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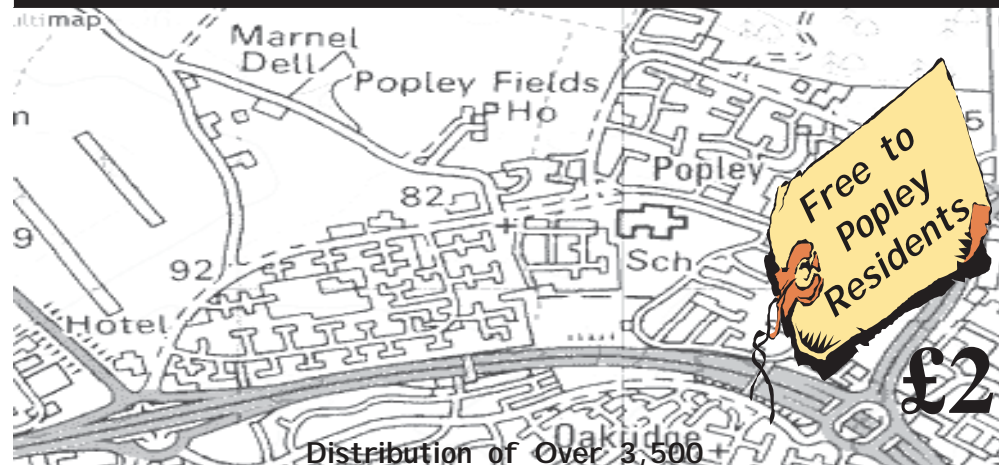
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

November 2006

Issue 57



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-11-06)

Message From the Editor:- Here we are just a few weeks to Christmas and the weather is still mild. I am never sure when I go out whether I should take a jacket, Mac or warm coat? I suppose we had best enjoy it before the snow and ice comes.

Our magazine seems more full than it usually is of local news. I have had lots of people asking to have their articles published in The Matters, so Paul and I have tried to squeeze them all in. As we are non profit making we rely on advertisers to bring in enough money so we can print our community magazine. If you know anyone who would like to advertise with us, please get in touch with me or Paul on 819924 or Iris King on 411113. The adverts start from only £20. We also desperately need more people to deliver the Popley Matters magazine. Many of our wonderful people who deliver your magazine have been with us for many years and we are getting older and more weary, so come along, will some of you younger or fitter readers please help us? It is getting to the state that some roads may not get their Matters for some of the months.

If you like cooking and would like to try good wholesome recipes at budget prices and want to do it as a family why not go along to John Hunt School on a Thursday evening. Details are on page 6

There are lots of Christmas Bazaars if you are looking to buy gifts: Merton Juniors on page 22; Melrose Community Hall on page 9; and Popley Fields Community Centre, page 11. For a change from a bazaar why not go to BLINK'S Christmas Jazz night. The details are on page 13. All proceeds go to the charity to help poor sighted and blind people.

As this is the November issue I hope you enjoy Firework night. I will be going to an organized display. Please read the precautions from the Fire and Rescue Service on page 23. I worked on the Children's ward for over 25 years and it is an awful site to see some of the senseless injuries that can be caused by just a quick mistake. Also keep your pets indoors as it is a frightening time for them with all the loud bangs and flashes of light. Jane Frankum Editor

Hits on www.popley.matters.org.uk website for month of October 4112

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, P. O. Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG 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.

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;
Distribution Team: Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Irene O' Brien; Madelin Major; Iris King; Colin Karslake; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Alison Walker; Kevin Walker; Stuart Humphries; Kylie Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn;
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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I read in the papers that utility companies could be fined up to £2,500 a day for missing deadlines in filling holes dug in the road under proposals to tackle congestion caused by such works. Local authorities will be able to prescribe work hours and ban other companies from digging the same road within a specified period under plans being looked at by the Department of Transport. This seems like a great idea do you think it will happen.

Editors reply; Yes I read this too and much the same as yourself, I thought it would be a good idea, and would stop the nonsense of the paths and roads being dug up filled in then dug up by someone else sometimes just days after, or being left with a few cones round for ages!. What do the readers think?

Dear Editor, I currently live in Popley and I'm desperate to learn to improve my Spanish in the hope of one day relocating. However at present my Spanish is very poor. With that in mind I'm hoping to find a Spanish tutor in the area who can help me learn the lingo.

If anyone likes a challenge and they can help me improve my Spanish contact Claire on 01256 302316

Editor's reply; I am sure there will be a resident in Popley that could help you or put you in touch with a place that teaches Spanish. Good luck.

Dear Editor; What on earth is going on in Basingstoke I really cant believe what I am reading in our local press. Could some sane person explain to me why it is the Council (which is now Conservative) can ignore the wishes of the people of our area and a majority vote in the council meeting with Councilors from all parties voting, then within hours send messages to say they wont change their minds even before the meeting it is to go to. What happened to democracy? I could go on about how cheated I am feeling but I am sure there must be thousands of residents of Basingstoke who feel the same!

Editors reply: There are different ideas that were put forward, among them a proposal to work together and keep the very different identities of a concert hall and traditional theatre. I am concerned that the Gang Show, new plays and variety nights would suffer. There have been hundreds of letters to support this view. I just hope that people remember this when election time comes round?

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

We are now well underway with laying the new sewer.

The photo to the right shows a Murphy gang laying a new section of pipe in a deep trench in Shetland Road.

Over the next few weeks we will be digging the access shafts for the tunnelling work towards the A33. This will mean that access along Shetland Road will be more limited in places.

All the diversion routes will be clearly signposted.

We would like to thank all those affected by our work for their ongoing patience and support . Dominic Nelson, Murphy Site Manager for the project has commented on how helpful and cooperative everyone has been.



Please remember, If you have any queries about this work, you can call us on 0845 9200 800, quoting your address and our reference number **BB716903**. Our lines are always open.

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All courses run on Tuesday evenings starting on
7th November for 7 weeks

Contact Suki Binning on 01256 338725 for more details
Courses put on by John Hunt of Everest Community School and
Popley Fields Community Centre

A message from Magnolia Court

A word of thanks to Cllr Paul Frankum for arranging for the temporary bus stop to be moved to between Magnolia and Abbey Court. Pushing my luck here, but any chance of it becoming permanent. The residents would really appreciate it especially in the winter?

An Open invitation to all the elderly residents of Popley: if they would like to join us for a coffee morning on the first Thursday of the month at 10.30am. We also have evensong with the Rev Arthur Botham at 6pm on the first Sunday of the month for all denominations please join us.

The Community Wardens in Selsey and Tangmere West Sussex have proved to be a great success and have worked well with Downland Staff, so when they approached us about getting Junior Warden Schemes off the ground we were happy to help. We provided some start-up funding and now schemes are working in both areas.

The Community Wardens worked with the local schools to recruit young people aged 9-12 and were delighted at the response. These young people accompany the Community Wardens in projects such as neighbourhood clean-ups or organising activities for other children and young people. One of the main aims of the scheme is to encourage a sense of pride in their community. It also links with the national curriculum by raising environmental, social and community awareness among young people.

Any chance of that happening in Popley if you approach Downlands in Chequers Road as I said before we do have funds for these projects. *Julie Pior Scheme Manager Magnolia Court.*

Latest Update on Longfellow Parade

Sentinel's Board approved the commencement of the Longfellow Regeneration Project a few months ago now and Mansells were selected from our frameworks panel of builders to work up detailed planning proposals.

The most recent developments in the project are:

- The design drawings for the planning application are now being completed.
- Sentinel is negotiating a Section 106 legal agreement with the Council before the application can be lodged.
- Mansells are currently producing budget costings and carrying out pre-contract site investigations to firm up the terms of the contract.

Residents will continue to be informed of all new developments and progress in greater detail through the Longfellow Parade Newsletter.

For more information please contact Sentinel's Regeneration Liaison Officer Lynne Thomson on 01256 338800.

Latest update on Faroe Close and Maldive Road

Regeneration of the whole of the Faroe Close and Maldive Road has now been approved in principle by the Sentinel Housing Association Board.

This will involve redevelopment of the entire area, incorporating the demolition of the 124 existing maisonettes and development of new houses, flats and associated parking. Demolition Notices have now been sent to all Sentinel tenants on the estate and a number of leasehold owners are in the process of selling their properties back to Sentinel.

A project team involving officers of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, project managers at Sentinel and professional consultants has been set up to take the project forward, with the next stage being to instruct an architect to create sketch schemes for discussion.

Tenants and residents will continually be updated on progress with the scheme via a regular newsletter and other public consultation events planned for the near future. We are serious about involving the community in the project and would like you to have the opportunity to influence the emerging designs.

The project is technically challenging and will take a number of years to actually get started on site. This is due to the time taken to prepare a detailed design in close consultation with the community, to secure land from the Council, to obtain planning permission and hopefully to be allocated grant funding from the Housing Corporation. It is estimated that start on site might be achieved within 3 years.

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

Councillors Page: I spent a fantastic evening at Popley Fields with the Nepalese Community Association at their main festival. The entertainment was provided by the children and youth with singing and dancing it was wonderful and I was made most welcome.

Thank goodness that after consultation the County did not go to helping people only when it became critical. I know people are living longer and surviving illnesses and disabilities but we should look after our people when they need it. What wonderful news that Geoff Threfell (Executive Head at John Hunt School) won the Secondary Head of the Year award for the whole country. I know there have been some negative press about the school and they are working hard to improve the exam results, and life opportunities for our children the new school will help as well.

The recycling centre is now on the Winter timetable and will close at 4pm but of course will still be open 7 days a week. Jane Frankum County Councillor Basingstoke North

Popley West: We hold a Drop-In session every first Saturday of the month at St Gabriel's from 1 pm to 2pm. There is also a surgery at Melrose Hall every Tuesday from 3 pm to 4pm. All are welcome. You do not need to book an appointment just come along. You may have noticed that there have been quite a few paths being repaired or resurfaced, and also some more dropped kerbs with raised "bobbles" on for the poorly sighted. A young boy fell into a hole left when a manhole cover was missing. He needed 7 stitches and lost his confidence to go out and play. If you spot places where covers are missing please report it. Cars for sale on the corners of the road are dangerous and will be reported to the authorities it will be even more dangerous once the icy winter weather comes and visibility is reduced. There is extra parking in town for your Christmas shopping. More details of places and charges are on page 12. You can also use the Shuttle Bus service and Park and Ride. Paul Frankum Popley West

Popley East. Shetland Road works. We've had complaints about blocked access and people not being able to get to work. If this happens to you, please let us know.
 2. Longfellow Parade. We met with Sentinel to suggest some changes. We expect a planning application in the next few weeks.
 3. John Hunt. The fencing has gone up, but the planning application has not gone in. We've asked them to limit the building height - 5 storeys is too high.
 4. The planning application to split 67 Falkland Road into 2 flats went through. I spoke against, but the committee had other ideas.
 5. A33 roadworks are about to start. They will be big so expect delays for 6 months.
 6. Litter. We've noticed it's been getting worse and I will ask for more bins.
 7. Fortnightly bin collections. The new Council administration has caved in to public pressure and axed it after a Gazette poll showed 93% against.
 8. The Haymarket Theatre's future will be decided on October 31. If you don't want it to close and reopen as part of the Anvil it's still not too late to write to the Council.
 9. The Mother and Baby Unit at the hospital may not be closed after all.
 10. And finally, Chineham Park Primary had an Ofsted. It has been given a Notice to Improve but has avoided Special Measures.
 Andy McCormick Popley East

You are warmly invited to Worship with us

Sunday morning 10.30 to 12.00 noon

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

For more information call: Graham or Barbara on (01256) 363692

Welcome

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Treasure
Island
Play Group

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more information telephone:

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

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

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 Karlake 410559

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Base 2000 Carpenters Down Charity number 267734

Group Scout Leader: Pat Brown, Group Scout Leader

Telephone: (01256) 351366 or mobile 07716 855474

Five new recruits joined the Beavers in September and October and will soon make their promise to become full members. The colony celebrated the birthday of Roald Dahl in October with a chocolate evening and enjoyed a visit from 'Bootsie' a ten-month old guide dog puppy. The Beavers plan to have a sponsored silence in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind soon and hope to raise enough money to sponsor a guide dog. Seventeen Beavers are eagerly looking forward to going to Paultons' Park in November to get some early information about Father Christmas's plans for this year!

The cub pack has been busy completing the requirements for Personal Safety badge and some have embarked upon DIY with guidance from Bagheera. Plans for the customary Halloween Party are in hand.

The Scout Troop will attend the Mayor's Civic Remembrance Day Parade and Service in Basingstoke War Memorial Park on Sunday 12th November

Both the Cub Pack and the Scout Troop will join with around two thousand other scouts at Hampshire Scouts' 007 Centenary Camp next summer. Fund-raising is well-advanced to keep the cost to parents to a minimum. The Beavers will join them for Sunrise Day on 1st August. The adventurous programme includes an assault course, 'laser mission', quad-biking, canoeing and visits to the 21st World Jamboree in Essex and Longleat Safari Park. Plenty of fun and action!!

New recruits welcome. Simply come to Base 2000 or contact the Section Leaders listed below.

Boot Sales continue at John Hunt of Everest School on Sundays despite the restricted area. 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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Christmas Fair at St Gabriel'

Come along and join the fun

Listen to Carols played by Basingstoke Silver Band

Christmas Crafts and Gifts on Sale

Christmas Cafe

Meet Father Christmas

Kids Christmas Craft Table

Saturday 2nd December 1- 4pm



Family Cook-in!

Hey - want to know how to cook?
Come along and have a great time cooking
You get to eat what you cook
Thurs 2nd Nov
(6 weeks)

Time
3.45 p.m. - 5.45 p.m

Where
John Hunt of Everest Community School,
Popley Way, Popley, Basingstoke

Who can come?
Mum, dad & children over 5

Ingredients provided
Free for families on income support or low income

Phone
01256 338725
to book your place

Children must be accompanied by an adult



Firework Safety.

- **Never** put fireworks in your pocket.
- **Never** go back to a lit firework, it could explode in your face.
- **Never** throw fireworks, it's stupid, dangerous and illegal: it's a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of a £5000 fine.
- **Never** wear loose clothing & long dangly scarves can very easily catch alight. If anyone's clothing does catch fire, follow the rule...

STOP don't run. **DROP** to the ground. **ROLL** to put out the flames.

DON'T FOOL AROUND & NEVER THROW FIREWORKS ONTO A BONFIRE!!

- Always** follow all instructions and always put safety first.
- Always** store your fireworks safely: in a closed box & out of reach of children.
- Always** keep children well away from fireworks, and never let a child handle or light one. Even sparklers can be dangerous if unsupervised!

Tips:

- * Have a full bucket of water handy for any emergency & for putting used sparklers in.
- * At the end of your display, douse any 'dud' fireworks with water, then completely bury them in the ground. Alternatively, ask your Fire Brigade for advice as soon as possible.

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

Bermuda Community Association

What is happening at Bermuda Hall

Monday

Marnel Explorers Pre School 7am – 4.15pm
Melrose Fellowship Adult Singles Club 5.45pm – 8.15pm

Tuesday

Marnel Explorers Pre School 7am – 4.15pm
Toddler group 1.45pm – 3.15pm
Bermuda Bingo 7pm – 10pm

Wednesday (Bookings available)

Marnel Explorers Pre School 7am – 4.15pm

Thursday

Marnel Explorers Pre School 7am – 4.15pm
Paper craft with Mrs Clarke 6.45pm – 9.15pm

Friday

Marnel Explorers Pre School 7am – 4.15pm
Melrose Fellowship Friday Club 6.15pm – 7.45pm

Saturday

bookings available upon request

Sunday

Morning bookings available
Family Sunday Meeting with Mr Thomas 3.15pm – 6.15pm

Please note membership is still available for the Toddler Group and Bingo night

We have a small meeting room available for seminars.
Phone the booking officer on 363156 for further details

Merton Junior Christmas Bazaar

Merton Junior School will be holding their Christmas Bazaar in the school hall on Friday 8th December. Doors open at 2.30 and proceedings finish around 4.00p.m. Father Christmas will be visiting and there will be a wide range of stalls and games to enjoy. This year's raffle has a top prize of £100 with many other excellent prizes. Tickets are available from the school office or at the Bazaar. Other popular stalls are the Tombola with over 100 items to be won, the Teddy Stall, White Elephant and Toys. Light Refreshments are also available. All are welcome to attend.

Page 22



Four games have gone all. Ready of the first season and it has been a roller coaster ride to say the least. The U7's have had 3 wins out of four and the one that they did lose 6-1 was against the team that beat them 13-0 three weeks prior. Definite improvement there. Well done boys. U8's have gone from strength to strength with the Tornado's winning 5 games out of 6 and the Whirlwinds winning their first game ever and then winning their next 2-0 against Overton, Tornado's won 10-0 against Overton with Jacob Austen scoring twice and then setting Finley Judd up six times for his 7 goals and finally John scored the last, well done. U9's have finally won their first game (not ones for trying though) against Down Grange. I must say Danny and Chris are doing a great job. The thing is trying to train a team at that age is very hard and frustrating due to the kids thinking they know it all and getting them out of bad habits is another, so well done to Danny and Chris. Over the last four weeks I have noticed that there are some parents getting too involved with the training. I would appreciate it if you could keep your distance and let the boys get on with it. If the coach is telling the kids one thing and you're telling them another it gets very confusing. Please keep your distance unless you've been asked, thanks. If anybody has any queries or any complaints, please contact me on 07811167791. Thanks for your support.

Lee Austen



LOWERING THE FLAG AND RAISING THE ANCHOR

Two news stories have grabbed my attention just recently. One was by the head of the British Army, General Sir Richard Dannant. In a Daily Mail interview he said “..there is a moral and spiritual vacuum in this country. Our society has always been embedded in Christian values; once you have *pulled the (Christian) anchor up* there is a danger that our society moves with the..wind” (onto the rocks).

In another news story I read that British Airways suspended a Coptic (Egyptian) Christian from her work because she refused to remove or cover a small cross but allowed people of other faiths to keep their symbols. “Fly The Flag” BA seems to have *lowered the flag* in an act of surrender against the Christian faith.

Where do you stand on this issue? A view? No views? Couldn't care less? Not that long ago Sunday School was part of life. If our parents didn't go to church, we still went to Sunday School! Now a days, even that has changed. We run a number of Christian youth clubs on Popley (Friday Clubs). Some say “They teach about God there so I'm not going” as if learning about Jesus was something terrible!

In all of us there is a spiritual hunger which we try and satisfy in a load of different ways (money, sex, gadgets and stuff – the list is endless but in the end, society will try and fill this God shaped hole in our lives with one religion or another. Let me say right off, “*I hate religion!*” It causes wars and conflicts OK? It was religious people that put Jesus on the cross and even after He rose from the dead, it tried to turn Christianity into a religion! No, What God is after is a *relationship* with you and me. That's why God, in the form of His Son Jesus Christ, died so that He might bring us into a loving relationship with the Father. Dragging your flag? Your anchor drifting? It's time to allow Jesus Christ behind the driving wheel of your life! “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one can come to God except through me” Jesus. (Johns Book. 14:6)

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Meets at Melrose Hall, off Abbey Road, Popley 4 (opposite the Popinjay). Lively, powerful and interesting morning services on Sunday 10.30 –12.30 followed by refreshments. Problems? Feeling lonely? Not well and need prayer? People are there for you!

Are you single? (widowed, divorced or separated, single parent, unmarried or just plain on your own). Come to the singles club meeting at Bermuda Close Community Hall. All sorts of topics are covered. Monday 6 – 8pm. You don't have to come to church!

Are you married or in a long term relationship? Married couples meeting might just be for you! Meets in various homes. Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm

Want a break from the kids? Various childrens/youth clubs. All on a Friday. Infant and Junior school age 6.30 – 7.45pm. *Melrose Hall* or *Bermuda Close* or *Scout Hall* or *Oakridge Hall 4 All*. Secondary School age. Melrose Hall 8-9.15pm

Alpha Course A 6 week course about the basics of Christianity. Another one starts in November. More info contact Philip or Evadne on 428795 or 462351

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Where are all the Popley People?

Popley Conservation Volunteers

The winter conservation work has now begun in earnest. Unfortunately the first 30 man hours were not spent on conservation work. Instead the volunteers found themselves once again collecting rubbish and trying to mitigate the damage caused from fire lighting vandals.

Increasingly this is proving to be a problem for the volunteers. Those coming to work for the benefit of Popley come from all quarters of the town and one of our volunteers travels from Winchester. We have actually been asked on occasions when are we going to pick up rubbish! I feel sure most of our volunteers would have more than enough to pick up around where they live if they felt so inclined. They certainly do not need to come from miles away to pick up Popley rubbish, for free!

Recently Motorola and Basingstoke council kindly organised a work party at Popley Ponds. I would like to publicly extend thanks to Motorola for their commitment and community spirit.



The Motorola team at Popley Pond

All this outside interest is very encouraging and rewarding but where are the Popley people? On our last task we had one person from Popley. This is your patch and if you do not take ownership of it others from outside will and activities with which you may disagree will be done on your behalf.

This year Popley Conservation Volunteers have a very full work programme. We have started some rewarding work in Carpenters Down on some ponds we surveyed earlier this

year. In November we move back to Popley Ponds to continue with our conservation tasks there.

Below is a list of our tasks for the rest of this year

For all tasks meet at the end of Tobago Close, Popley, Basingstoke at 10.00am.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 29 October 2006 | Basing Wood.
Coppicing, Scrub clearing & removing sediment from a pond. |
| Saturday 11 November 2006 | Popley Pond
Clearing reeds and debris from pond & building hibernacula. |
| Sunday 26 November 2006 | Popley Pond
Dead hedging. |
| Saturday 16 December 2006 | Popley Pond
Clearing reeds and debris from pond & building hibernacula. |

Do come and see what it is all about or contact our secretary Lee Roth 01256 330738 or email lee.roth@networkrail.co.uk



Some of you may have noticed as you passed by that the teardrop shape garden in front of the centre is being revitalized, we have received many plants from kind gardeners however we always have room for more. So if you are separating or re-arranging your plants or bulbs and find you have an odd one or two over then instead of throwing them, please donate them and let them bloom

for the whole community to see and appreciate.

Christmas Bazaar

All the usual things will be available at our Magnificent Marvalous Christmas Bazaar being held on Saturday the 25th November from 2pm to 4pm, so to get your early bargains for Christmas, this is the place to be. Stalls include hand made cards, Tombola, Raffle, Lucky Dip, Soft Toys, Books Videos, and many many more. The kitchen will be open and serving wonderful home made cakes as well as mince pies and other Christmas confectionary, which can be enjoyed with a cup of tea or purchased for later eating.

Dont forget the centre always has things going on, and can be booked for events by the community. Hopefully our new Office Administator will be in place by the time you read this and the office will get back to normal and please accept our apologies if we have taken time to respond to inquires of late. Louise Chair Merlose Hall

Over 55's Forum

We had another very successful International Day on the 30th September 2006 at Queen Mary's College with some 120 Over 55s in attendance. Our guest speaker was Mr Ian Balding (ex Racehorse Trainer) from Kingsclere, who trained the Queens horses. His Worship the Mayor Cllr Tony Jones was also in attendance and both our guests enjoyed themselves tremendously. We had over 18 prizes for our Grand Draw with prizes sponsored by major national and local companies.

I would like to mention that the AGM of the Basingstoke & Deane 'Young at Heart' Over 55s Forum, will be held on Wednesday 13th December 2006 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, Time 10.00am to 1.00pm A buffet lunch will be served after the meeting. Only paid up members can vote.

Our membership has now risen to 224 so if anyone wishes to become a member and increase this number they only need to pay £5 single..£8 couple. Send cheque made payable to B & D Over 55s Forum. Please contact our Secretary G.L.Merritt, 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke RG22 6QS.

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this as the end of long and busy month approaches. October really seems to have whizzed by and our summer holiday is just a bunch of photographs' on my PC and some distant memories. This time next week the clocks will have gone back and it will be getting dark around 5pm in the afternoon. I'm really not a great fan of the English winter, a series of seemingly endless grey, damp and cold days. I remember my days in the RAF stationed in Berlin, where the temperature could drop to -20 degrees and everything was covered in snow. It was cold, but it was a crisp sharp cold that you could wrap up against rather than the damp which seems to penetrate through to the marrow. Do I sound depressing? In a perverse kind of way I also enjoy the winter – the anticipation of things like Bon-fire Night, Remembrance Sunday and the run up to Christmas and New Year. December 21st is the shortest day of the year, after that it starts to get lighter again (Hooray!), even if only by one or two minutes a day. There is a natural rhythm to it all. Summer gives way to autumn, autumn to winter, winter to spring and so on. The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible wrote about 'a time for everything, and a season for activity under the heaven; a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant, a time to uproot, a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.' (Ecclesiastes ch.3). It's a bit like the Lion King's 'Circle of Life'.

As this season of autumn gives way to winter with the anticipation of Christmas, maybe you can find time to enjoy all of God's creation that surrounds us and take pleasure in its many changing faces. Take time too, to consider the season of your life that you're in or going through. Wherever we are, whatever we are, wherever we've come from or going to, whatever we've done in life God knows and cares – if you want to know how much try reading Psalm 139 in the Old Testament.

With warm greetings in Christ

Your friend and vicar
Arthur.

My Hobby Ice Hockey by Paul Frankum

I am a keen Ice Hockey Fan. I follow the Basingstoke Bison, Basingstoke Buffalo and also The Great Britain Team. I started watching in September 1999. I have been to lots of games as far away as Scotland for the Fife Flyers and as local as Bracknell Bees, and one year I went with the Great Britain Supporters Club to Hungary to watch the World Championships.

You can occasionally get fights between the players on the ice, but that is where it is left, I have never see trouble in the crowd as it is a family sport. There are rules of behavior on the ice and for the spectators as this is a game that encourages families. There is a strong supporters club, who help to raise money for the team and there are a variety of gifts you can buy. There are refreshments available, and a sports bar where the players go after the game so you can meet them and talk to after each home game.

There are two teams with each team consisting of around twenty players. A game consists of three 20-minute periods, with two breaks. At Basingstoke breaks last 12 minutes. The object of the game is to get the puck in the net using sticks to pass it to their team mates. Each team has six players on the ice at any one time, a goalie and five other players. The goalie usually plays the whole match but may swap with a back-up goalie due to an injury, or match penalty. The other players will play for two to three minute shifts at a time, and then swap with another player. Each set of players is known as a line, and each line has two defence men and three forwards. Players do not all swap at the same time some may stay on a bit longer, or come off the ice sooner. The players start in the centre of the rink, facing the end where they score. A player from each team goes to the centre and the referee will drop the puck between them. This is called a face-off. Play can stop for any number of reasons, if a penalty has been called the referee will blow his whistle and the clock will stop. The clock will start again when play is resumed. The clock stops when a goal is scored, if a player is injured or if a violation of the rules has occurred. Ice hockey has something for everyone, speed, skill, entertainment.

A DJ introduces the players, keeps the crowd informed who scored the goals, who has penalties and why. You can fill in a programme to keep as a record. The DJ plays music during the breaks in play, which adds to the lively atmosphere. The crowd is also loud, and have various chants and songs to encourage the team. After the third 20 minute period the play will stop unless overtime is required. A player from each team will be awarded a 'Man of the Match' award. The players then do a 'lap of honour'

Bison are the professional Ice hockey team and play in the top league in the country. Ticket Price Are Adult £12; Child £7.50; Concession (Over 60, Disabled, Student) £9; Family £35

Buffalo are a Semi-professional team and have quite a few players who have played for the Bison and play in the English National League. Ticket Prices are Adult £3; Child £2; Concession (Over 60, Disabled, Student) £2; Family £8

Game night information can be found on the websites or by calling the phone numbers below:

Useful Links:- <http://basingstokebuffalo.moonfruit.com> Tel: 07881 678812;
<http://www.bstokebison.co.uk> Tel: 01256 355266; <http://www.gbssc.co.uk>

Editor Note: Let us know about your hobbies and we can put an article in and promote them

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- A work placement will be found for you to complete the NVQ Level 2 qualification; leading to employment.
- Financial assistance available.
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Basingstoke ITeC is an IT training provider funded by the LSC for young people living in North Hampshire. We teach IT skills to young people and through an Apprenticeship help them get started in the work place.

For more information contact: 01256 471161

mail@basingstokeitec.co.uk

Or go to www.basingstokeitec.co.uk



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The centre has been bursting at the seams recently and it's hard to know where to start!

POP ZONE : The 8 to 13 age group from 6 to 8 pm is now full. Any new members who wish to come will need to contact us to be placed on a waiting list. Priority will always be given to Popley residents! We still have lots of space for the 13+ age group form 8 to 10pm so please come in and you can have your chance to let us know what you want form your club.

WANTED: Any old plain single duvet covers or unwanted bean bags would be most welcome. We are also running a shoe box appeal for 21st century children from the Centre. Any unwanted shoe boxes would be great and any help to fill them would be fantastic!
 And any adult volunteers willing to give up any amount of time would be most welcome!

Forthcoming Events

Xmas Bazaar: Saturday 25th November from 10 – 4. We still have some table space available at £7 per table. £1 adult entry which includes free raffle ticket.
 So come and do some of your shopping and find some unique gifts!

Blink & Pop Zone 'Jazz Night': Saturday 25th November from 7.30pm. £5 per ticket.

Tea Dance: The Christmas Tea Dance is on Friday 8th December from 2pm to 5pm so remember to get your tickets in plenty of time. £4 in advance or £5 on the door!

Magic of Christmas: Monday 11th December 5.30 to 7.30pm. This year there will not be a procession through the estates but there will be masses on at the centre to make it a fantastic community event for Popley. Anyone willing to volunteer some time to help on the night would be most welcome!

Xmas Family Night: Sunday 17th December: 7pm to 11.30pm

New Years' Eve Family Night: Sunday 31st December: 7pm 'til' late.

Check next months 'Popley Matters' or call us for more info on any of the above. We look forward to seeing you at our events over the next couple of months, but if you have any suggestions for future events or activities you would like us to look at holding in the New Year, let us know!

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

Merton Infant School

During the Summer holidays the school was awarded second place in the Basingstoke and Bloom competition for our lovely grounds and courtyard garden. Now that we are back, our Gardeners Club are busy weeding and planting bulbs, filling up the bird feeders and making sure it remains a super place to learn and observe wildlife.

This term we have welcomed two new teachers together with our new children in Swans. All have settled well and are making excellent contribution to the school.

The children have already taken part in raising funds for “Seeds for Africa” and recently held a super Harvest celebration led by Rev. Arthur Botham.

In the coming weeks we will be working with members of the community, Park Wardens and other volunteer groups to create a woodland trail and learn more about our environment.

If your child is due to start school next year and you are interested in visiting us please talk to Mrs. Cripps to make an appointment. Your applications need to be in by Friday 17th November. Telephone 01256 324507

Extra Car Parking This Christmas.

With Christmas just two months away, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are already beginning preparations for the expected increase in traffic congestion during this busy period.

Following the success of last year, in addition to the town's existing car parks, shuttle bus and Park and Ride service at the Leisure Park, there will be additional car parking available near The Castle Pub in Basing View. There will be ample spaces for shoppers and it is situated within walking distance to the town centre.

Basing View car park will be open from Monday 23 October, half term week until January and will have a maximum stay of five hours.

Signs will be displayed in the town to direct traffic to the alternative car park at Basing View.

The extra car parking is being opened to accommodate the increased demand on the town centre in the weeks leading up to and after Christmas. The council is working in partnership with Festival Place to provide shoppers and traders with adequate car parking during this period as well as taking measures to reduce possible traffic congestion. From 14 November Festival Way will be closed to traffic exiting the shopping centre car park. Diversions will be in place to direct traffic through a tunnel to Basing View and onto Churchill Way East.

The following charges will be introduced at Basing View: Up to 1 hour: 60p; 1 to 2 hours: £1.10; 2 to 3 hours: £1.60; 3 to 4 hours: £1.90; 4 to 5 hours: £2.40

back to the shop and change it. We can't win can we, so in the words quoted in the wonderful TV program (I have a cunning plan) I can't print it or she will find out and that will spoil her!!!! surprise.

See, I am always going onto different things, back to what I wanted to say, what really annoys me is getting to a drop kerb and finding a van or car parked across them. These people should get a heavy fine for doing it, the slopes and dropped kerbs are for the senior citizens, disabled and mothers with pushchairs in order to make it just that small bit of difference, so I hope the local council and police start to act on it as it is a common thing across Basingstoke.

OK, I know I have started preaching again. I as you all know am a bit battered now and sometimes can not even hold a cup in my hand as I shake so much. I have a friend that keeps trying to find me a job as a Cocktail Shaker, or he tells people he puts me on the shelf in the back of his car as a noddy dog, you have to laugh at your self or give up in life. Take one day this month, I made a cup of tea and by the time I got to my lounge I had half a cup, the rest went over the papers, and “Her Indoors” chair, mind you I did not mind that, she had to sit in it and I some how forgot to tell her silly me!! Yes it can be hard for us all, I am not talking just about our senior citizens but every one that has some kind of affliction. So now I have relented to an extent “Her Indoors brought me a thermal mug with a lid. I don't have to take the top off, and I do not feel embarassed about drinking out of it. I could have had a baby mug but I would draw the line at that, so if you get a chance get one that keeps the tea warm, and you need that in the coming winter months. Why not put some soup in it to drink, anything that is hot on the cold days to come, also remember to keep a blanket by your chair. You can buy these new thermal blankets now, put socks on, if your feet get too hot you can take them off, but you must all keep warm. I for one do not want to pick up the local papers to read that some one has been found cold at home or passed away. Maybe our local council or a joint venture with a company could supply these mugs to the senior citizens or thermal blankets, just an idea that some one could pick up on even if they supply them with their company logos on them.

All of you keep well and remember fellers, “Her Indoors” is about to drag you screaming round town this month and next month buying that dreaded word presents. See I am afraid of it, just by thinking, what could happen to me?

The Old Codger



Diaries from the Old Codger

Now and then someone says something to you and it sends your memories back in time. I have been talking on the web pages to a person in the East End. He remembers going to the Isle of Sheppey as a small boy for his holidays. He also remembers a ship that broke its back on a sand bank in the war it was full of ammunition.

I wonder how many of you old timers have been on holiday to the camp at Sheerness? Outside the camp was a pub. As a family would go to it most nights as they always had a sing song. Mind you, there was a woman that lived locally who would scare me when she came along. She had a hump on her back and walked with a stoop, as a small lad you did not know any better. Only as you get older do you realise the affliction she had.

Well, as you all know it does not take much for a Londoner to start singing and before long the whole pub would come alive, with the piano that the humped woman played, also men with mouth organs, bones, and spoons. All the kids were just left to play together outside on the green. You could have as many as twenty kids playing on that grass. Every now and then some one would shout from the pub “drinks” and every one got one no matter whose kid it was.

My Granddad was a great forager and he could find all sorts of things to eat, horse mushrooms, wild cabbage, all types of wild fruits and now and then some gulls eggs they were lovely. So that was our yearly holidays up to the late 50s. Yes, I know have talked about this before, but it is just the little things that come to your mind that tells you to write more about the place.

Let’s go back to the ship. Every year divers have to go down and inspect it because the ammunition is so volatile. One part of the ship the divers would not go near as a giant Conger Eel was inside it. They say if it does move and the cargo comes out it could explode, if this were to happen it would take half the island with it. So after that bit of cheerful information I am not going on holiday on the island anytime soon.

Many of us are disabled or find walking difficult, but what gets me when I am driving around on “OLD 1 GIT”,. Yes, that is the number plate my son put on it. So if you do see it around you will know who the Old Codger is, our sub editor Paul Frankum has made an Old Codger plate to go on the front, but I will wait for my son to put it on. I have been looking for something for “Her Indoors” for Christmas. See I have still got her, so I had better say something or she will think I don’t love her any more. The thing is us fellers are useless at getting things like Christmas presents for “Her Indoors”, they open it Christmas Day and say that’s nice then after Christmas go



BLINK

A local organisation committed to raise funds for blind and visually impaired children, adults and charities with in the community.

BLINK was set up by a local dad, who became blind in December 2004 after being suddenly struck down with Meningitis, David Chatten-Smith, 36 a dad of one was in a coma for five days only to find when he awoke he was unable to walk, and was completely blind.

From that day David has vowed to raise funds for many, local organisations that need help, BLINK raise funds by holding party nights within the area. Their first charity event was held in May 2006 and raised over £900 to whom Guide Dogs For The Blind, Meningitis Research Foundation, and Basingstoke Hospital Eeye department all benefited.

BLINK have a number of events planned for the coming months and a bigger event listing for 2007. BLINK are only able to hold events like this from the local businesses that sponsor there events, BLINK are always looking for that helping hand, so if you work, or own a business big or small and could benefit from a high profile publicity campaign for little outlay, then please contact BLINK on 01256 419460, or email; dave@bft.me.uk.

Our next event is planned for Saturday 25th November “Christmas Jazz “, Why not kick start your Christmas spirit, and join BLINK, in a themed evening with decorations, relaxing music from our live band “ Steve Conway and the Swing Junkies “ playing a selection of smooth jazz and all the favourite Christmas tunes from Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra plus many more.

At Popley Fields Community Center Basingstoke.

The evening starts at 8pm,

£3.50 on the door [£2.50 concessions]. FREE mince pie and seasonal arrival drink included in the entry price.

Book your tickets in advance, call 01256 419460 or e-mail; tickets@bft.me.uk

BLINK is geared towards raising funds for their nominated charities, and to help blind and visually impaired children and adults in the community.

For more details on this event, or about BLINK then please take time to visit our web site; www.bft.me.uk, or call us on 0700 58 09 132

“Look forward to meeting you “David *Chatten-Smith* *BLINKS* founder.

Christmas Jazz, sit back relax and enjoy an evening of live music, Join BLINK Fundraising.



Hello,

As some of you will now be aware PC 23234 THORNE and I have joined the PopleyMatters website-I am CBO CARTER and PC THORNE is CBO THORNE. I have posted topics recently on Graffiti and the DVLA so please visit to read these and post responses if necessary.

We are both keen to integrate into Popley as much as possible and the site allows us to review and update points of interest in relation to Popley.

Recently I attended the Respect Agenda Forum in Basingstoke along with Jane and I think many points of interest were raised. The profile of neighbourhood policing was explained in more detail to councillors and many of the agencies involved in peoples lives as well as many other issues.

I am positive for the future of Popley and I know that money doesn't buy happiness but it sure does buy a big new school (John Hunt) with more opportunities for the community. I have been reliably informed that there will be a dedicated office in the new school for myself and the wardens. I am hoping that the accredited Community Safety Officer and the new Police Community Support Officers will also be able to work from the school. This will allow for a more unified agency approach in Popley and allow myself and PC THORNE to be kept up to date with current issues. At present there are no computer systems available for police in Popley and our beat office is in Old Basing! It takes us a while to cycle to Popley and we are not always in a position to respond to community incidents that are in progress. Likewise to update our work we must leave Popley.

I do believe that within the next year the people of Popley will notice changes for the good with more agencies than ever able to liaise with residents and be a point of reassurance and assistance for issues within the community. P.S Jane, please change my photo for the paper I don't want to scare the residents!

Regards

PC 20686 CARTER
Popley West Beat Officer



Confused about what you can and can't recycle?
People often put things in the grey bin or they fill their green bin with normal rubbish because they aren't sure about what they can and can't recycle.

So, here's your at-a-glance guide to what needs to go in which bin or your green.

What can be recycled in your green bin?

- plastic bottles such as drinks, milk, cleaning products and shampoo bottles (but not the lids)
- drinks cans
- food tins, including pet foods
- clean paper such as newspapers, magazines, directories (except Yellow Pages) and junk mail (NOT shredded paper)
- cardboard packaging and boxes such as cereal boxes and food sleeves

Tip - Make sure everything you put in your green bin is clean, dry and loose – please don't separate it into bags.

What needs to go in the grey bin?

- drinks cartons such as 'Tetra pak' cartons used for juice
- polystyrene and cellophane
- plastic food packaging such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and plastic food trays
- Yellow Pages (or take them to the special recycling banks)
- shredded paper (or put it in your compost bin)
- plastic carrier bags
- food waste

Tip – Reduce your household waste by as much as 20% if you put all your food waste into a bio-digester such as the green cone which is a bit like a home composter for all food waste. Find out more at www.greencone.co.uk. Use re-usable shopping bags. Shredded paper is a great ingredient for successful composting.

To find out more about recycling, tell us your views on how we can all recycle more visit the website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recyclemore or call the contact centre on 01256 844844

