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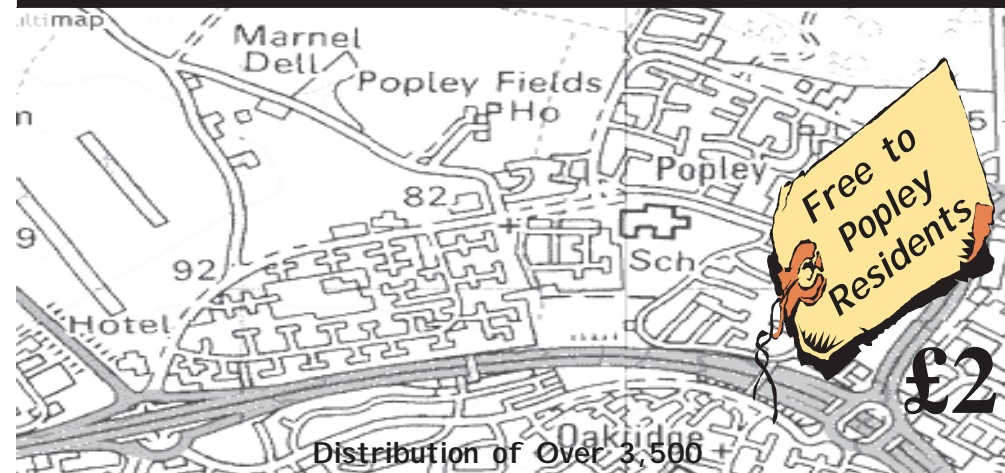
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

August 2006

Issue 54



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-08-06)

Message From the Editor:-

Firstly may I say thank you to everyone who asked about our Sub Editor Paul Frankum. Paul is gaining strength and we are grateful to all the great staff in the health service. Paul was given six units of blood and campaigning to get more donors. There is a mobile blood donors unit that goes all over Basingstoke and Deane. If you want to know more phone 0845 7711711 or look on the website www.blood.co.uk

The heat is affecting lots of people from the very young to old wrinkles like me. There is some sound advice on page 4.

The Community Wardens page on page 1 has a poem written by David Mason who has been with us for a few months now. Proud of Popley Awards night is on August 4th and I look forward to meeting lots of Popley people there. The Community Wardens will do a full report in our September issue.

The winner in the Citizen of the year 2006 in the Pride In Our Place was Mary Brian, who is our Councillor in Popley West.

There is a proposal to close the Haymarket Theatre for nine months then open again with a new management team. There has been little or no consultation with you the public and this is wrong. What about the wonderful amateur shows that I and my family really enjoy? Can we be sure that the theatre will reopen?

The Old Codger is getting better after his last bout of illness and has been down memory lane again on page 6 & 7 I get so many messages about how you enjoy his stories, he has said if you want to email him he will answer your questions and maybe you can share a yarn or two.

We are still looking for some volunteers to help with delivering your Popley Matters as many of our regular wonderful volunteers are on holiday or getting older and it needs some younger and fitter people.

Have a great holiday and stay safe.

Jane Frankum Editor

Hits on popley.matters.org.uk website for month of July 2018

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke.RG24 9EL email editor@popleymatters.org.uk
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; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Kevin Walker; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;

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Letters to The Editor



and Abbey Court are often having difficulty getting across the road to go to the shops or pick up their prescriptions, Six of our schools face onto this busy road and it is impossible to get lollypop people because of the abuse and danger they feel, and this creates an added hazard for crossing the road.

Dear Editor; I read the Old Codgers article and, as a water scientist, I thought I would shed light on the issue of the right kind of rain.

During the summer, the ground becomes very hard and you'll notice when watering the garden, the water just runs over the top and doesn't sink in very quickly. Also, when it rains in the summer, it is generally hard and is in short bursts annoying because it soaks the washing on the line before you even notice it has rained. This generally runs very quickly into the rivers rather than soaking into the ground replenishing the groundwater. This is why we get flash floods, there is no where to store the water, particularly in the long run. In the winter, the rain is generally more drizzly and sustained. this softens the ground up and lets the water pass through

to the water table. the problem is that we have had very little rain over the winter which is why we have drought problems. We should use the new development as an opportunity to harvest the water that falls on the roofs and the car parks etc. This could be collected and recycled, either down the loo or as a community irrigation system or some other similar scheme.

Energy is another thing to be considered in these new developments, in all this heat and sun, is anyone considering the possibility of harvesting this energy? That is another story altogether! Orkney Close.

Editors reply; I am sure our readers would love to read about energy and climate change

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, RG24 9EL or
email: or phone 819924
editor@popleymatters.org.uk**



Popley Advice Surgeries

If you need help or advice there are several surgeries where you can go or phone the contact details are:- Community Wardens Sarah and David at Melrose Hall every Tuesday from 3pm-4pm Contact phone number 845508.

Popley West and East Councillors surgery is the first Saturday of the month at St Gabriels Church from 1pm to 2pm contact no appointment needed

Popley West Paul Frankum 472496 or Jane Frankum 819924, Popley East Andy McCormick 419376 or Mary Brian 322108 and County Councillor Jane Frankum 819924

Maria Miller MP Appointments on 02072195749 House of Commons or 322207 at 149d Pack Lane email millerm@parliament.uk



Fly Tipping. A Poem for Popley by D. Mason

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,
Why are you there?

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,

A sign that some people don't care.

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,

You're an unsightly horrible mess,

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,

Sitting on a street corner, you cause people stress.

A TV, a mattress, an old frying pan,

A carpet, a fridge, a blue broken fan.

A sofa, a stereo, shards of a smashed pot,

A cupboard, a chair, an unwanted baby's cot.

All things that people don't want anymore,

Certainly by fly tipping you're breaking the law.

So instead call Basingstoke 844844,

To have your things taken from your door.

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,

Are you still there?

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,

Don't you appear on street corners or elsewhere.

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,

People don't want to see you anymore,

Oh fly tip, Oh fly tip,

Because on the streets of Popley you're certainly an eyesore.



It costs from just £10 to get your bulky items collected by the council or you can take it to the Household Waste Recycling centre in Wade Road for free. The Community Furniture Project also collects unwanted items for resale and re-use by those who need it.

Fly-tipping is not only an eyesore but it can be dangerous too – posing a real fire hazard and danger to children and pets.

Your rubbish is your responsibility, so please do the right thing and get rid of it wisely. You could be fined up to £50,000 and go to prison for 12 months if caught and prosecuted.

Call the council on 01256 844844 to arrange a bulky waste collection or to report fly-tipping.

Or contact the Community Furniture Project on 01256 320700

Community Furniture Project (Basingstoke)

6 Joule Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XH

Lastly, please remember that we have a weekly surgery on Tuesdays between 3 and 4 pm at Melrose Hall on Abbey Road. You don't need an appointment, just pop in and discuss any issues you have with us.

Sarah Ratcliff and David Mason Popley Community Wardens 01256 845508

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; Children cannot use the underpass when it has been raining due to flooding. Also many times I have gone under the underpass and there are dumped cars under them.

In this day and age they should banish underpasses and put in pedestrian crossings like the one on Buckskin. A Popley resident

Editor's reply; There are some plans within the new development to do this.

Dear Editor; Can you please pass on my sincere gratitude, and congratulations, to the cast of "Oliver" for their magnificent performance on Friday the 14th July 06? The students, and staff, were all stars, but, as always, some shone with a radiance that had to be seen to be believed. I only wish the critics of John Hunt would attend such occasions (I was fortunate enough to be invited to the last "Prize Giving" evening) to witness the enthusiasm and dedication of your staff and students.

Editor's reply; I agree the shows are always fantastic. I am often by the shops in Carpenters Down and have noticed that the pupils always say please and thank you. I know it can seem intimidating seeing so many youths in one place but so far I have had no nasty incidents. Yes the prize giving was impressive too.

Dear Editor; I take note of what your Tintern Close letter said about the speed on Popley Way and I can answer why children do not use the underpass. I used to use it myself until I was attacked with my own children walking back from a local school, so now we never use the underpass. And as for lowering speed

limits is there any chance of reducing Abbey Road to a 20MPH zone, it's like a race track and my car has been hit more than once as a result. Popley resident
Editor's reply; It is dangerous along Popley Way and with the building traffic that will come it will be even more important it is hard to understand why people feel the need to go so fast on a road that is primarily for the use of the residents that live there. After all the dual carriageway is the road to use to get from Aldermaston roundabout to the Reading Road etc.

Dear Editor; With regard to the possible reduction in the Popley Way speed limit: I use the roads a lot in Popley and have yet to see an accident apart from the odd rear-end smash where vehicles are waiting to turn right into the many cul-de-sacs along Popley Way. I have yet to see, or hear of any 'pedestrians' of any age involved in any accidents in any part of Popley for decades. Either pedestrians have learnt how to cross roads properly or motorists have learnt how to avoid suicidal jay-walkers.

Everything is working well so please leave things alone. The only problem is having do-gooders interfering unnecessarily.

There are many problems in Popley that need urgent attention, the speed limit is not one of them, in my honest opinion. Milton Close

Editor's reply; I expect you are not there to see the accidents that occur but the residents that live facing the road and the people that live in Magnolia Court

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to everybody who came to our 10th Birthday event and made it such a success. We were very pleased with the way the whole event went and was received by everyone. It just shows what a fantastic place Popley is to live and work in and that the 'community spirit' is alive and kicking in Popley.

POP ZONE

The Youth Club is very busy at the moment, especially the 8 to 13's age group from 6 to 8pm. **But where are the 14 +'s.**

8pm to 10pm every Monday is set aside for you and we keep being told there isn't enough For you to do in Popley, but very few of you are using the facility at the moment Why not pop in and tell us what you want to do and we can see if it can be provided! We already have a chill-out room where you listen to music and chat!

And any adult volunteers willing to give up any amount of time would be most welcome!

Tea Dance

I hope some of you were able to attend the dance at the Anvil at the end of last month. We will be holding a Christmas Tea Dance again this year on the 8th December so remember to get the date in your diaries now!

Salsa

The Salsa group who started here did not stay very long but we are keen to set up a beginners' class from September. If you are interested in this or any form of dance or exercise classes to be set up please let us know.

Popley Fields Community Association is now 10 years old and is a registered charity set up to provide and maintain a Community Centre for the inhabitants of Popley. It is overseen by Trustees and a dedicated band of volunteers who form the Committee now overseeing the running of the centre and the staff who are employed by the charity. After 10 years we are looking for members of the community young or old, newly moved or long term residents who would be willing to give up some time and volunteer to help the existing Committee. If you have a couple of hours a month to spare (or more) and would like to help this invaluable service to your Community as well as maybe having some fun and meeting new people we would love to hear from you.

Call 01256 414494 or pop in if you want to find out more about any of the above.

Councillors Page

In Basingstoke we have a small and dedicated mother & baby unit providing a much needed service for mums who suffer post-natal depression; it has seven dedicated beds with childcare facilities. Local health bosses are considering closing the unit as part of a major shake-up of mental health care. Under the reforms, the mother-and-baby unit at Fairway House, near Parklands Hospital, could transfer to Winchester. Please sign the petition in Fastfare or contact me County Councillor Jane Frankum on 819924 or visit the website www.petitiononline.com/babyunit

Congratulations to Marnel Juniors and Chineham Park School whose SATS are the best for 10 years, well done to the staff, children and parents who have obviously worked really hard. The new Everest Community College is on target and should be ready to open in September 2007.

I was privileged to be invited to the formal opening of the 48 new beds for the elderly at Oakridge House I met some really lovely people. We need more places in the north of Basingstoke so these were very welcome and purpose built for the needs of our modern day.

Popley West

You may have read in the local papers about the car sales and the parking ticket given to one car that had been causing an obstruction for weeks, well it will not be the last. To park cars and sometimes it is three, four or more by one person, is dangerous and selfish. It takes up much needed parking spaces for other residents and is unfair on those who have to pay business rents etc. There are sometimes three or four cars parked on double yellow lines while people. Get out to look at the cars. You buy them sold as seen. If you get one with problems you are stuck with it, is it worth the risk?

If you see a water leak you can report it on the leak line 0800714614 it seems crazy that we have all these leaks that seem to be left for days and we have a hosepipe ban!!

Thank you to all the letters and emails the vast majority being in favour of the call for 30MPH speed limit on Popley Way. *Paul Frankum Popley West Councillor.*

Popley East

Heat wave: those of you unfortunate enough to venture into our schools before they broke up for the summer holidays will have noticed how the Scola school buildings trap the heat. This is a real problem, with temperatures of over 37C (100F) recorded in the classrooms. Nobody can be expected to concentrate in these conditions. It's about time the Local Education Authority considered installing aircon in schools. Most teachers and LEA staff I have talked to agree. It's just as well that the GCSE exams and SAT tests are taken during May/June when things are cooler.

The Primary SAT results are back and I am pleased to report that Marnel Infants and Juniors and Chineham Park all had record Kay Stage 1 and 2 SAT results. In particular, the Key stage 2 results at both Marnel and Chineham Park Were the best we've had in 10 years. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the staff and Heads of Both schools for these outstanding results and the tremendous hard work that went into achieving them. As a Governor at both Marnel Junior and Chineham Park I know how hard everyone has worked to achieved this.

Regeneration: those of you living in or near the maisonettes at Faroe Close/Maldive Road should have had a leaflet through your door about the consultation event on regeneration options. Sentinel have yet to decide the regeneration plans but we'll let you know as soon as we know. Still no news on Longfellow Parade. We hope to report back as soon as we get wind of anything and we intend to involve residents in a proper consultation prior to finalising the detailed planning application.

Basingstoke Carnival: on Thursday July 20th I tabled a motion at Full Council to bring back the Basingstoke Carnival. This was based on the success of local events such as the Popley Festival and Winklebury Carnival, which attract thousands of people every year. If anyone is interested in helping bring back the Basingstoke Carnival please let me know. Andy McCormick, Popley East

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Tuesday 6.30-8.15p.m.
Elaine Devenport 323453

Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9p.m.
Colin Karslake 410559

Scout Leader: Pat Brown, Group Scout Leader
Telephone: (01256) 351366 or mobile 07716 855474

All sections are now closed for the summer break apart from the scouts who are off to summer camp in the New Forest in August and for the leaders who start to plan and prepare for the autumn session.

The Beavers spent their last meeting in Eastrop Park following the Treasure Island trail and some (if their parents allowed!) had fun in the paddling pool before finally wending their way homewards on a very hot evening. The previous week they made paper boats and had fun with a water fight. Plans for the autumn session include a visit to Paultons Park and the 'Splash' Gala.

The Cub section enjoyed a weekend camp at Pinsent near Winchester with a 'back to basics' theme. They lit fires, cooked their own food, experimented with knots and lashings and enjoyed seeing who could make the highest 'tower' using dried spaghetti and white-tack without a catastrophic collapse! All the pack gained Information Technology badges following a course of instruction in the IT suite at Cranbourne BEC recently. The cubs will have another opportunity to camp in September at the District Camp at Foxlease in the New Forest and sixers and seconders will take part in Pro-Act weekends to develop more specialised skills.

The Scout troop spent their last evening at the canal side near North Warnborough and are going to County Summer Camp in the New Forest in the middle of August with wall climbing, abseiling, high wire, orienteering and cycle-cross.

The Group is sometimes able to provide BBQ equipment to hire for a moderate fee- enquiries to Pat Brown on 01256 351366 or mobile 07716 855474 or 01256 351366


Boot Sales continue at John Hunt of Everest School on Sundays. Cost from £4 pro-rata for larger vehicles. 'Booters' are reminded that they must not obstruct the public highway and must remove any litter, boxes and unsold goods before leaving their 'pitch'.

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Diaries from the Old Codger

I was asked by a lady a few weeks ago How come you can remember so much of your childhood? I told her that I can remember because I had so much fun and laughter in our house, hardly ever a cross word, or if there were it was soon forgotten. Yes, I remember horrid things but they tend to be pushed aside, because of the support you had from your family and friends. Its not about the amount of money we had, in fact with five kids Mum and Dad had a hard time of it, not like it is today! Back in the 1800-1900s families were even bigger, as with the third world countries today. The mortality rate was high in children so you had lots of them, and of course no contraception. A lot of children were never christened until they were between two and five just in case they did not get past the first years. Then we had the first and second World Wars, and the message went out from the government for married people to have more children as so many people lost their lives in these two wars. Then that all changed to having two point two children. No wonder people get confused "Her-Indoors" said we ended up with three as she could not see a way to get the point two of a child, can you? Metric is hard to get your head round as it is, with out this point stuff. Millimetres, Kilometres etc. Give me feet and inches, pounds and pence any time.

During the war years our women stayed at home, well most did, many working in factories like Thornycrofts building the trucks, tanks, planes, ammunition, etc in order that the men could fight the wars, I know my wife's Gran worked in the ammunition factory during the day and at night would be on the anti air craft guns. My Mother was teaching new recruits how to shoot their guns. Now the thing that gets me is, where in Basingstoke are these women recognized for this work, I have been given to understand that the clock from Thornycroft is to be put in the roundabout by Milestones Why not also recognize the work these great women did? It would be a great opportunity to do so.

I have found a couple of great things over the last few weeks one is a book that is end to end of photos during and after the war



DANGEROUS FURNITURE WARNING



Say 'No' to salesmen selling cheap furniture at your door and stay safe. That's the message from Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards Service, following an investigation into door-to-door sales of budget 3-piece suites that don't meet UK fire safety legislation.

The warning comes after Hampshire Trading Standards discovered illegal furniture from Poland at a warehouse in South Wonston, Winchester. In total 35 pieces of furniture were seized. Samples were taken and tested against flammability standards. The furniture, marked with labels claiming it complies with safety regulations, was unsafe - burning rapidly, producing toxic smoke and a fireball in under three minutes.

Trading Standards have learned that after the furniture was dropped off at the Hampshire warehouse, it was separated into smaller quantities that were picked up by men in Transit vans to be sold to local people door-to-door.

Doorstep sales of illegal furniture is a nationwide problem that the police are aware of and investigations are being carried out. Trading Standards are hoping to put a stop to this illegal practice by discouraging people from buying such goods at the door.

Rod Hammerton, Community Safety Manager at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, commenting on the unsafe furniture: "It is essential that people always consider the fire safety of any furniture they purchase to protect their homes and families. It is appalling that unsafe furniture is sold with labels implying it complies with fire safety regulations - this is puts lives at risk. Any residents that are concerned about the fire safety of their furniture can contact Hampshire Trading Standards."

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Ken Thornber, said: "It is shocking that unsafe furniture is being sold to people at their doors. It is even more worrying that these goods are labelled as safe, when they are far from it. These pieces of furniture may be cheap, but they are not a good deal if they put lives at risk. "It is often the most vulnerable people in the community who are targeted by these unscrupulous sales people who try and push their products onto those who find it difficult to say 'no'."

Anyone who has concerns about someone selling goods or offering services at their doorstep can contact Trading Standards' Quick Response Team (QRT), which aims to catch rogue traders in action. Since its launch in June 2004 the QRT has saved residents tens of thousands of pounds that could have gone into the pockets of conmen and criminals.

Residents seeking peace of mind can also use the Buy With Confidence Scheme, which is a list of local businesses offering goods and services that have been assessed for trustworthiness and compliance with the law by Trading Standards. Anyone who gets a call from someone selling furniture should contact Trading Standards on 01962 869765 or rsadvice@hants.gov.uk, giving as much information as possible, including the registration of any vehicles used.

The Quick Response Team can be contacted on 01962 846316 and a complete list of approved traders can be found at www.buywithconfidence.info.

To arrange a free Home Fire Safety Visit, where Firefighters will help people to identify and reduce fire risks in their home, highlight the importance of having an escape plan should a fire happen, and if necessary fit smoke alarms, the number to call is 023 8062 6809.

M.F.C. POPLEY.

We urgently require players to join the U9's team, as we seem to have players turn up from few weeks regularly then turn up when they please. Unfortunately this does not help Danny, Clint and Chris who put every effort into training the boys. And its not fair on the boys who turn up week in, week out. Since starting the U9's have gone from strength to strength and continue to do so, they have great character and show that they can work as a team. It show when they played against the Tornado's (U8's). The first game that these two locked horns, the Tornado's took charge with Jacob Austen scoring twice and setting the other two goals up for George Graves and Finley Judd. The Renegades got beat hands down, but all that changed 4 weeks later when the Tornado's got absolutely out played when Jonathan, Mason Searle and Connor Oates played out of their skins, and showed what happens when training and team work are used as one. The trouble is when training sessions are missed out, its hard for the coaches to try and go back over what they had done from the week before, so please could you make sure that they turn up every week, its for their benefit as well as ours.

On a much lighter note, the U7's are coming on a treat and there are some really promising footballers in the squad, but again could you keep them coming every week, please. Thanks.

I would personally like to thank all the coaches who give their time up to help me out every Saturday because without you, there would be no M.F.C. Popley. I would also like to thank all the people who helped out on the 30th with the pre season challenge. Thank you all very much and I hope you all enjoyed it.

A special thank you to Tracey (Popley Fields) who put so much hard work into getting it off the ground. Thanks. And to Steve Thome (Sentinel Housing) who agreed to sponsor all the trophies and medals. Thanks. If you need to contact me about any of the age groups please ring: 07811167791

Cheers Lee.

in the UK, including a lot on rations, many photos of London, and out on the farms. It is well worth getting. Its called Britain At War Unseen Archives by Maureen Hill. (isbn 1-40546-778-9.) I would say this is Her-Indoors measurements but again I know I would be in for yet another right hook. The other thing is a web site to join in and chat, this is (the London borough of Newham History Board) a site about the East End and friends get to chat about old times, plus help with finding lost friends. Have a look at them both and enjoy it the website is free when you get on it if you feel like joining its main site contact Ray Savory on it he will sort it out.

I have said in the past we were evacuated to Coulsdon in Surrey. Opposite Croydon airdrome was a large open air swimming pool we had moved from London out to Old Coulsdon, and it was a six mile trip to the pool and it cost a penny return plus a penny halfpenny to get in to spend all day there, at the grand old age of twelve I and my young brother and would be off down to the pool in the summer, a good day out with six pence in our pockets. As you have seen by the picture below Paul has had his camera out and snapped a photo of me, and he caught me in the right light and on my good side well done Paul. I was invited to go to a prize giving at Milestones in July and asked if I would read a citation out. It was a privilege to do so I had nominated a nurse at the hospital.

If you would like to go back in time and ask a question about the East End let me know I will put it in my diary for you all. Popley has grown up from mostly with the roots in London and your forbears may have come there. Just like London people, Popley has joined the same tight community we have today that looks out for each other and tries our best to help, even if only in a small way, but we will give. We do not give up easily, we can fight for rights. We can fight for ourselves and others as long as we stand together. No one in our small community should feel alone, alas a lot do and feel they are not wanted. They are and we should show them that.

*Keep well
The Old Codger*





Car Drivers

Your Local Charity needs you.
You can give as much or as
little time as you wish.

Travel expenses paid.

Call: 01256 332424

The demands on your local charity – Basingstoke NeighbourCare – are growing and growing.

Currently we have almost 150 Popley residents requesting and benefiting from our services. Some 1,600 people from across the borough are on our lists.

Every working day our NeighbourCare group contributes to the well-being of an ever-growing section of the local community and, as you can see, Popley is no exception.

Our service helps adults with a variety of important everyday tasks – including door-to-door transport to hospital, doctors, nursing homes; also shopping and befriending – it's our contribution to maintaining that neighbourhood spirit. We stay with people – provide valued assistance.

Can you help us helping others? Will you volunteer some time to provide assistance to those in genuine need – your Popley neighbours and the borough community?

A quote from one volunteer, "I can help, I can make the time. Those I'm helping are so positive, comments received really confirm their need and appreciation – it's enjoyable. I'm glad I made that call."

Are you a driver?

Are you happy to receive expenses?

Can you make the time?

To join our team of volunteers call 01256 332424.

Please, Make that Call

Nigel Kirkland Charity Manager



You are warmly invited to
WORSHIP WITH US



at

Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:

Graham and Barbara on (01256) 363692

New Testament Church of God

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

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Loving home environment for your
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Children have their own playroom,
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experience, all food provided is nutritious
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Pick up from most local schools and use
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Let your child grow and learn to
their full potential.

Please phone us to arrange a time
to bring your little ones to visit.

Tel:- 01256 410119/07971864304

Arial Acrobatics & An Anniversary Popley Conservation Volunteers

A number of airborne displays take place in Basingstoke every year. Balloons over Basingstoke and a kite festival being just two. However, for me, one of the most exciting aerial displays I have seen took place over Popley a little while ago. It could have been easily missed and for some it may not have seemed all that spectacular.

It was during the occasion of the 10th anniversary celebration of Popley Fields Community Centre when the conservation volunteers spotted a Kite. Not one attached to a piece of string but a raptor, a Red Kite circling over Popley.

In medieval times the Kite was common all over the country, even in towns. The Kite is basically a scavenger. Then a combination of clean up and better handling of refuse in the towns and persecution from gamekeepers and landowners in the countryside saw the rapid decline of this bird. By the end of the nineteenth century it was confined to a few remote parts of Wales.

I remember 35 years ago backpacking through Wales in the vastness of a mountainous area known as the Welsh Wilderness when I saw a large bird being mobbed by smaller birds. I did not have a clue what it was and when I got back I identified it as a Red Kite. At that time, Wales was still the only place Kites could be found. I was very thrilled to have had the privilege of seeing one of these rare birds. I think at the time many thought that the Kite was on its way to extinction in the UK. Just 15 years ago if you wanted to see a Kite you would still have needed to travel to Wales.

Since then a Red Kite reintroduction programme has taken place in various parts of the UK. In some areas this has been very successful especially in the south where the Red Kite population is flourishing and expanding. So with a bit of luck we may see more Red Kites over Popley. I hope if you see one you will enjoy watching this beautiful and graceful bird as much as I do.

Reintroduction of this striking bird has been one of the great conservation successes in recent years. It should be an inspiration to all who are interested in conservation. It is easy to get gloomy about protection of wildlife with so many losses of species and habitat. So it was good to celebrate the return of the Red Kite at the Popley Fields Community Centre celebration. Somehow it seemed fitting. Lets hope that the Community Centre and our Kites will flourish and go from strength to strength.

Reintroduction of the Red Kite has needed a great deal of practical input from conservationists. Good wishes and kind thoughts alone could not have achieved the success. The same applies to Popley. I am pleased to say that there are many people in Popley who are well wishers, but if you do care about a greener Popley what we need is your help.

To find out more about Popley Conservation Volunteers contact Lee Roth at lee.roth@networkrail.co.uk or Phone 01256 330738.



A Kite can be distinguished from other raptors by the forked tail



107.6 Kestrel FM Community Breaks

Community Breaks are there to tell people what's going on in their community. They provide local clubs, schools, groups and charities with an opportunity to promote their fund raising and community initiatives on air reaching local listeners. Without them some events would not get the profile they need to raise money and awareness for local projects.

Sentinel have stepped in as a sponsor to help promote some of our events such as Get With activities and Pride in your Place Walkabouts, but to also enable all sorts of people from our communities to promote their events, such as MacMillan Coffee mornings held at Sheltered Schemes, school fetes and so forth.

If you have an event that needs some awareness then contact Kestrel FM on 01256 694000.

So for the 'Word on what's on in your community' tune into Kestrel FM!





SILENT AUCTION

& CHEESE & WINE EVENING



in aid of Age Concern in Basingstoke

Thursday 28th September 7.30pm, Church Cottage

Age Concern invites you to an entertaining evening with a difference!

Over 100 Auction Lots! Something for everyone!

Grab a bargain for yourself or make an early start on the Christmas shopping!

Items on offer include:

A hot air balloon flight..... A £40 Chinese meal..... Tickets to see London Irish An 18 hole round of golf for 4 people A brand new X Box 360..... A 6GB I river MP3 Player..... Tickets to the Haymarket & the Anvil family days out..... books..... glassware..... toys..... & much much more.

Tickets available now from Age Concerns Office at The Orchard and Café (Wednesdays 10.30 - 1 at Church Cottage).

Tickets £4 or £7 for 2 (reduced price for Friends of Age Concern) includes food and first glass of wine, bar available

For more information please call Age Concern on 423874

Limited tickets available on the door. Pre booking recommended.

Dear Friends

Phew! What a scorcher it's been so far and don't you just love it? Well I do, so I'm always a little disappointed to hear folk complain about the weather. I was watching Billy Connolly on TV the other night he was saying that there is no such thing as bad or good weather - only the wrong clothes! How right he is, but having said that it does seem to be an English national pastime to comment on the weather doesn't it! When we lived in Cyprus no one ever talked about the weather, mostly because the sun shone every day from early April to late October - you could plan a barbeque a month in advance and know the weather would be good - bit boring really - I do like the unpredictability of the English weather.

Returning from a visit to the RHS show in Manchester at the end of July we were on the M40 near Oxford when we had to drive through one of the most ferocious storms I've ever driven through anywhere or anytime before. Bolts of lightning were searing the ground either side of us, hailstone and rain pelted the windscreen so that you couldn't see through it and the howling wind rocked the car from side to side. Traffic on the motorway slowed to a crawl and the only thing we could see were the faint outline of the rear lights of the car in front and the white line marking the edge of the motorway lane through the side window. It was at one and the same time terrifying and thrilling. That's what I love about our weather and its changeability; scorching sun one minute and lashing thunderstorms the next.

Some of the sights and smells at the RHS show combined with the weather on our journey home caused me to pause and think just how wonderful and varied God's creation is with all its immensity and intricacy. You know God has given us an amazing partnership with him in caring for his creation. I'm no tree-hugger but I am becoming increasingly aware of the personal part I have to play in caring for our wonderful climate. Even the smallest things can make a difference - taking litter home with you; recycling when you can; conserving water and energy; using the car less often and '*getting on yer bike*'. Everyday things that if each one of us took on board could make a huge impact on reducing climate change.

We have a responsibility to one another, to our children and grandchildren and ultimately to God for caring for this world - you don't have to go mad - just pick one thing you can change in your life and do it!"

God's Blessing for a continuing fantastic summer!

Your friend and Vicar

Arthur.

Magnolia Court

I do not have very much to say other than the obvious fact that it is very warm and the elderly residents are feeling it a lot. The best advice is to drink plenty of water and or fruit juice, not tea, coffee or alcohol as that dehydrates you. Keep as cool as you can eat cold food such as salads, spray water on yourself. Maybe you could pass this on to the elderly living in Popley. Ask your neighbours if they have an elderly person living next door to keep an eye out for them make sure they are okay. So many elderly people dehydrate, also can dehydrate through certain types of medication, but mainly they suffer in this hot weather from not enough fluids and could end up in hospital.

We are having an Open Day on Tuesday 26th September from 11am-3pm Refreshments will be available, an advert will be going in the Gazette for this day. It will show people in Basingstoke about Retirement and Care Services. We are not called Sheltered Housing any more as this is considered old fashioned, and it explains more about what we do. **Julie Pior Magnolia Court Scheme Manager**



Looking for a Popley Playgroup?
Come to us!!!

Treasure
Isl and
Play Group

We also have a Parents & Toddler Group for more information telephone:

01256 414014

Registered Charity No. 282848

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9AE

Mon-Fri 9:15am-11:45am

Mon & Thurs 12:30pm-3:00pm

John Hunt of
Everest
Community School,
Popley Way,
Basingstoke,
RG24 9AB
01256 338725/6



Healthy Cooking



Literacy/Numeracy on Ice



Enrolment Day ~ Tuesday 19th
September from 10am-7.30pm

Families learning together
ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN
ADULT.

Family Learning 06/07

John Hunt of Everest

For booking onto any course please contact:
Phone: 01256 338725/6
Fax: 01256 810448
suki.binning@johnhunt.hants.sch.uk

OR
Marilyn.Botham@hants.gov.uk

- Majority of Family Learning courses are free to residents of Popley
- Concessionary rates available for adults over 60's and those on low income
- All courses at the JHE site unless stated elsewhere

The Local Learning and Skills Council.

John Hunt organizes a varied programme of courses for families to do together. In addition there are a number of programmes which are run in conjunction with the local primary schools in Popley. These include basic skills with laptops, assertiveness and positive steps course.

The school is also well known for its innovative Literacy & Numeracy on Ice programme, which is linked to the Wella Bison Ice Hockey Team and with 5 junior schools.

The school supports the Government's drive to encourage learning as families. The family learning programme is supported by the Hampshire ACLU.

- Family Pottery
- Family Jewellery making
- Family Sports & Fitness
- Family Steel Pans
- Family Textiles
- Healthy Eating
- Healthy Food for Babies
- GCSE Statistic & Child Development
- Music with Mum
- Dance
- Spanish for Beginners
- First Aid
- English for speakers of other languages
- Family Quiz night
- Women's Health Evening

Date/Time **Event** **Other information**

Monday's for 10 weeks starting on 25th September	Dance *	Learn some basic steps in Ballroom and Latin Dance plus a few old time
Wednesdays for 10 weeks starting on 27th September from 7-9pm	Family Pottery **	This new class is designed for beginners, but there will be enough flexibility to include students
Wednesdays for 8 weeks starting on 27th September from 6.30—8pm	Beginners Spanish for	A beginners course for families wanting to learn a new language together, children must be over 8 years old.
Tuesday for 10 weeks starting on 26th September from 6-8pm @ MEYC	Family Jewellery Making **	Using a range of materials to design and make original jewellery. Children must be over 8 years old and there will be limited numbers
Tuesday for 10 weeks starting on	Family Fitness Programme **	Keep yourself fit this autumn, a fun way for the whole family to keep fit and learn
Monday's for 10 weeks starting on	Family Sport **	This course will get parents and children of the couch and onto the pitch. Improve your sporting techniques and keep fit.
Details to be confirmed	Family Steel Pans **	Come along and experience the joy of making music together, a real family experience.
Thursday's for 6 weeks starting on 28th September from 3.45—5.45pm	Healthy Eating	'Feed the body—Fuel the mind' - for over 5's and their families. This course
Thursday's for 10 weeks starting on 21st September from 6-8pm	GCSE Child Development	This course is open to year 10/11 students and their families to work together and follow the
for 5 weeks starting on 30th October from 3.15—4.45pm @ Merton Infants	Intro to First Aid	An introduction to First Aid to use at home and with your children
Thursday for 30 weeks starting on 21st September from 6-8pm	GCSE Stastatics **	This course is open to year 10/11 students and their families to work together and follow the

Date/Time **Event** **Other information**

Date tbc	Women's Health Evening	
Monday's for 5 weeks starting on 18th September from 12.30—2.30pm @ Marnel	Laptop Skills **	Learning all the basic skills needed to operate a laptop/computer. Creche provided.
Tuesdays for 15 weeks starting on 26th September from 12.30—2.30pm @ Marnel Infants	Play & Language **	Creche provided.
Wednesday's for 10 weeks starting on 4th October from	PEEP	
Wednesday's for 10 weeks starting on 4th October from	PEEP	
Friday mornings from 9.30—11.30 @ MEYC Starting on 3rd November	Healthy Food for Babies *	A four week (2 hour session) cooking on a budget course for young parents of babies and small children. Creche provided
Monday 16th October at 7pm until 10pm	Family Quiz	Test your general knowledge, teams of up to 8 people, adult and children's
Thursday mornings from 9-11am Start date tbc	Essential Skills	This is a Literacy/Numeracy course run for adults.
Friday mornings from 9.30—11.30 Starting on 15th September for 15 weeks	ESOL *	English speaking course for students who speak another language
Tuesday for 12 weeks starting on 26th September from 10.30-11.30am @ MEYC	Music with Mum	Come and have some fun with your child and learn about music and movement.

* Adult only courses

** Family courses (children must be accompanied by an adult)