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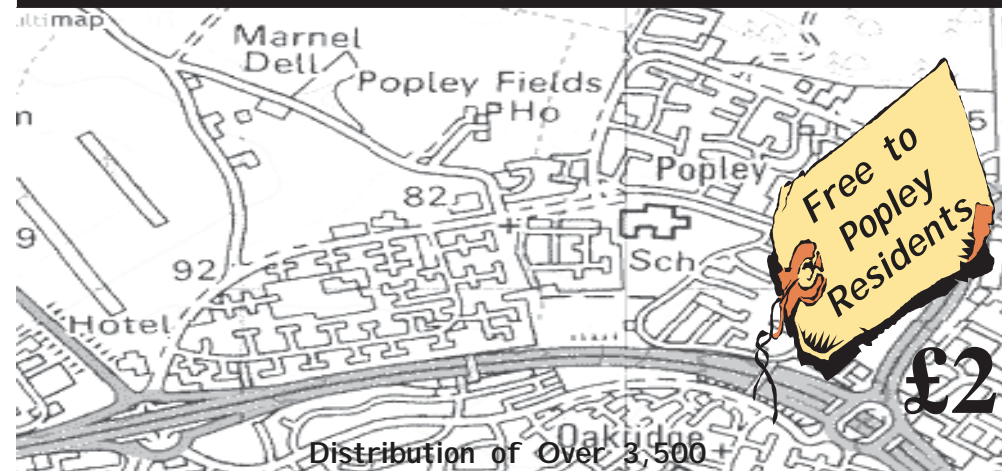
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

October 2006

Issue 56



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20–10–06)

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Message From the Editor:- I hope you enjoy yet another Popley Matters, number 56. It doesn't seem nearly ten years ago that we decided to relaunch what was a once a year two A4 page leaflet. But here we are. We try to keep you informed of what is going on in Popley, but we would love to hear more from you. Tell us what you think, tell us if you're happy or sad. If you have any ideas to make this a better magazine we would love to hear your views. What do you do in your spare time, do you belong to any clubs? I enjoy going to Ice Hockey and watching Basingstoke Bison especially when we win. Families go together from little ones in their pushchairs to Grandparents and Great Grandparents.

If your club or group is having a charity Autumn Fare or Christmas Sale let us know and we will try to advertise it in the Popley Matters for you.

It was great to hear that so many people turned up to help the wardens clear up the area around the Dell loads of rubbish were removed. I wonder how long it will be before it needs doing yet again? If you see it Report it to 101.

I was hoping the results of the Longfellow Parade regeneration would be in so we could publish it this month, but it will have to wait till next month.

The new Popley police partnership of PC Carter and PC Thorne seems to be working well and they have been proactive in Popley over the last few weeks. Read about it on page 26

I had a wonderful afternoon at Magnolia Court earlier this month and enjoyed a very professional sing along with a volunteer group of people called The Good Companions. We have another report from Julies garden with lots of tips and ideas on page 8. Its amazing what you can grow in a small garden.

Its that time again when there is a nip in the air and we know winter is coming (Even the shops have started stocking Christmas items). If you have an electric blanket please read the advice from the Fire Service on page 6. If you know anyone, a friend or relative, please make sure they follow the manufacturers guidelines and have them checked. We are still looking for some help with our website we really need a contents manager to update the news and information for us. If your interested call me Jane on 819924.

Hits on popley.matters.org.uk website for month of September 3712

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, Or Popley Forum/Matters.

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I read with interest in the local papers about being careful when bin bags are left with a leaflet and there is no charity number. I would also like to add, that there are also scams where people ring up and ask for you to deliver envelopes for well known charities. They all seem genuine enough, but they collect the envelopes with the money in from you direct, where most genuine charities will ask you to pay the envelopes direct into their bank account. If you ask for a charity number, and a contact telephone number they put the phone down. Most of the ones I have heard of seem to claim to be some kind of Christian Aid for Africa, but no doubt there are others.

Editors reply; Thank you for letting us know. It is important that you always ask for identification whether at the door or on the phone. Ask for a contact number or, if you are not sure, ring the police. The police have told me they really don't mind if you phone them to check, and we have had some really nasty incidents where distraction burgerlaries have occurred, in particular with our older residents. This often leads to long term phycological results for the victims.

Dear Editor, In the leaflet I saw the advice that we should be careful when leaving bags of items etc out for charity, as they may not be for a genuine charity. You also suggested that we could take it to a charity shop. I can not do this as I don't have a car and I can't carry large or heavy items

on the bus. What do we do with toys, handbags shoes and the like? How do I donate these to charity?

Editor's reply; I spoke to Iris King of Melrose Hall and Iris said that they can be collected. They will then be donated direct or sold at one of the Jumble or Table Top sales at Melrose Hall and the proceeds go to Neighbourcare, The Cancer Ward and Feed the Children. Iris also boxes up items and sends them direct to "Feed The Children" You can contact Iris 411113.

Dear Editor; Why are there not better warnings for deaf and especially blind or poor sighted people at traffic lights? There are lots of us old ones who live in Popley and we are all getting slower so need a little help. I know they exist but how do we find out?

Editors reply: There is a button on the traffic lights on Popley Way that when you push it and it is safe to cross it rotates round to say it's safe to cross. I think you have asked a very interesting question and I will try to find out and let you know through Popley Matters.

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**



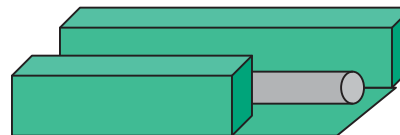
A new sewer for Basingstoke

Since the last issue of Popley Matter we have now started work on site.

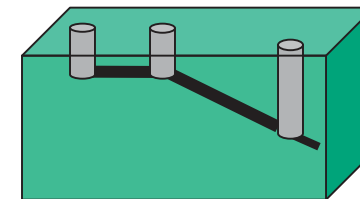
We are continuing our investigation work. If all goes well, we aim to start building the sewer in late September 2006.

We will lay the pipes using two main methods. The first is by open cut. This involves digging a trench where the pipe is to be laid. This method is often chosen when we are working near other underground services such as cables and pipes to avoid damaging them. To limit the disruption, we will be working in short stretches and backfilling as we go.

This second method involves tunnelling. We will be digging a series of deep holes. A small boring machine is then lowered in to join these deep holes together and then we can pull the pipe through. By using this approach, we can tunnel under busy roads and railway lines. The benefit of tunnelling is that it's less disruptive but it can only be used where the ground is free from other cables and pipes.



Open cut diagram showing a pipe within a trench



Tunnelling diagram showing deep holes and pipe

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Top 10 tips to make your home a safe home

1. Fit a smoke alarm and check it regularly.
2. Make a fire action plan so that everyone in your house knows how to escape in the event of fire.
3. Take care when cooking with hot oil and think about using thermostatically controlled deep fat fryers.
4. Never leave lit candles unattended.
5. Ensure cigarettes are stubbed out and disposed of carefully.
6. Never smoke in bed.
7. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
8. Keep clothing away from heating appliances.
9. Take care in the kitchen! Accidents whilst cooking account for 59% of fires in the home.
10. Take special care when you are tired or when you've been drinking. Half of all deaths in domestic fires happen between 10pm and 8am.

Guided Walk

Binfields Woodland Nature Walk is the new walk leaflet produced by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The walk starts at Chineham District Shopping Centre and takes you on a circular route through Binfields Woodland Park, along the footpaths of Lychpit by Great Binfields Primary School and Centre Court then back into the shopping centre. The leaflet describes the wildlife you will see in the woodland through the four seasons, and as the walk is on hard surfaces and only 1 ¼ miles in length, is suitable for people of all abilities.

The leaflet is available free of charge from the Chineham District Centre Library, Popley Fields Community Centre, and Hampshire County Council Information Centre in Festival Place. Alternatively it can be downloaded from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's website. For further information please contact Amanda Robb on 01256 845631 or email Amanda.robb@basingstoke.gov.uk

Faroe Close and Maldive Road Improvements

Sentinel Housing Association has been working with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and architects PRP on plans to transform the homes in Faroe Close and Maldive Road.

Following the extensive public consultation on the different regeneration options which was carried out during March and April, Sentinel's Board has requested that the proposal to redevelop the whole area with a mixed tenure development of up to 240 new houses and flats should be considered in greater detail. All of the proposals will take considerable time to bring forward and the support of both Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the Government Regulator the Housing Corporation will be required.

A project team will be set up over the coming months to look closer into design options and regular newsletters will be issued to residents of the area to keep everyone up to date with the latest proposals during the course of the project.

Due to the uncertainty this causes residents about the future, Sentinel are offering the small number of private leaseholders the opportunity to sell back their flat to the Housing Association now, ahead of detailed proposals coming forward. The purchase of flats will have to be in accordance with Government regulations with an independent valuation and legal report being carried out.

For more information please contact Sentinel's Regeneration Project Manager Danny Morris on 01252 788744.

Councillors Page

John Hunt is moving at such a pace, and it is nearly ready for the next phase. The roof is on. I know quite a few of the students and teachers are getting quite excited.

The next phase of yellow lines is about to be considered after the public consultation has finished there were a few objections, but also letters of support went to the Hampshire County Council Highways officers. It will still take months into the new year before it can all be implemented and the lines painted.

The police have been very busy and have seized a number of those mini bikes. They are even more "mini" now as they have been crushed to just a cube of metal. The area is quieter and less smelly, however if you still spot any around call 0845 045 45 45.

The Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service did a wonderful job trying to save the trees that were set alight in Popley Ponds. I just wonder if the stupid person who started the fire thought for one moment that these wonderful people could have been needed somewhere else to fight a fire where there could have been people trapped? Jane Frankum Basingstoke North County Councillor 819924

Popley West Cllr Paul Frankum
I had a meeting with Robbie Hall of Stagecoach to voice my concerns about the distance that the residents would be expected to walk to the nearest temporary bus stop, when they close the one near St Bede's new church for some building works for a period of up to six months. We were concerned that the senior residents of Magnolia Court and Abbey Court could find it too far to walk. I am pleased to say that Mr Hall agreed, and there will be a temporary stop in between the two sheltered homes.

What a sad sight to see two beautiful trees, a grand old Oak and proud Poplar nearly destroyed by wanton vandalism in a senseless arson attack. The two old and majestic trees were slowly set alight within the roots and trunk and just left to smolder.

I went to the Longfellow Parade regeneration drop-in at Chineham Park School where around 80 residents attended with lots of positive comments and some good suggestions of how to improve the area. I am waiting to hear the results

Thank you Popley

My first five months as a councillor for Popley East has brought me a host of new friends.

What great people you are in Popley. You turned out in driving rain to support your festival, you gave up your time to attend meetings to improve our area, you nominated your neighbours for Good Citizens awards, and came to cheer them on at the wonderful evening arranged by our Wardens. You support and distribute Popley Matters, you joined enthusiastically the knock out football day arranged by Lee Austen. You all deserve a big thank you.

I feel privileged to be one of your councillors

Yours sincerely
Mary Brian Popley East Councillor
01256 322108

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Maria Miller MP

Maria represents all those who live in the Basingstoke constituency, regardless of how they voted at the General Election.

Contact Maria at: **House of Commons,**
London SW1A 0AA Tel: **020 7219 5749**
or: **149d Pack Lane, Basingstoke,**
Hampshire RG22 5HN Tel: **01256 322207**
or email: **millerm@parliament.uk**

Advice Bureau sessions are held in the constituency regularly. Appointments can be made by telephoning 020 7219 5749

Promoted on her own behalf by Maria Miller MP, 149d Pack Lane, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 5HN



Basingstoke Air Scout Group



Boy and girls 6-8 years
Meetings: Tuesday 5.30-6.45p.m.
Eve Alexander 346510



Boys and girls aged 8-10½
Tuesday 6.30-8.15p.m.
Elaine Devenport 323453



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

Base 2000 Carpenters Down Charity number 267734

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

Thirteen cubs attended District Camp at Foxlease in mid-September and were favoured with a weekend of good weather. Activities included water rafting, archery and climbing and those who could swim well enough went canoeing. Thanks to Akela, Chinook, Bagheera and Baloo for preparing and transporting equipment, staffing the camp and clearing up afterwards. The pack is to embark on an environmental challenge to celebrate the section's 90th Anniversary. Sixers and Seconders will attend County Pro-Act weekend at the end of September.

Beavers have enjoyed lively evenings with games and activities out-of-doors to make the best of the remaining lighter evenings and retiring indoors to make paper aeroplanes when the weather was inclement. Three Beavers, Alex, Nathan and Mason, 'swam-up' to the cub section and were eagerly looking forward to their first experience of camping under canvas. 'Granny Beaver' will be retiring at Christmas and it is vital that we find another leader to help with this very active section of 6-8 year olds.

The scout section had another session of air rifle shooting (under strictly controlled conditions) in the summer and spent an evening making arrows to use at an archery event with Old Basing scouts troop. They also paid a visit to Basing Lime Pits for a BBQ.

The Group has registered for Hampshire Scouts' Centenary Camp at the New Forest Show Ground in August 2007. Over 2000 cubs, scouts and explorer scouts are expected to take part in this 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunity to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting. 'Sunrise Ceremonies' on 1st August will mark the 100th anniversary of the precise date upon which the Founder of Scouting, Lord Robert Baden Powell blew his Kudo horn to signify the start of the first experimental camp on Brownsea Island.

Boot Sales continue at John Hunt of Everest School on Sundays despite the smaller area now available for use. Cost from £4 pro-rata for larger vehicles. 'Booters' are reminded that they must stay within the allotted area and must not obstruct the public highway. All litter, boxes and unsold goods must be removed on leaving the 'pitch'

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Mon-Fri 9:15am-11:45am
Mon & Thurs 12:30pm-3:00pm



Community News October 2006

John Hunt of Everest Community School

It has been a busy summer; over 30 children attended the summer activities each day. There were trips to the beach, the Rose Bowl cricket ground, Saints football stadium and the ArtSway gallery in the New Forest. The activities ranged from sports such as rounders, volleyball, basketball and badminton to a week of art/ photography which culminated in excellent art pieces for the school. The final pieces are on show in the school foyer and are being commented upon on a daily basis.

Funding has been secured for the October half term, so we can continue running the activities for free and keep the age range 8-16 year, so ring us to secure a place.

We are in the throws of enrolling for the Family Learning programme so if you are interested in doing Spanish, a GCSE in Child development or Statistics, pottery or jewellery, dance or want to start a keep fit regime why not join the Monday or Tuesday evening fitness courses. The healthy eating courses are back, come along and cook together as a family with our resident chef! The centre is supporting the National Family Learning week by putting on family steel pans and well-being health workshops on the afternoon of Saturday 7th October. Call us now. The Literacy/Numeracy on Ice project is starting again, Merton Juniors will be first off the mark and we have Eric Braff as the player who will be coming into the schools to work with the children and their families, this is the fifth year of this project and there are now 5 schools involved.

The Children's Conference at the end of the summer school term went really well, feedback was very positive from both the students and the staff. The objective of the day was to embed Rights, Respect and Responsibilities throughout the school and community, to give students a voice and to impact on the curriculum and attitudes towards learning in the school.

A range of workshops were available for the students to choose from including presentations from Dr Keith Thompson, a consultant Anaesthetist and Director of Mercy Ships UK and the Educational Director from 'Save the Children's Fund.' Other workshops involved a video presentation from students from another school talking about their experiences in Uganda. International dance and music workshops were also on offer. John Hunt students ran workshops on peer counselling, lead learners and the role of prefects. In the afternoon JHE staff ran a range of practical workshops all with an international theme. These included the Science Department making volcanoes, Geography doing a trade game, Design & Technology focusing on textiles and the PE area running international sports.

The JHE Student School Council are putting together the fundraising calendar for the year and will again be supporting the local hospital and developing the link with Uganda. Many students have become pen pals and are already corresponding with children at Kakindo Secondary School in Uganda.

The school open evening for prospective parents hoping to send their children to the new Everest Community College is scheduled for Wednesday 4th October. If you would like to come along please contact the Community Office.

For any further information on any of the above please contact:
Suki Binning, School Community Manager on 338725 or
via e-mail on suki.binning@johnhunt.hants.sch.uk.

Electric Blanket Safety.

Do you have an electric blanket?

Do you know an elderly person who has one?

Has the blanket been checked for safety lately?

Did you know?

- *Old or damaged blankets cause more than 5,000 fires a year.*
- *Each year 20 people are killed and 100 people are injured in fires caused by faulty electric blankets.*
- *Research has shown that electric blankets ten years or older that are still in use in homes in Britain are responsible for 99% of the fires caused by electric blankets.*
- *In the past six years over 4,600 electric blankets have been checked in Hampshire, approximately 45% have failed.*

Electric blanket safety checks:

Make sure you follow the manufacturer's guidelines regarding the use, maintenance and servicing of electric blankets. If you know of an elderly person who uses one, help to ensure that they do the same.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809
Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Meeting at Melrose Hall, Abbey Road, Popley Abbeys Sundays at 10.30 am and 6.30pm with various home meetings during the week. For more information call 462351

MCF is a lively church of many nations. Currently there are over 20 nationalities represented, the cultural mix is rich and diverse but most of all the unity in the church is achieved because of Jesus living in his people

Kids and Teens

Friday Clubs for Infant and Junior School ages at Melrose Hall, Base 2000, Bermuda Close and Oakridge Hall 4 All every Friday at 6.30pm finishing at 7.45pm. Tuck shop, songs, Bible stories, games and fun!

Youth Club for Secondary School age at Melrose, 8.00 until 9.15pm (maybe later!) Cafe, Football and other games, Street Dancing and beatboxin workshops and chattin sessions.

First timers free then after that 60p per session



Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet. Omega is the last. Jesus said of Himself "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last" Want to know more about Him and Christianity? Join our Alpha course starting Tuesday 26th September at 7.30pm. Call 462351 for more details. The course lasts 6 weeks. Every Tuesday we will start with a snack/meal followed by a short video or talk and then questions and debate. Got questions? No problem. If we don't know the answers, we know a man who can!! Depending on the response, Alpha courses will "rotate" so that a course will always be running. Feel free to come partway through a course or just try one meeting. There is no obligation to continue the course and it (and the food!) is free. Look forward to seeing you.



Well the season has started, so if there are any more footballers out there who are interested in representing Popley for the U7's and the U9's, please don't hesitate to turn up on Saturdays at 10.30am.

The U8's had their 1st game of the season against Wolvesdene and there was a great turn out to cheer the teams. Tornado's who had beaten the Wolvesdene B team 4-1 previous, could only draw 0-0 this time but what a game! And then they drew 2-2 against there A team with an absolute screamer coming from The Golden Boy, Jacob Austen. On the plus side, the Whirlwinds are definitely picking up, as they are not getting beaten so easily anymore, the're making it very hard for teams to get through, but they do get through. I personally think as soon as they win a game that will be it, they'll keep on winning. Come on Whirlwinds.

Also good luck to the U9's and U7's this coming week as they play their first ever league games. At the end of the day, I don't care if we win or lose as long as the kids really try their best and don't give up. For instance George Graves, a player who three weeks ago thought that we were having a go at him all the time because we were telling him to get back behind the ball when he lost possession and he wouldn't, has come on ten fold and is now one of my key players. What a turn around. Thanks for your support.

Lee Austen / 07811167791

Julie's Gardening Files

I have just finished picking the few fruit off my Greengage tree, but most of it not fit to eat. The latest rain we had just allowed the fruits to swell too fast and the skins burst, so plums may well be affected the same way.

The climbing French Beans I tried in large patio tubs this year have done really well. Next year I aim to try a different variety with purple beans so they are easier to find amongst the foliage.

If any of you invested in a mini greenhouse with the polythene covers which has taken a battering in the wind, you might like to make use of the frame and shelving for another few years. They will happily hold growbags which you can grow a variety of small vegetables or strawberries in. For those of us with small gardens, don't forget you can use wall bags and baskets, or put up shelving to hold the pots. Experiment with what you grow in them, it makes gardening much more interesting and you may well be surprised at what works! How about peas in hanging wall bags? It is something I aim to try next year, so if anyone has already tried this, please do let me know how it went.

The seed catalogues are now going to print, so it is a good time to start thinking about what you want to plant next season. You can mix vegetables into your flower beds to give a productive as well as pretty garden. Some vegetables have pretty flowers too, so check the catalogues or websites for ideas. After carrying water to water my pots and bags every day this summer (and still losing the battle to keep everything alive), I think it makes sense to get something back from it, so the veg will take priority in my garden next year.

Don't forget to think about watering too. There are many plants that cope with drought situations, especially if they are planted early enough to get their roots down before the rain stops. A water butt is essential if you have a water meter, and very useful in a hosepipe ban. You can get them from your water company or garden centre, but shop around to get the best deals.

I have emptied most of my bags and pots into the compost bin now. Break the root systems up to take up less space, and don't forget to add your vegetable peelings. My compost bin has been moved up against a brick wall now, hopefully to help keep the contents warm and break it all down faster. Don't put invasive weeds like dandelion, dockleaf, or bindweed in the compost bin, they will probably survive and the compost will be full of weed when you want to use it.

I have invested in a small garden incinerator to dispose of woody waste from the garden. Add the weeds mentioned above to make sure they are permanently removed from the garden. The ashes are then spread on the garden to put some goodness back into the soil, or dropped into the compost bin.

Right, now I got that off my chest, better get outside and start cleaning out the fish pond.....



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Melrose Hall has been a bit quiet over the summer, however, everyone is back from their holidays and getting into the mode to batten down the hatches for the coming winter. All our regular clubs and groups are still going strong

with the Friendly Cafe which runs for two mornings Monday and Thursday from 9.30am till 12 noon, and is open to anyone who pops in. The dance groups use the building both Tuesdays and Saturdays. One of our groups The Popley Little People who meet on a Wednesday Morning from 9.30am to 11.30am are now able to invite new people as some of them have grown enough to go to school and have left the group. There are a whole host of activities for both carers and little people to take part in and have fun, especially painting, water and collages. So why not come along and see if this is a place you can meet new friends and have a play session with your charge?

I know Christmas should be kicked back into December, however, a date for your diary is the 25th November 2pm till 4pm, when Melrose Community Association will be holding their Christmas Bazaar.

More information to follow next month. For news of what is happening within the centre, there is a notice board outside. Or you could phone 01256 420676 between 9.30am and 11.30am when someone will be there to help you. Louise Chair Melrose Hall



Residents Enjoying the Friendly Cafe

Job Opportunity

Melrose Hall requires an Office Administrator Hours are 9.30am till 11.30am, Mon to Fri. The closing date is 6th October for further information please phone 01256 420676 or pop in for an application form if you think this would suit you.

Fire

On Saturday 16 Sept a band of faithful turned out to remove willow from the White Horse pond. Once we had completed the task we decided to have a look around to identify possibilities for tasks for the coming season. During our travels we saw that a fire had been lit in the base of the magnificent Poplar in the Western pond. Returning later to take photos it was realise that the fire was still smoldering. It was decided to call the fire brigade.

What appeared to be a minor fire proved to be very problematic The fire had penetrated into the base of the tree and was continuing to smolder in the leaf mould. We watched and assisted whilst the fire brigade used 1800 litres of water and then had to go and get more to continue the fire fight.

Now the base of the tree needs to be filled in before the vandals return and light more fires.

David



Above & Left: Basingstoke Fire Brigade fighting the fire in the base of the Poplar in the Western pond.





Calling all Funky Monkeys – Party needs attending!!!

One year ago, a group of moms decided to set up a new Parent and Toddler group that included, play time, singing and refreshments. We wanted to be as accessible to everyone, so with a lot of support from Rev. Arthur Botham and St. Gabriel's Church, the Health Visitors team, Popley Matters and some committed individuals, Funky Monkeys began.

Since then we've received funding from the Four Lanes Trust and the Local Network Fund as well as donations from individuals, for which we are truly grateful. Every week between 10 and 15 parents, each with at least one child, attend the group. New members are always welcome to come along and join in. Our younger members range from 2 weeks old to 5 years old.

So as we're going to be one year old, we're having a birthday party at 10:30am til 12 on Friday 20th October to celebrate. Why don't you come along and join in the fun? There'll be a Thomas the Tank ball pool, bubble machine, music, party food and lots of games.

Still only £1 per family including refreshments – hope to see you there.

The Making Art Project

The Making is an arts educational charity employing local artists to produce artwork through workshops with the community in Popley, including Melrose. 14 – 19 year olds are invited to join in the following events at;

Popley Fields Community Centre;

Monday Evening, 2nd October 7 – 10pm

Session is lead by architect Paul Best and sculptor Pete Codling; participants will design and make prototypes of a shelter for their area

Monday Evenings, 9th, 16th and 23rd October, 6 – 10pm

And at

Melrose Community Hall, Wednesday Evenings, 7 – 9pm

Sessions lead by Fashion designer Sue Riley and Musician Richard Pryn; participants will design and make clothes and musical instruments from recycled materials. The projects will include silk screen printing and computer-aided musical composition

Popley Fields Community Centre

30th October 6 – 8pm;

Open to all: Grand Finale fashion show with musical accompaniment and refreshments. Participants from both centres will be invited to present work at this event. For more information, contact Noelle Schrieber at The Making 01256 845674 or email nschrieber@themaking.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Welcome back! Is it me or is time really passing quickly. It feels like only yesterday that we were melting in the Mediterranean temperatures of June and here we are in September, though as I write we are still enjoying good weather even if the tail end of Hurricane Gordon is about to lash us with the first real autumn winds! Time often feels like a piece of elastic – it can seem to stretch and go on for ever or it can shrink and pass really quickly depending on what we're doing, who we're with or where we are – this becomes more obvious as you get older (so I'm told). But we can also be the ones responsible for speeding things along. Already in some shops we're seeing a combination of Halloween, Fireworks and Christmas goods on sale and we're buying into them (perhaps we could combine them and call it something like 'Hallo Christ'). But seriously, these days there hardly seems to be time to enjoy the moment, relive the experience or reflect on the journey! WHAT'S THE RUSH!!! I sometimes think we need to impose speed limits on our lives so that we don't miss the best moments. How often do you take time out to be still and quiet, more importantly do you take time out to be still and quiet? In the midst of all the daily activity of our busy lives it becomes increasingly important to seek out those quiet moments, to find time just to chill out and be ourselves. King David the author of many of the Psalms in the bible wrote **“Be still and know that I am God!”**

As we return to the more normal routine of life after summer, the daily focus tends to be on meeting our physical and emotional needs but it's more important that we do not neglect our spiritual needs too. So when those quiet moments occur take the opportunity to follow King David's example and be still before the one who created all things.

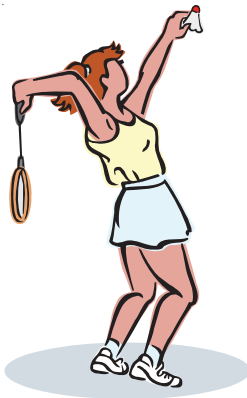
In Christ

Arthur

Vicar of St. Gabriel's.

Sunday 29th October at 3pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving: This is a special service for all those who have lost someone they love and wish to remember, and give thanks for them, whether that loss is in the recent or distant past – all are welcome. This year we are preparing a special display of white lilies in the church with the name of each person remembered attached. If you would like to include one in remembrance of your loved one please let us know – a small donation will be asked to cover the costs. We will be serving refreshments after the service in the hall after the service.

Open my eyes that I may see
the Presence that is all about me.
Open my ears that I may hear
the voice that is quiet yet ever near.
Open my heart that I may feel
the love of God close and real.
Open each sense, make me aware of the
Power and Peace always there!



Loddon Sherpas Badminton Club seeks players able and willing to play matches. We are a friendly social and league club which meets Mondays from 7.30pm at Cranbourne Business and

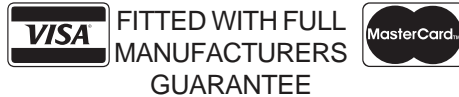
Entrprise College. To find out more about us visit our web site at www.hants.org.uk/loddonsherpas or contact us by email at sherpas85@hotmail.com or phone on 01256-471856 leaving a contact number so we can get back to you.

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P.O.P Zone

Every Monday

6pm – 8pm for 8 – 13yrs & 8pm – 10pm for 14 – 18 yrs

After a hectic summer of activities here at P.O.P Zone, the young people are back in school and looking forward to the autumn term here. We have The Making over the month of October, and they will be bringing in an architect, textile designer and musician to help the youths make a musical instrument, compose a tune and play it on their newly designed work of art. They will invite the local Wardens, Councillors and their parents to show them just how hard they have worked on the 30th October. Alongside this, there will be other kinds of activities such as bird box making, cake making and of course the ever popular pool tables, darts, playstations and a local Dad will be in to teach them how to mix the decks. In December we will be taking a trip to Paultons Park Winter Wonderland. So much is going on and if you can spare just an hour a month to help us, please contact us at the centre. Also if you have any old board games, duvet covers or anything you feel could be of use to us here at P.O.P Zone please contact us.

If you know of any 14 – 18 yr olds that are bored and think nothing is going on in Popley, send them along to us with their ideas and we'll try our best to make them happen.

Dates for your diary;

Halloween Family Night : Friday 27th October 7pm – 11.30pm

Xmas Bazaar : Saturday 25th November 10am – 4pm

Xmas Jazz Night : Saturday 25th November 7.30pm – 11.30pm

Xmas Tea Dance : Friday 8th December 2pm – 5pm

Xmas Family Disco Night : Saturday 16th December 7.30pm – 11.30pm

If you are interested in holding a stall at our Xmas Bazaar please contact us on 01256414494

Tracy Rogers
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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 their 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!



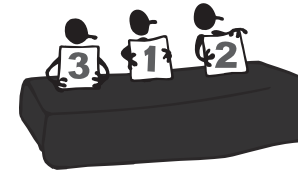
JOHN HUNT OF EVEREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARENT GROUP WELCOMES YOU TO A

Family Fun Quiz Night

Monday 16th October

7.00 pm start

CHILDREN WELCOME
TEAM PRIZES RAFFLE



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teams of 8
bring your own drinks and snacks
friendly relaxed atmosphere

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**Why not have some fun together as a family?
Have some of that quality time that everyone
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Beginners Spanish
On Wednesday evenings
from 6.30–8pm

Adult Dance (Ballroom,
Latin & Old Time
On Monday evenings
from 6-7pm.

Healthy Eating
On Thursday afternoons
from 3.45-5.45pm

Family Sport
On Monday evenings
from 6-7pm

Pottery
On Wednesday evenings
from 7-9pm

DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

Well readers it has been great writing these stories for you all each month, and I do hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have writing them. So what can we talk about this month? I don't know how many of you saw the Dray horses that take the "Nectar" around the pubs in parts of England. Only a very few now do this practice now. It is the costs again that companies look at. How wonderful it was back then when we had loads of these delivery carts going round our streets. People would be waiting behind curtains with their buckets and spades, then shooting out to collect the "out goings" for their gardens. It was great for growing rhubarb. Is it gone for ever? Well I think if local companies, let's say our post offices, were to bring them back into action collecting & delivering mail to other estate post offices, it would save a lot on the fumes given off from vans that churn out black smoke all over the place. The environment is our kids future now, and our generation has ruined it for them. Can we make amends? Yes, everyone can, even turning off one light or unplugging the T.V. it all goes into saving our future.

"Her Indoors" has taken some stick from me on these pages each month, so I think she deserves a little bit of kindness from me as she has looked after the Old Codger over a number of years now. Due to my ill health, I or noone could wish to have a better partner in life than her. We were young when we got married and we were told the old story (it won't last you are too young). that was thirty seven years ago. What am I doing, I have lost it if I can't write about "Her Indoors" the way I do, I only have the dog. I think if she changes her job and they bring back Dray men I might try and get her to do that. Well fella's you can only try can't you? The odd barrel of beer would be nice now and then. She has the strength to lift one so that's no problem.

Lets go back to the horse and cart. My uncle was a scrap man and drove his cart around the streets shouting "Any old rag-n-bones", The slang started in the East End and it was called tot, then became totting. People would get rid of all unwanted items for a few pence. This practice went on up until the 60's but then died out. Could it come back the horse and cart? It may stop people dumping stuff on the side of the roads, even if you just want to get rid of it, they could take it for you. I could get "Her Indoors" out running around with a bucket after the horse!! Well first come first served, and she does love a good bucket of s— now for the garden. So on that note I think I had better stop writing. I know I am in for it. Just a few words more, I sent Maria Miller M.P. an email about the French using Mist nets to catch our song birds so they can put them on plates in restaurants. This activity has been banned, but the French police do not try and enforce it because the people have guns. She has made representation on my behalf to the Minister of State for Europe, asking them to get the French Government to stop this. Let's hope they do and we will see more of the birds return to us each spring. Best wishes to you all. The Old Codger.



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

If you have recently visited the local cinema you will probably have seen the advert that features a premiership footballer, a super model and a mountaineer all posing the question "is there more to life than this?" You may also have seen the advert on the back of a local bus or a billboard.

Having seen the adverts you may well be asking "what is that all about?" Well your question can be answered with a single word... Alpha.

So what is Alpha? Quite simply Alpha is a 10 week course that gives you the opportunity to explore and understand the Christian Faith, what it's all about and how it can help you. The structure of the course has been designed to allow you to ask questions and more importantly get some answers.

Over the last few months, we have been working with other Churches in the Basingstoke area, and specifically in Popley, to organise a series of Alpha courses. One of these courses will be running in Popley Fields Community Centre.

So if you have some questions about the Christian faith that you would like to have answered, why not get in touch and we can tell you how to register for an Alpha course.

Graham Owen – Pastor
New Testament Church of God

Telephone (01256) 363692
eMail: alpha@ntcog.co.uk
Web Site: www.ntcog.co.uk



Alpha



On Tuesday 19th September police conducted an operation in Popley namely Carpenters Down and Popley Way which is now a 30 mph limit. Myself PC Carter and PC Thorne along with the Community Reassurance Traffic Unit headed on the day by PC Mark Talbot were all involved. The operation was targetted on roads that in the past have been used as a speed way. Two static points were used and radar and laser speed guns were untalised and where speeding offences were spotted offenders were issued tickets and points on there licenses. There will be more of these operations in the near future and in the run up to Christmas.

Recently in Popley myself and PC Thorne conducted an operation along with the DVLA and their number plate recognising vehicle. The vehicle's on board camera automatically detects if a car is taxed and police are then in a position to pull over the vehicle and deal with the offences the driver may be committing. The August DVLA operation that we conducted meant that 7 vehicles were seized and crushed. We plan to run a similar operation in October so you have been warned!

PC Thorne and I have also been tackling youth nuisance in Popley with some success which includes sites such as Abbey Road stores, behind the community centre on Carpenters Down and Longfellow Parade. Where we have come across youths with alcohol we have seized the alcohol and poured it away. Underage drinking will not be Tolerated and is also considered anti -social behaviour. On Friday 22nd September PC Thorne and I were in Popley conducting high visibility patrols. Many youths had been spotted out and about and some had consumed alcohol and were generally causing a nuisance.

I appeal to you as parents in Popley to know where your children are at night and to monitor their behaviour. In the last week more Anti Social Behavior contracts have been signed up for youths in Popley and PC Thorne and I will continue to monitor nuisance youths.

With Bonfire Night rapidly approaching please be mindful of fireworks and the inherent dangers they can bring along with the nuisance and distress which members of public can feel around this time. I nearly forgot, also try to have fun!



Well done to 32 children from Popley who on a hot day in August transformed the Dell back to its natural glory and free of rubbish.

The Dell is a great place for children to play and a wildlife haven at the top of Tewkesbury Close. But for some time now it's been neglected, being used a dumping ground and fly-tipping hot spot.

So the Community Wardens, parks officers and the street care and environmental teams along with Sentinel Housing joined forces to blitz the area with the local children.

Armed with all the equipment and a large trailer the Rubbish Raiders set to work at 10am on 31 August, and by 1pm they had cleared the area so that it was once again a safe play area.

A very special thank you to all the children who took part, they are real heroes. And to everyone – please do not let the Dell become the rubbish hell it was, let's keep it safe and clean for everyone to enjoy.

Daryl Ainsbury
 Ashley and Kerry Aitken
 Jack and Michael Barker
 Oliver and Stuart Blatch
 Brandon, Hannah and Tyler Bridges
 Daniel and Rhys Durrant
 Callum and Daniel Elson
 Aleisha, Ellis and Rebecca Goldberg
 Jamie Langham
 Sarah Langham
 Reece Lawson

Thomas MacDell
 Kurtis MacDonald
 Chris Murray
 Aliyah O'Donnell
 Aston O'Donnell
 John and Kimberly Potter
 Amory Sherwood
 Alex Simpkins
 John W.
 Alex and Glen Woodfine



If you know of another neglected area of Popley that could be cleaned up in a similar way, then please call Sarah Ratcliff or David Mason on 01256 845508.