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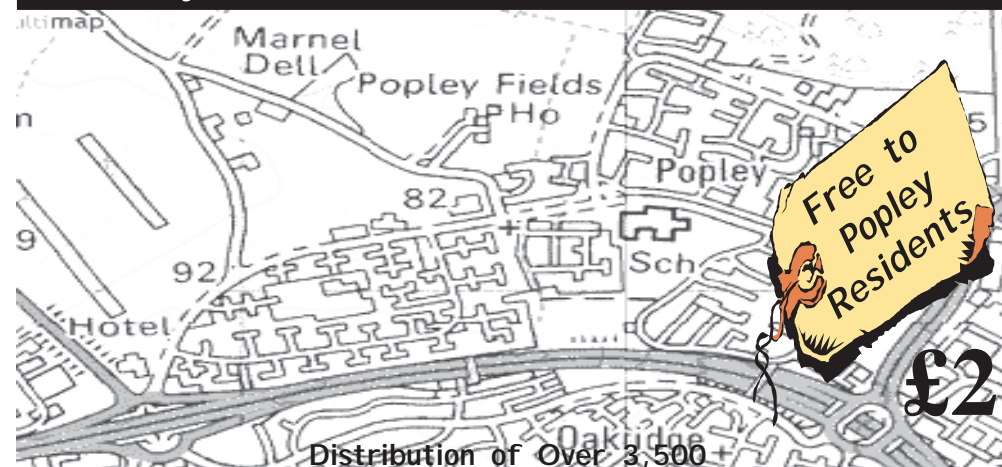
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

January 2007

Issue 59



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-01-07)

Message From the Editor:- A New Year already, 2007! I don't make New Year Resolutions because I never seem to keep them, well not for long, no matter how much I mean to.

With the New Year comes opportunities to improve your education or learn a new skill. There are some really interesting courses at John Hunt on page 18, also a Can't Cook Won't Cook course on page 22. There is also some good advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau on page 6 on what to do if those Christmas bills have got a bit out of hand. There is some excellent advice from our Firefighters on being as safe as possible, and escape routes in our homes. They have some tips on page 19. Please don't leave rubbish out to blow everywhere. Large items like furniture can be collected by the Community Furniture Project free of charge (phone 01256 320700). The items are then sold to the public at extremely good prices, and you help with recycling too!

Well done Lee Austen and his team of helpers at Marnel Football Club in just one year they have grown from one team to at least three. I know the children love the training and the game. I often see crowds of people on Saturday mornings at Marnel School Fields. It is so good to see families together.

I would also like to thank Iris King, our distribution Manager, without whom we could not get out as many of our copies of Popley Matters. Iris really could do with some more help with deliveries. So if you are one of the people who has made a New Year resolution to get fitter, delivering some Popley Matters would be a great way of doing it. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who delivers the Popley Matters every month. I have been told that lots of people do read it and that makes the many hours getting it ready every month worthwhile.

Happy New Year to you all from the Popley Matters Team.

Hits on www.popley.matters.org.uk website for month of December: 100

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, 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;
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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I brought a house in Popley 1 year ago and have had my house burgled and my car broken into for a second time last night (11th Dec, 2006). This is becoming increasingly tiresome. I am no longer confident in leaving the house for any period of time and now feel I have to have my car alarmed. This is a sad state of affairs and I'd like to appeal to you all, that if any one knows the person(s) responsible for this they should go forward to the Police. Let's try and raise the profile of Popley and not allow it to go the way it is already stereotyped within the borough of Basingstoke. I take pride in where I live, let's encourage the people around us to do the same. That way the distrust can disappear and a bit of harmony can be restored. From a very angry resident.

Editors reply; I too am very proud of Popley and am saddened that you have been a victim of crime. The Police Councillors and Wardens have been trying to set up Neighbourhood Watch schemes but we can't seem to get enough people interested. I have lived in Popley for nearly 36 years and the crime now is no worse and in fact less than in most other places, so I do not think we deserve to be stereotyped as you suggest. I hope the suggestion is not that it has to be a Popley resident as there is no proof. The last time a crime like this was committed, the perpetrators came from Reading, not even in Basingstoke. We are a strong community and we pull together in a crisis. I do hope that if anyone has any information they will come forward to the police or ring the 101 number.

Dear Editor; You may recall that earlier in the year the shelter opposite Tintern Close became damaged and that repairs were made and the shelter was refurbished.

Unfortunately during the high winds of the weekend the shelters repairs failed and the shelter has become unstable. I trust we will get a better replacement?

Editors reply: This is something your

Councillors have been campaigning on and have been assured that the replacement is of a more robust design.

Dear Editor; I would like to thank the councillors who decided that we needed more privacy at the flats on Guernsey Close. We appreciate the organised parking and the fence that now surrounds the "garden" of the flats. The area is lovely and clear now and we wait in anticipation for when the council grasscutters churn up our "lawn" with their cutters in the rain as they have done our small grassed area below the kitchen window (if they can get the machine through the gate that is blocked by the half dead shrubbery, the only plant life the contractors didn't remove). However, we now have a wonderful play area where the local youths can run from the small gate to the large gate, through our garden and bang on all the downstairs flats windows which is such a joy for those of us who work shifts. Many thanks to those concerned for taking away our only sanctuary from the outside world.

Guernsey Close
Editors reply: This was done after a survey that went round the residents of both Jersey and Guernsey Closes. There were several requests including sorting out the garage area. Anti social behaviour is never acceptable and I suggest you report it to the 101 number who will pass on the information to the right authority.

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 cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.

**Please send your letters to:
The Editor, Popley Matters,
P. O. Box 6727, Basingstoke
RG24 9GG or email:
editor@popleymatters.org.uk
or phone 819924**



How Deep Is The White Horse?
by David Glover

That all depends when you visit. Over the last two years it has rarely been more than about 3ft deep and has completely dried up during the summers of 05 and 06. Rumour has it that it gets a lot deeper than this, but unless you have been coming along to the White Horse (Popley Pond) for more than a couple of years you have never seen this.

This autumn the heavy rains have filled the pond. In fact it has almost reached its maximum depth and is holding more water than it has for 3 or 4 years. Water is running from the western pond down through the Willow Carr into the main pond. The eastern pond is showing a good depth of water. The Willows we were cutting about this time last year are now under a couple of feet of water.

The Leisure Services department of B&DBC have organised three corporate tasks at the White Horse this

Right: White Horse Reflections.
December 2006



autumn, and great efforts have been made to tidy up brash that had been produced from these tasks. And just in time. Brash piles, which had been left in the lower areas, have only just been removed in the nick of time before the waters rose. Enormous thanks are due to those who turned out on 25 November during a thunder storm and valiantly worked to remove brash to higher ground. If this had not been done I think a fair bit of it would now be floating in the pond.

On 12 November the team were digging reeds from the bed of a dry pond. On the basis of conditions over the last few years we scheduled some more reed clearing for the 12 December. At the time of writing (5 December) the area is now under 6-9ft of water.

This all goes to show that management of the White Horse is far from simple. Not only do we have the complexities of working around the Great Crested Newts we are very much under the influence of the weather. However, even if it is difficult to plan, it all makes for an interesting challenge.

If you would like to find out more about Popley Conservation Volunteers, please contact our secretary Lee Roth: lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk or 01256 330738

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Editor@popleymatters.org.uk

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Don't Throw Away Your Tree - Recycle It

As Christmas comes to an end and Twelfth Night approaches, it comes time to take down your real fir trees. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is reminding people to recycle them when all the celebrations are over instead of adding to the mountains of rubbish thrown away over the festive season.

The council has set up 20 collection points across the borough to make it easy for residents to recycle their trees. Residents can simply leave their trees for collection at one of the allocated sites and it will be collected by the council's Street Care team and taken to be recycled to create Pro-Grow, a high quality soil conditioner.

Last year in Basingstoke and Deane residents recycled over 4,000 trees through the council's collection points and stopped 37 tonnes of waste being created. By recycling their Christmas tree, residents can make a real difference to the amount of waste we throw away in Basingstoke and Deane. Each year in the UK, 5 million real Christmas trees are thrown away this creates about 9,000 tonnes of additional waste.

You can recycle your Christmas paper (except for the metallic type). Big cardboard boxes can be folded down and left by your bins to be collected. As well as your Christmas cards cardboard food boxes, like your mince pies were in, can be put in your green bins. Some charities collect old cards or, like me, you can make your gift tags out of them for next year,

We all create so much more rubbish over the festive season and it's important to remember to keep recycling everything we can. Getting rid of the Christmas tree when all the fun and festivities are over can be a real nuisance.

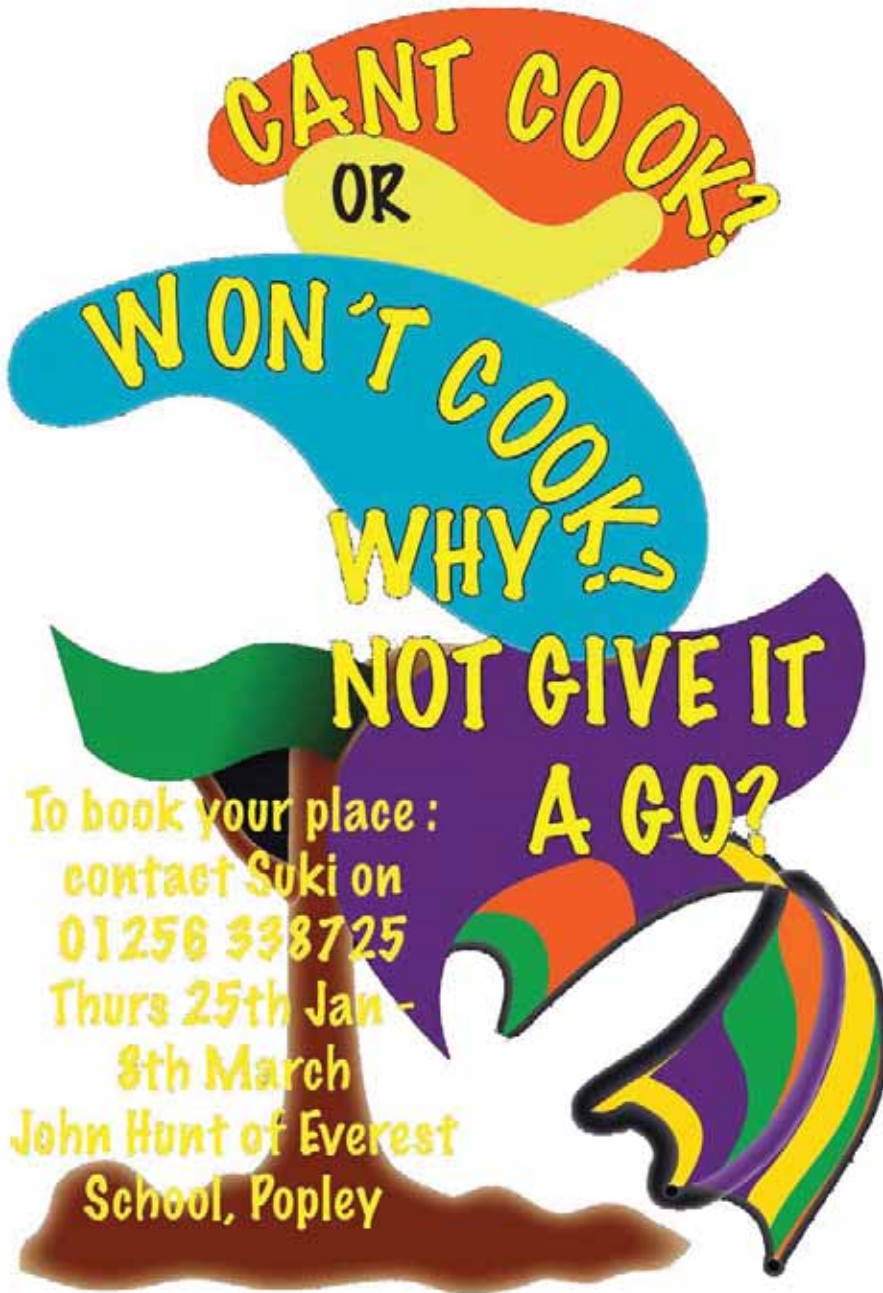
This service makes it simple for residents to take their tree to a nearby collection point and help them do their bit for the environment.

The collections will run from Wednesday January 3rd 2007 to Wednesday January 17th 2007. The following collection points nearest to Popley are:

Basingstoke Town Centre, Memorial Park (Crossborough Hill car park); and Homebase, Winchester Road

If you miss the collections at these locations, you can take your tree to the Recycling Centre on Wade Road.

The opening hours at Wade Road are 8am to 4pm - closed Jan 1st 2007. Open all other days. *Jane Frankum*



Councillors Page: I went to Bishops Green to see a demonstration on household sprinklers. The Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service used (by kind permission of Sentinel) a pair of semidetached houses that were due for demolition to show the advantage of sprinklers. Cameras were installed in each of the houses to show how quickly a fire spreads. A sofa was set alight in each front room at the same time. I watched how quickly fire and smoke blotted out the cameras. The house without sprinklers was left for about five minutes or so, as that is about how long a fire engine would take on average to attend the fire. I watched as the smoke poured out of the windows and roof. Within less than two minutes the fire was put out in the house with sprinklers. When safe, I was able to go into both houses to see the damage inside the difference was amazing. In house without the sprinkles, the ceiling was burnt through, there was burnt furniture and thick black soot everywhere. And worst of all was that if a person had been in there they would most likely not survive. In the other with the sprinkler, there was some damage to the corner of the sofa but everything else survived (including the camera that carried on filming), as would the people who could have been in there. What has this to do with Popley? Well, I would like to see sprinklers in all new affordable housing like Maldive and Faroe when the regeneration starts.

Popley West: You may have noticed that the bus shelter opposite Tintern Close has been demolished. This is due to the shelter not being strong enough to withstand the winds in this exposed space. It will be replaced by a much more robust one.

I welcome the new legislation that the Government are proposing, to taking away the power that bus companies have with regard routing buses where they like, at a price chosen by them, and when they like. It is proposed that it will go back to local councils who will be able to get a bus service that at last suits the residents much better.

The "Blue Bag" collection reared up again in Basingstoke just days before Christmas. They try to make it look like it is a charity and it most certainly is not! This is a registered business with an address in London (the address is "shared" by 35 other businesses).

I wish you all a successful and Happy New Year. Paul Frankum

Popley East. By the time you read this, Christmas will be over and it will be time to recycle the Christmas cards and wrapping paper. These can be put in the green bin along with all the other paper.

Longfellow Parade: a detailed planning application is imminent. We'll let you know when it goes in.

The sewerage roadworks: these are still causing problems. This time we are talking to the Highways dept about how poor the pedestrian access is by the junction between Popley Way and Carpenters Down.

Flooding: we have had a lot of it these past few weeks due to the worst rains we have had for many years. There has been extensive flooding at Falkland Road by Popley Fields, Ascension Close, Bermuda Close Play Area, and Dryden Close, to name but four (I'm sure there have been more places affected).

But at least all this rain has topped up Popley Ponds which are looking much better for it after the long hot dry summer.

Hope you all had a good holiday: here's to the New Year. Andy McCormick

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

To the New Testament

Church of God Basingstoke

www.ntcog.co.uk

e-mail: info@ntcog.co.uk



Treasure
Island
Play Group

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

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

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

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

01256 414014

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100 not out ?? - not the cricket scout but a record of Scouting's achievement... !!

The fledgling movement began in 1907 when Lord Robert Baden Powell took twenty young lads camping on Brownsea Island. Today Scouting has grown beyond imagination and is now the largest youth movement in the world with over 400,000 members in the UK .

There are three Scout District within the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane; Basingstoke East, Basingstoke West and Silchester. Most areas of Basingstoke, the town centre and surrounding urban areas and villages have a Scout Group. Groups meet in wooden huts and school halls. Some are fortunate to have their own Headquarters.

There are two Scout Groups in Popley. Basingstoke Air Scouts have their own Headquarters at Base 2000 in Carpenters Down. 1st Popley (Everest) Scout Group meets in St. Gabriel's Church Hall in Tewskesbury Close. Both offer a Beaver section for boys and girls aged from 6-8 years; a cub section for 8-10½ years and a Scout Troop for those 10½ - 14 years. Provision for the over 14's is offered as Explorer Scouts. Basingstoke East District has two Explorer Scout units based as Chineham and at Glebe Hall (behind St. Michael's Church Cottage) in the town centre.

Basingstoke has exciting plans to celebrate this unique year in Scouting's history. In April all three Districts will join together for the St. George's Day Parade followed by a service in Basingstoke War Memorial Park . A Festival of Flags is to be held in Winchester Cathedral in July and later that month 3-D 2007 promises high jumps, climbing wall, pioneering, birds of prey, farm animals, and all manner of activities for members to enjoy. Centenary Camps will be held in August in the New Forest.

For details of Scout Groups in the area contact Beryl Mullender, District Secretary, Basingstoke East Scouts (01256) 321596 or District Commissioner Andy Cullen on (01256) 422725

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

The Gift Tombola stall at Popley Fields Christmas Fair raised £80 for the Centenary Camp Fund. Thank you to everyone who supported us. More fund-raising for Centenary Camps will follow in the New Year.

As we near the end of the autumn session Christmas featured strongly in our programmes. The cubs made Christmas cards and finished off the session with an evening of ice skating with not too many bumps and bruises! The Beavers made Christmas angels and lanterns and staged a Nativity Pageant for parents, families and friends. Several Beavers received Creativity Badges at the final session. Congratulations to Christopher on gaining the Chief Scout Bronze Award and to Harrison on gaining the Silver Award. These are the highest awards in their respective sections and require regular commitment and high standard of achievement. Well done!

Pat Brown has retired as Group Scout Leader due to his continuing ill-health. He will continue his association with the Group by helping with Boot Sales and fund-raising.

The District Commissioner, Andy Cullen (01256) 422725 would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in becoming the Group Scout Leader to take over the management of the Group. The role includes co-ordinating the work of the three sections and the Group Committee and offering support and encouragement to section leaders. This is a uniformed voluntary post and interested persons will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau application in the event of taking up appointment. Additional leaders for both Cub and Beaver section would also be welcomed.

All sections will restart week commencing 8th January. New recruits welcome – please contact the leader concerned.

Young's Chinese Food

to take away

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Popley, Basingstoke

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Move and Groove

Would you like to get fit in the New Year and shift some of those unwanted Christmas calories?

All Classes start on Wednesday 10th January 2007!

(The Sycamore Centre – Winklebury)

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 5:15pm – 6:00pm | Move and Groove–Cool aerobics for kids!! (7yrs+)
£3.00 per session |
| 6:30pm – 7:30pm | Dance Fit–Dance aerobics (Adults)
£3.50 per session. |

(The Ridgeway Centre – Buckskin)

Music and movement sessions for children.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 10:00am - 10:45am | Move and Groove (Twins Club)
£2.00 per child. |
| 11:00am – 11:45am | Move and Groove (Toddlers and Mums)
£3.00 per session |

**To book a place or to ask any questions then please contact
Becky on 0772 558 1218 anytime.**



Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves – so the saying goes. At this time of year it becomes even more important to look after both the pennies and the pounds.

Keep a check on the money you have coming in.

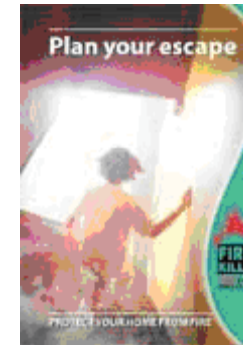
Keep a check on the money you are spending out.

Try to make sure you don't spend out more than you have coming in.

BUT – if, come January/February you find that didn't work – DON'T PANIC. Always remember to pay the essentials – rent/mortgage, Council Tax, fuel bills, food bills.

SEEK ADVICE – don't leave matters to get worse when interest might be charged on overdrafts or unpaid loans. Come to the CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU and talk to us. We can help. We can't magic the debts away, but we can help you to deal with them.

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau, The Library, Town Centre, Basingstoke. 01256 322814. Opening hours: Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 10.00 to 12 noon, Thurs 09.30 to 11.30. Appointments by arrangement.



Escape Plans.

Did you know?

- ❖ Every day two people die in a fire, Make sure it isn't you.
- ❖ You can survive a fire if you plan what to do before it happens.

What to do:

- ❖ Have a night-time routine including closing inside doors when you go to bed.
- ❖ One of the most important things you can do is to plan your escape route.
- ❖ Get everyone together and leave the building, taking extra care of children or elderly.
- ❖ Think about what to do if you can't leave by this route:
- ❖ Have an "escape room" in mind, the room that's best to survive in.
- ❖ Put bedding by the door to prevent smoke coming into the room.
- ❖ I deally at the front of the house so the firefighters can see you as they arrive.
- ❖ Remember to keep door and window keys where you can find them.
- ❖ If friends or family come to stay at your home, make them aware of the fire escape plan.

Further information on planning your escape can be viewed at www.firekills.gov.uk

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

Family Activities ~ Spring 2007

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

Issue 1

December 2006

Learn a new skill for 2007!

Fulfil those New Year Resolutions or take up a new hobby!

Courses of special Interest

Adults only Salsa Classes

Family Courses include:

Beginners Spanish

SPOT (supporting
parents of teenagers)

Beginners Steel Pans

Keep fit through Sport/
Dance

Healthy Cooking 

Child Development

(short course)

Literacy/Numeracy on Ice

**Give us a ring or
email and find out
about any of these
courses.**

We are hoping to start:

**A Knitting/Cross Stitch
Club** 

Learning to speak Polish

Evening IT classes



Managing your
Finances (daytime class)

**Would anyone be
interested ~ let us know**

Some comments from parents who attended courses at the beginning of 2006. . .

... 'My children are now helping at home and they really enjoyed the cooking and now try new foods'. . . 'Found out that fresh often is cheaper'. . . 'Course is so good for helping families to cook together and educating us in hygiene'. . .
Healthy Eating Course

... 'we spent more time talking to one another than we normally would'. . .
'I have a closer relationship with my child'. . . 'I find it easier to talk to my daughter about school'. . . 'he is definitely more confident now'. . .
Literacy/Numeracy on Ice course

... 'Great course for parents and teenagers even if they have no problems'.
... *SPOT course*

Talk to us about the courses you would like to do!

John Hunt are offering a range of family courses at various venues throughout Popley.

Most courses are FREE of charge.

Just give us a ring or email and find out more. Maybe there's a course you would like to do with your children that we are not offering this term,

GIVE US A RING & LET US KNOW

All courses are subject to cancellation if there are not enough enrolments.

Email: suki.binning@johnhunt.hants.sch.uk OR Marilyn.Botham@hants.gov.uk



Happy New Year!

It's a New Year and hopefully a successful one for everybody who is involved in the club. This year I am looking at getting all the coaching staff kitted out in the same training jackets, so it gives the club more of a professional look when we turn up to games.

I think it's about time we let everybody know we are here to stay. Now I knew we would have quite a few players drop out coming into the winter. What I'm looking for is at least another 5 or 6 more players for the U8's and the U9's, so stand up and be counted. We've got such a good bunch of players for both groups it would be such a shame to cancel games if we haven't got enough players.

Just before Christmas, the U8's had an amazing month, with the Whirlwinds actually winning 2 games in a row against Thatcham, and then beating Wolvesdene and Down Grange the following weekends. Tornados beat Thatcham, Wolvesdene and totally out played Down Grange with the best team performance of the year. Harry Morris was Man of the Match, not for being the best player. But I also look for improvement in players and Harry has come on ten fold. Well done.

We also had 4 players scoring hat tricks last month, Jacob Austen, Finley Judd, Nathan Parker and a player who when he first started couldn't even kick a ball. Well done Gordon.

We also have 3 girls playing in the club and I have to say well done girls! Ellie Dawber has turned things around since supporting a real club, and is playing and battling every single week, plus scoring 3 goals in the process. Samantha (Bonkers) who, since playing in goal, has given Dave a real boost to his team, no fear. And Shanika, who has recently joined the club, has shown the boys that she's not there to be intimidated, and gives as good as she gets, Well done!

What I try to do with the players is: make them aware of their surroundings on the pitch and get them to use every inch of it; be aware of where your players are; and most importantly to stay in their positions.

So keep up the good work and don't stop trying.

Thanks Lee, TEL: 07811167791/E.MAIL: MFCPOPLEY@HOTMAIL.CO.UK



YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

"I first became a Governor because I was trying to give something back, and I wanted to know what was going on with my children's education, and after a few years I realised I could make a difference."

Ron Wilkes has been a governor at Westfields Junior School in Yateley for the last eleven years, and his contribution to school life has not gone unnoticed. He was recently announced the Department of Education's Governor of the year in South England.

Governors are a vital part of any school in Hampshire, making crucial decisions that affect the children who do and will attend the school. But there is a shortage of people coming forward for the role in some areas of Hampshire, despite the rewards it can offer.

"It really does give you satisfaction, I find it far more rewarding working with children than with adults. You can bring in a different outlook to the school teachers are educational, if you're a governor you're looking at issues from a different perspective.

"I'm not academic, but I would say that you need an open mind and common sense. You need to be receptive to needs of other people and have a common sense attitude in dealing with it. The role gives you a sense of satisfaction. I like to think that if you've made a difference to one child's life then its worthwhile."

Hampshire has more than 500 schools and around 8,000 governors who play a crucial role, representing the interests of the general public in the way a school is run and the educational standards that pupils achieve.

Governors are volunteers who need to be good at reading, thinking, listening, and talking with other adults to agree what's best for the school they serve. They don't need any special expertise as free training is available.

On average governors spend about 20 hours a term, (mainly in the evenings) going to meetings, attending training and visiting their school. They are usually appointed for four years although some can't stay that long and others continue to volunteer for many more years. There are around 1500 vacancies in the county of Hampshire many of them are in Basingstoke and the surrounding areas.

A Hampshire County Council representative said "It is a great pleasure to see a Hampshire governor recognised in this way. Governors do a very vital job and we are always keen to encourage more people from our communities across the county to become Governors at their local schools. Ofsted reports continue to show that Hampshire's schools are among the best in the country and it is thanks not only to the commitment and hard work of our teaching staff but also thanks to the unique contribution people like Ron Wilkes make."

Anyone interested in finding out more about becoming a governor can visit www.hants.gov.uk/education/governors or ring Claire Bailey on 01962 845846.

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KYLIE'S WHIPPER SNAPPERS Quality Childcare

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Open 24 hours and all shifts welcome

Loving home environment for your children to play and learn and good old fashioned fun.

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Let your child grow and learn to their full potential.

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

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DYSLEXIA – SYLVIA’S STORY

I was not very confident when I was a young girl. Shy and very dyslexic at the time, I thought I was of no use. Being of this nature I was teased and bullied, so I had a hard time at school. They didn't know about dyslexia, and I was not able to have the help I could have had.

I remember having Bible stories at primary school and a few friends that went to church with their parents. My best friend I had at my last year at school went to a small church, but I never went with them. At that time, for me, churches were very boring and I didn't know the meaning of some of the words in the hymns that were sung.

Things changed and I was invited to a youth group that was not attached to any church but was church based. At last I was accepted for who I was, not what I could or couldn't do. I asked Jesus to change me and help to bring life into me. He healed me of a lot of my shyness and helped me to be more confident. I am able to read out loud without being laughed at now! I can speak and not stumble over my words, anymore. I still have trouble spelling and understanding of the meaning of some words though. With God's healing help and support from good friends I continue to make progress.

I'm very much involved in the church and the community I live in and God has helped me in the things I would have found impossible at one time.

Sylvia of Popley

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!

MAY YOU HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR KNOWING JESUS!

Times of services: Sunday Morning 10.30am and Sunday evening 6.30pm

Various Alpha Courses (Christian Basics) lunchtime and evening

Various meetings during the week (Singles, Married Couples, Youth).

Friday Clubs (Children and Youth) at Melrose Hall, Bermuda Hall, Base 2000 and Oakridge Hall for All every Friday 6.30pm – 7.45 for infant and junior school age and 8.00pm-9.15pm for secondary school age (Melrose only).

Further information contact Pastor Philip Keeble on 462351 or 428795

Email: philip.keeble@ntlworld.com

Sentinel

Update on Longfellow Parade

Sentinel Housing Association has now submitted its detailed planning applications for Shakespeare Road retail development, Longfellow Parade regeneration scheme and the wider Longfellow estate and parking improvements planning applications.

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

Update on Faroe Close & Maldive Road

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cabinet are reviewing the proposed regeneration scheme at their January meeting. Following the granting of their support, Sentinel Housing Association will commence its detailed site surveys and design work.

For more information please contact Sentinel's Regeneration Project Manager, Susan Woodward, on 01252 788741.

Become a Volunteer

What, where, when, HOW?

The Volunteer Bureau has all the answers. We can help by putting you in touch with one of the many organisations in the borough of Basingstoke & Deane that could not function without volunteers.

How do I find out what is available?

- You can telephone the VB Coordinator who will be able to tell you of current opportunities and, if you need them, will give you contact details.
- We can post leaflets and other information to you.
- You can visit the VB at The Orchard, where books of current opportunities are available to sit and 'browse'.
- At the VB there is a wide range of informative literature from local groups, including contact details etc. for volunteering away from home.
- You can make an appointment with the VB Coordinator for a one-to-one confidential interview to give you the opportunity to tell us of your interests, your skills and the commitment you can give. If appropriate, the coordinator can give advice and guidance to suit the criteria you have indicated.
- You can look on the National Volunteering Database site at www.do-it.org.uk

Call the VB Coordinator, Joan Ayton, Tel: 01256 423850

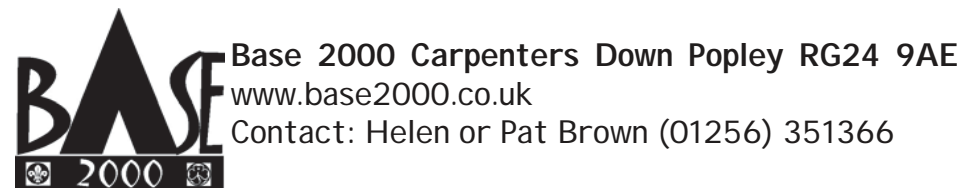
THE ALPHA COURSE

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Good food
and the chance to
explore the
meaning of life!



Starts at 7.30 p.m Wednesday 17th January 2007
at Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down
For more information call (01256) 363692 or e-mail alpha@ntcog.co.uk
We look forward to seeing you there!



Rainbows, Brownie Guides, Guides, Senior Guides, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Wiggins Teape Pensioners, Melrose Christian Fellowship and CMA Kick Boxing and Ladies Keep-fit regularly use Base 2000 and welcome new members. The building can be booked for parties and special celebrations subject and enquires should be made to Helen Brown on (01256) 351366, mobile 07733 032407 or patrick@pbrown4.wanadoo.co.uk

Charges range from £3.50 per hour for the small hall and £4.40 per hour for the main hall for non-profit making organisations increasing to up to £8/£11 per hour for weekend users. Damage deposits of £100 are required in certain circumstances.

Additional facilities include photocopying @5p per A4 copy, television, video/dvd, projector, flip chart and floor-standing screen. Matching crockery and cutlery, BBQ equipment and water glasses for up to 48 people can be provided on request. Please consult with the Bookings Secretary.

Users are expected to leave the building in a clean and tidy state



after use (equipment and materials provided) and are urged to use certain waste bins for recyclable materials only.

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND!

John Newton was a slave trader captain of a ship that carried a sad cargo of Africans torn from family, homeland and friends. He thought nothing of his cargo except as items for trade. Any sick people he regarded as “damaged goods” and threw them overboard. He was a “nominal Christian” but lived a life himself “enslaved” to drink and other addictions.

One day, a severe storm engulfed his ship and he realised, with horror, that he might soon meet his creator. He cried out to God and he was saved from immediate death and ultimately hell. He realised how sad his life was and became a “born again” Christian. Because of God’s love and mercy, he wrote this famous hymn (which later, even reached No.1 in the pop charts!).

John Newton joined forces with another fervent Christian, William Wilberforce and together with others, persuaded Parliament to outlaw the slave trade.

Our Prime Minister recently made an announcement regretting this country’s involvement in slavery because 2007 will be the 200th anniversary since its abolition in 1807.

Grace is a somewhat old fashioned word but it means the undeserved favour of God in our lives. It is God’s love and mercy freely given because Jesus took our blame for all the wrong we have ever done. However we have to receive it from God if we are to receive Jesus as our friend and saviour, God as our Father, and the Holy Spirit as our comforter! ***Like John Newton You can have a brand new start in 2007!*** Make Jesus your New Year Resolution!

1. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, I was once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see. 2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed! 3. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come: ‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home. 4 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. 5. Yes when this heart and flesh shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace. 6. When we’ve been there a thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.

(John Newton 1725-1807)

Philip Keeble, Pastor Melrose Christian Fellowship

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Happy New Year Everyone!

Well, 2007 promises to be a very exciting time for Popley.

POP ZONE : Before Christmas we took a group of ‘PopZone’ members to Paultons Park where everybody had a great day and we all saw Father Christmas!

Memberships are now due for the forthcoming year. It is £5 for the year but can be paid in instalments. We are hoping to do some fundraising events to help subsidise some planned activity trips, so any donations would be gratefully appreciated.

Lots of exciting events are planned for this year so keep coming on Mondays to be involved in them!

And any adult volunteers willing to give up any amount of time would be most welcome as it would mean we can plan even more activities to keep the young people of Popley entertained!

Forthcoming Events and Activities

Salsa Classes: A new beginners Salsa dance class will start on Tuesday 23rd January and lasts for 10 weeks. It will cost £40 and booking should be in advance.

Dash of Salsa: For those who have already been learning, or want to give it a go, there is a Dance night on Friday 26th January for £6. This will be from 8 to 11pm and includes a Salsa lesson. And the bar will be open!

Shopping Trip: The Out and About Partnership have a shopping trip to The Meadows, Camberley on Tuesday 20th February for the over 50’s. Transport costs £4 but places will be limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Popley Festival: This Year’s Popley Festival will be held on Sunday 20th May 2007. It will be at Popley Fields for the first time, so we hope to see you all there to enjoy the great day out and to make it bigger and better than ever!
Volunteers to help before or on the day would be very welcome!

.....
Call us for more info on any of the above.

We look forward to seeing you at our events over the coming month but if you have any suggestions for future events or activities you would like us to look at holding this year let us know!

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

Diaries from the Old Codger



Years ago when Christmas was just that, Christmas. We never got a lot but loved every bit of it, going to bed and trying to listen out for Father Christmas to come. Of course we never did hear him, we would be fast asleep when he came. I don't know how he managed it on all the drink and mince pies left out for him. And as for the reindeer they could not get off the ground with all the carrots that we, as children, had left for them. Then we would wake up at some ungodly hour, creep downstairs and see all the sacks in a line in the front room. With my brothers and my three sisters, we tried to be quiet but could not hold back if we got the present we wanted. They were never like the things kids get today, but they meant every thing to us. What we children did not appreciate was the amount of hard work Mum and Dad put in at the jobs they did, in order to buy as much as they could. My Mum had three jobs cleaning back then. One was at a church, the other at a dentist and also at a lady's house. Dad laid floors that took him away. The company paid for B&B but he and my uncle would sleep on the boxes of floor tiles so they had that bit extra cash. Then there was Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

Then off to one of the family houses for a party on Boxing Day. All the drink and food went to the next family for yet another party, and this is how it went on. I can remember one year at my Gran's in East Ham we had a party from Christmas Eve that lasted till the New Years Day. My Grandfather had a hand cart and all the drink and food was loaded on to it each day and then carted off to the next family house. We walked miles, well as a small boy it felt like it. Going from one end of the Barking Road to the other, then to my aunts at Stratford it was on to Canning Town. I have said before, Granddad was a cooper. Boy did he get some strong drink out of the barrels that came back in the ships. They had to steam them out and the spirit was all in the oak casks. It would come out dark brown and the taste was wonderful. We had some in big jugs right up to the late 60's. So it went on, long after the war years. Today we try and keep as much of our Christmas alive in that all the kids come over to me. When they were young I always got a Christmas Eve

present for them, nothing big just a treat. Now my daughter has three children, I give them a present and not Mum and Dad. All the rest of the family have no children so they get presents still. Then it's our Christmas Day. The tree has all the main presents under it, in the kitchen the wines are open, food cooking, and a few beers before we eat in the afternoon. We all sit down and then the fun begins ripping open the paper on the presents. A few brandies after, then a kip, ready to start all over again in the evening. It's such a hard life for me!

"Her Indoors" has all the work to do. I do feel for her. Every now and then I call out to the kitchen "Are you alright Sweetness?" (see I can creep). Not a word comes back. That means "Get off your b— and give me a hand". So with a sigh I go out and take control of things. (Well I wash a few pots for her. This always works. I can then get back to my pint. We all have too much to eat and too much to drink as we indulge ourselves. But it only comes round once a year.

I do like to see "Her Indoors" feel useful now and then. It just sets the next year off just right. Wait a minute, it's me that cooks all week and cleans. "Her Indoors" only has to go out and earn the money to keep me in the way I am accustomed to, bless her. I do miss her when she is at work. Not that it is because of the work in the house. I could get her to take the dog for long walks, that way I can rest. OK I know when "Her Indoors" reads this she is going to give me what for, but I can live in a world of my own now and then and dream. Still the Old Codger is one of these people that has a big heart and I would be happy if we only had the basic foods in our house.

When I think of the way our world has become over the years, so much sadness, so many wars, and for what? Noone has ever won in war and no one ever will. It is time now for countries to sit and talk, to sit in the same rooms as each other as they are all flesh and blood the same as you and me. They all have their own interpretations of God. If they can just take that first step and by doing that make 2007 a year of peace and give our younger generations a future.

***HAVE A GOOD NEW YEAR FROM THE OLD CODGER
AND OF COURSE "HER INDOORS"***