Record numbers of local people attended the event and all seemed to have a good time. Thank you to all of you who came to the Police stand and said hello.

I am pleased to say that the area still has a much lower crime rate than in previous years. I believe that this is because of a strong local community as seen at the festival.

I am still working hard on operation “Kickstart” which is aimed at reducing nuisance motorcycles in the area. To make this work we need information from each of you. Do you know or suspect anyone who is riding a bike near you? Either phone the Police on 0845 0454545 or the Community Wardens on 845508 and we’ll do the rest.

We have recently seen an increase in break-ins to garages and the theft of Mopeds. Please ensure you chain your Moped to something inside your garage or back garden. Again please any information or suspicions please call us and help us deal with the problem. You can call anonymously on crime stoppers 0800 555 111

I hope you have a very safe and happy summer

PC3126 Matt Deery



Rubbish Raiders Event

Due to the success of the Rubbish Raiders event held last year in the Popley area, Sentinel Housing Group in partnership with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the Community Wardens will be holding another Rubbish Raiders event on Saturday 4th June. During the day we will collect rubbish and litter as we walk around the estate.

All volunteers are welcome, including children. Drinks and refreshments, gloves and litter picks will be provided on the day. So please come along and join us.

We will be meeting at Melrose Hall at 11 o'clock on 4th June.

If you require more information please call 0800 195 5515.

Popley Conservation Volunteers

After all the hard work put in by the volunteers it was disappointing to see in early April the pond afloat with cans, bottles and other rubbish. Someone had apparently held a party at the pond. Unfortunately because it is the middle of the Great Crested Newt breeding season it will not be possible to clean up for several months. After the exceptionally dry winter it looks as though the pond will dry up this summer. If it does we should be able to get most of the rubbish out.

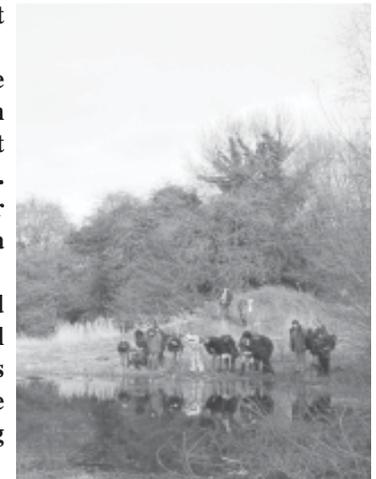
Although it is not possible to work on the pond at the moment PCV have been active in other areas. Several of us are working towards an English Nature Survey and Conservation License. Working towards this end we hosted a training course delivered by the Herpetological Conservation Trust held at Popley Community Centre. We invited a number of guests from outside of Basingstoke. Great interest was shown in the pond and we received offers of help.

The prime reason for conserving the ponds is for the large population of Great Crested Newts. Quite a lot is known about their range in the fields north of the ponds but we know virtually nothing about where they are in the Popley estate. We would like to get a better idea of their range within the estate. If you have seen one in your garden we would like you to tell us, as the information will help us to better understand the population range and movement of these animals.

Is there anyone who remembers Popley before the estates were built? If so we would like to hear from you. What was the area like? Who lived here and what did they do? The area must have been very rural. Perhaps you have a story about a local character or farmer. If so we would really like to know and have a chat with you.

Anyone travelling along Carpenters Down road cannot have failed to notice huge piles of clay and soil behind the fencing in the new development area. This is due to some new ponds that have been dug as part of the conservation strategy. With so much green space being built over it is good to know that the newts have done us a favour and that due to their presence we will all be able to enjoy a natural green space within Popley. Although it has been a dry winter the ponds are now full. Once they are planted and become established they should become an attractive feature. David Glover Popley Conservation Volunteers

If you would like to know more about conservation within Popley or Popley Conservation Volunteers contact: Lee Roth Lee.roth@networkrail.co.uk or Phone 01256 330738





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	4-8.30 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

For information on any type of booking call Coo Cook on 01256 420676 for information or booking or Email melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk

After Rubbish Raiders back by popular request Melrose Mammoth Sale at 2pm sold by the bag full come to both events and have a FUN time

Don't forget the Wednesday Auction there are hundreds of bargains Popleys very own Bargain Hunt fortnightly on a Wednesdays June 8th/22nd July 6th/20th and fortnightly after that. 4-15 for Lots, 5-30 viewing, 6-30 bidding

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

Mum's dad's and kids. Aldworth Science College have Leisure and Learning courses for all the family including (fitness, cooking, pottery, guitar, childcare and more). We shall be running a 10 week computer course at **Melrose Hall** starting Monday 19th September 2005 at 1.00pm-3.00pm. For more details about this and any other courses due to start in the Autumn Term contact Kathleen on 01256 473698.

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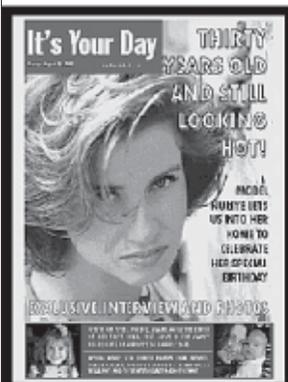
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Dear Friends,

So all the dust has now settled from the General Election and we're able to welcome Tony Blair and his government to serve a third term. It's also good to welcome back our local councillors, Jane and Paul Frankum. I hope that you all were able to exercise your vote and that whatever your political persuasion you will support our local politicians in their endeavours to improve the lives and the communities of those they have been elected to serve.

We live in a very complex society and choice forms such an important part of our daily lives. Choice is a privilege is something we exercise almost as second nature – where we shop, work or send our children to school; what we wear, what we eat and even how we spend our leisure hours – whether at sports, hobbies or just chilling out in front of the TV with a cold beer or glass of wine!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in a society that denied you that freedom to choose? For millions of people around the world these sorts of choices are a luxury rather than a right or a freedom. Slavery, forced labour for children and lives spent in poverty or penury is still very prevalent in our world. I cannot possibly imagine what it must be like to wake at three in the morning, go to work without breakfast and come home at ten O' clock at night to sleep in a single room with ten other people – and all for less than £2 a month – and yet this is the reality for millions. How would you cope?

When you wake up tomorrow and before you rush into the day spend just a few moments to count your blessings and spare a thought for those whose lives are a daily struggle often to provide the goods we consume.

This is the year of the 'Make Poverty History' campaign – you can find out more on their website. It's an opportunity to petition the G8 governments to do something radically practical to abolish once and for all the massive Third World debt and to improve the lives of millions – the cost to us would be minimal.

Leaders are called to exercise their authority with wisdom and justice and desire for freedom for all. Please pray daily for these gifts to evident in all our politicians at local, national and international level.

With love in Christ, your friend and vicar

Arthur.

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Wow, beat that as they say. Popley Festival was the biggest and best that I have seen in all the years I have been going. I remember the first ones when it was the Boys Brigade and St Gabriels Church and we had about ten stalls. Just look at the photos everyone looks so happy. There was so much to do and see with the biggest boot sale I have ever

seen, there were some fantastic bargains too. The sun shone all day right from 6 am when some of the volunteers started their very long day. I know many were still working about twelve hours later doing all the clearing up.

A staggering 15,000 yes fifteen thousand visitors came and saw among them the air balloon. Boot sale, beer tent, singing and performers on stage giving excellent performances. The smell of the beef burgers was too good to ignore and I joined the queue. The colourful masks were made by the children themselves and they were very colorful. The fair was busy and loads of fun as you could



hear the laughter all around Popley.

There were some trade stands and the Community Safety Team were there to talking to people and asking them to fill out a form, right next door was the Popley Conservationists with some amazing pictures of what the Popley White Horse Pond used to look like. One of my favorite stalls was the Mocktails cool, tasty non alcoholic and very welcome in the heat. The display for the new John Hunt School was there and the chance to say what we would like the new school to be called. There was a merry band of litter pickers also advertising the next litter pick they are great fun to go on I have been on some.



This could be the last year on the John Hunt School site so it was just wonderful to see so many people getting involved: the police, fire service, council, wardens, schools, churches together Scouts and so many more. I cant remember them all. Well done to all on the committee who worked for a whole year to

make it such a glorious day. I went home tired sunburnt but very happy. *Jane Frankum*

See you all at Popley Festival 2006



Norden (Oakridge) are having their very first festival on July 9th by and in the Hall for All why not go along and support them from 10 am till 3pm



**Photographs are by the courtesy of Ian Longthorne
contact phone number 07901667961**