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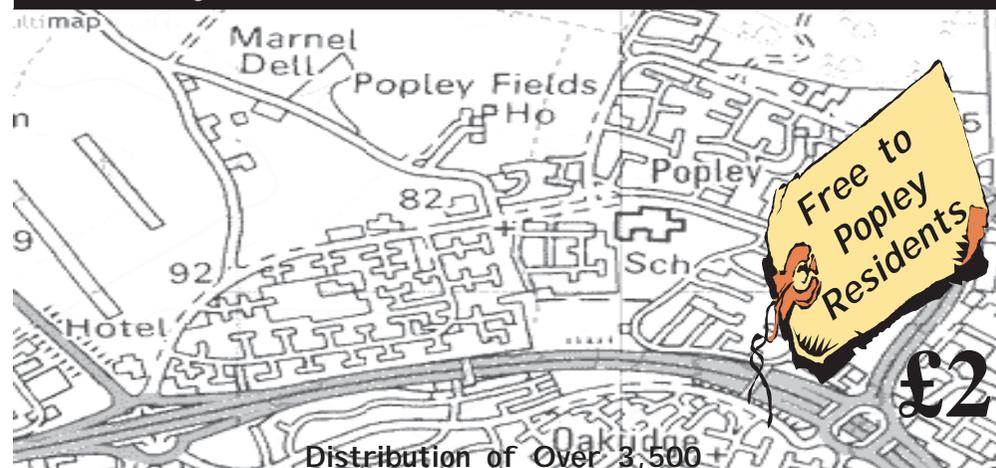
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

February 2007

Issue 60



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Message From the Editor:- What terrible weather we have had. The winds have done a lot of damage with fences down and even bits of fascias on houses blown away. The rain storms have made lots of the roads muddy and some quite deep puddles to go through, not to mention all the roadworks, building and traffic. It just made me think of wartime and the question I hear from time to time of how today's generation would cope. I think we would do all right. I think the people of Popley are a great and resilient group of people.

We have an article's from the police on page 16, Fire service page 23, Community Wardens page 3 and the middle pages on Neighbourhood Watch. The football teams are doing well and wanting to expand see page 7.

We would love to get stories and articles about you, or people you remember who lived or worked in Popley over the years. If you need some help with the writing just call and I will see what we can do to help. Young or old, all would be welcome.

The litter around the estate seems to be getting worse and fly tipping is increasing too. I suspect some of it is where old items were replaced with new over Christmas, or the January Sales. We all have a responsibility to keep our gardens etc in a reasonable state but some front gardens look as if they were in competition with Wade Road tip, though for the job it does, Wade Road is tidy. The Community Furniture Project in Joule Road will take furniture etc. free of charge, if they can repair or use it. Phone 01256 320700 for more details. Perhaps I can ask them to write an article to show what they do in Basingstoke for a future Popley Matters?

I know I have asked on very many occasions for volunteers to deliver your Popley Matters and here I am asking again if you can find time to deliver about 50 (or more would be wonderful).

Finally don't forget Valentines Day on the 14th. You don't have to spend a fortune, just a few words to the one you love is often enough, I will make a homemade card for my dear husband Ken, so no surprises there

Hits on www.popley.matters.org.uk website for month of January: 657

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, PO.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.

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; Well what can one say? Within a few days of December's Popley Matters coming out I had a call from Ken in Kingsclere. I had "Her Indoors" drop off the Old Codgers droopy broken knife, a week later I had my old Dads pipe knife standing out straight no droop in it at all. I would like to thank Ken and his daughter for sorting me out. He must be a very clever man to be able to fix it. I wish to thank him and wish him and his family a Happy New Year. The Old Codger

Editors reply; It is surprising how many people read the Popley Matters, I get people contacting us from all over Basingstoke and even in Reading.

Dear Editor; I would like to offer my commiserations to the person who wrote in the last Popley Matters about being burgled in Popley. I have lived in the same house here since I moved to Basingstoke in 1975 and have never had a problem of this nature. I once had the police round to conduct a security check for me as I had been pestered by salesmen of alarm systems. I was told that my windows were fine, my doors had the 5 bar locks but most important of all, I was told I had the best security device in the world, a large dog. I suggest your correspondent gets one soon. Sorry I am going on a bit now that I have got started. The one thing that really annoys me about where I live is the flytipping. I have challenged people who live opposite me and received foul mouthed abuse in return. I have told Basingstoke & Deane and the wardens who it is who repeatedly dumps their rubbish outside my house, and they have done nothing but pay 'lip service' to their 'concern'. I have offered my house for the purposes of mounting a surveillance camera on the roof - no reply and so the problem continues.

No-one it seems cares enough to do anything other than keep sending out the trucks to clear

it away at the expense of others who dispose of their household rubbish responsibly.

Editors reply: Yes flytipping is really anti social and can cause so many problems. I agree it is frustrating when it looks like nobody is doing anything but it is trying to "catch" the people doing it! I will pass this on to your Councillors and follow it up myself. You are not alone, yours was one of several letters on this subject. The next letter is one. Resident of Popley Poets

Dear Editor; Please can someone remind the residents of Popley that it is their responsibility to keep their gardens tidy. So many have piles of rubbish and old furniture including double beds, and old electrical goods. While your doing that perhaps those few people that do dump their wrappers, cans, bottles and household rubbish all over the area could be reminded that we all have to look at the results of their very poor behavior.

Editors reply: I agree, and so do the vast majority of residents. It takes just a moment longer to put the rubbish in your bin. We have asked for more bins to be placed around the estate and to make them as vandal proof as possible. Furniture and electrical goods can be recycled try phoning.

The Community Furniture Project in Joule Road 01256 320700 they can take it away free of charge.

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,
PO Box 6727, Basingstoke
RG24 9GG or email:
editor@popleymatters.org.uk
or phone 819924**



A new sewer for Basingstoke



We are underway with tunnelling for the new sewer.

The photo above shows one of the shafts along Shetland Road. The tunnelling machine will be lowered into it to make a connection between each shaft. Sections of pipe will then be pushed through behind.

When the work is complete, the shafts will be covered over and turned back into a road.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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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Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734



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



Good news and bad to start the New Year ...! On the good side, one new leader (Sue Carr) and one new assistant (Tracey MacCarley) are to apply for official appointments to assist Eve Alexander with the Beaver Colony. We wish them good luck and lots of fun!. Sadly the Group is still without a Group Scout Leader following the resignation of Pat Brown (Leader) due to his continuing ill-health. He will continue his association with the Group by helping with Boot Sales and fund-raising.

Anyone interested in considering taking up the role of Group Scout Leader is urged to contact the District Commissioner, Andy Cullen (01256) 422725 . The Group Scout Leader is responsible for the overall management of the Group and includes co-ordinating the work of the three sections and the Group Executive Committee; and offering support, guidance and encouragement to leaders. It is a 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 sections are also required.

The Beaver section is working towards Discovery Challenge during the spring session with experiments, physical challenges, model making, healthy eating and emergency aid. The Cup Pack plan to tackle a number of activity challenges suggested by Headquarters to celebrate Centenary Year including preparing a 'time capsule', exploring travel and transport, currency, and methods of communications. The Troop was pleased to hear they had won a competition organised by Kestrel Radio last November and will soon take possession of a new computer system complete with internet connection to BT free for one year. Several members have competed IT stage 2 and 3 badges and eagerly await the new system to extend their skills.

Possibility of a Group effort for Red Nose Day 2007 on 16th March and the achievement of a Group Environmental Award is being considered.



be proud to be a part of.

Community wardens work to make communities cleaner, safer and more enjoyable places to live; communities that we can all

The Community Wardens patrol specific areas, providing re-assurance, a visual presence and can report incidents of anti-social behaviour, litter, fly-tipping and other nuisance to the right people.

David and Sarah are the Popley Community Wardens and are there to work with the local community. So if you have any issues to report, either call the wardens on 01256 845508 or pop into the Melrose Hall, Abbey Road between 3pm and 4pm on Tuesdays, where David and Sarah will be available to talk through your concerns.

Best wishes

David Mason and
Sarah Ratcliff



Councillors Page: We are starting a new style “Councillors Surgery”.

Instead of sitting in St Gabriel’s Church every first Saturday of the month from 1pm, we will be going out with the Police, Fire Service, Sentinel, Community Wardens and Councillors. The aim is to leaflet an area of around 300 or so houses on the night before to say we will be in that area, and there will be a notice you can put in your window to ask for one of us to call.

On the Saturday we will follow up and drop a leaflet to say we have been, and leave the contact details if you prefer to make an appointment at a more convenient time.

The building works are causing some disruptions and we do realise it can get frustrating. I just think ahead and look forward to when it will be finished and we have a new school, community facilities, shops and some homes for our children and grandchildren.

I watched the programme on healthy eating that featured Chineham Park School and I was really impressed with the work that is going on with the head, staff and children. I look forward to the next report, well done. Jane Frankum ☎819924

Popley West: We have had problems again with the unlawful driving of motorbikes, in particular along Melrose Walk’s pathway. This is a path that is used by many people and gets busy at peak school times. It is dangerous irresponsible and very noisy, especially at night. The police are aware and are dealing with it. If you know where these people live or you see them tearing up and down our pathways and parks, please call 101 and report it. After the high winds, there has been some damage to trees and there are some large branches on or around pathways, The Highway Department is dealing with it and it should be cleared up very soon.

We continue to monitor the “car sales” on our busy junctions, and the Community Wardens and police are reporting any cars as soon as they are seen. It was certainly a surprise to find out just how many of these cars do not belong to residents in Popley. Paul Frankum ☎472496

Popley East. There has been massive disruption caused by the roadworks and at times it seems like the developers have invented a new game called “How to Make it Really Hard to Reach Parts of Popley”. Popley Way, Carpenters Down, the A33, Oakridge Road, they all close and open again at the drop of a hat. One day free of trouble, the next clogged with 1-way traffic lights, or so it seems.

If you do have any issues then please, please, get in touch. Yes we are worked off our feet at the moment but we’d much rather hear about problems than not hear anything at all.

If you want a quick answer to anything a really good way is to raise it on the Popley Matters web board <http://www.popleymatters.co.uk/phpBB2/index.php>, Jane, Paul and myself visit the site regularly and we have got at least one Beat Officer contributing as well.

I was very pleased to see Chineham Park Primary School featured in Tonight with Trevor MacDonald on ITV1 on Jan 7th, covering their Food for the Brain programme, which aims to improve the achievements of the pupils through improving their diet. It’s early days yet but the initial signs are encouraging. Popley needs all the good publicity it can get and it was also pleasing to see some good coverage from the Gazette as part of its Healthy Kids campaign. Andy McCormick ☎419376

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

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Welcome

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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

Registered Charity No. 282848

Basingstoke Rotary presents cheque to Impact Foundation

The Rotary Club of Basingstoke has recently presented a £1500 cheque to Impact, UK the charity, that has the aim of preventing needless disability throughout the World. It works at present in 33 countries.

A Basingstoke Rotarian, David Moss, who has carried out hundreds of cataract and other eye operations in third world countries, now retired he and his wife Lynette a retired GP, concentrate on getting the charity known widely including being available to give talks to clubs and societies.

Initiated by a Rotarian, Impact does a lot of work for blind people and does this by taking the facilities to the patients where they live. In Bangladesh a boat is taken deep into this low lying country. In India it has a hospital train and in Nepal a hospital bus is used.

To help reduce vitamin A blindness, Impact has 100s of 'nutrition gardens' in many countries cultivated by destitute people to provide themselves with their own vegetables.

Blindness prevention and cure is not the only work carried out. The various units also work with orthopaedics and ENT problems. More recently the value of physiotherapy is becoming increasingly recognised and is running parallel with the operations carried out.

Other work includes working with local birth attendants to help reduce maternal and child mortality in Bangladesh.

To learn more and possibly organise a speaker, consult The Rotary Club of Basingstoke website www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org.

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

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Page 5

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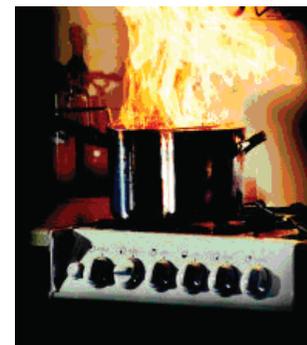
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or 01256 312330 or 01256 312341

You can ask at your doctors for one of our leaflets



Making Hampshire Safer



Kitchen Fire Safety.

Heated Appliances.

Electrical appliances such as toasters and cookers are possible ignition sources for fires in the kitchen so switch them off when not in use.

Don't position toasters near curtains or under 'over-head' units.

Many kitchen appliances, by their nature, carry high electrical resistance so do not overload plug sockets.

Chip Pan Fires.

Chip pans are the prime cause of fires in the home. Here are some tips for using your chip pan safely:

- If you use an open chip pan only fill it one third full of oil or fat.
- Always dry the chips before placing them in the oil.
- Always keep a careful watch on the chip pan and never leave it unattended.
- Never be tempted to use your chip pan after consuming alcohol.

If your chip pan does catch fire:

- Do not move the pan.
- Try to turn the power off to the chip pan, but only if safe to do so.
- Leave the room, closing the door behind you, leave the house, call 999 and remain outside the house and wait for the Fire Service to arrive.
- **Never** move the pan, even if the fire is put out. Wait for the Fire Service to arrive, they are trained and equipped to deal with hot fat fires.

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



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Blink Fundrasing

Hello my name is David Chatten-Smith. I live in Popley I became blind in December 2004 after suddenly being struck down with Meningitis. Since then I have started a fundraising organisation called BLINK FUNDRAISING and for 2007 I have organised an open day/exhibition for the blind and visually impaired in Basingstoke, for Thursday 1st March.

It has never been done in the south before and so far opinions are good.

I have many companies that will be showing their independent living aids from Liquid Level Indicators to talking products. It will also feature Accessible PC's for the blind. Action For The Blind will also be there. The RNIB college will be there too, to give people any help and advice they may need.

The event date is, Thursday 1st March from, 12 midday till 6.30pm, the venue The Red Lion hotel, in Basingstoke They have kindly donated it to us free, of charge .

For further details or if you want to take part you can contact me either by email or telephone 01256 419460. You can also learn a bit more about my charity by visiting my website.

Thanks in advance
David Chatten-Smith

Email: davechsmith@hotmail.com
www.blinkfundraising.co.uk



On Saturdays at 12pm we will be training for the U11's for next season, so if you are in year 5 at school at the moment you will be eligible to play for next season. I was asked to start one last year for year 5, but unfortunately I only have limited coaches and time on a weekend. But a Mr. Adam Golthorpe has approached me and from the 27th of last month, he has started training for next year. I have also heard from one of the teachers at Marnel School that there is another person interested in starting a team as well.

I think his name is Mr. Steer, so if you would like to give me a ring maybe you and Adam could get together and get things off the ground.

Just a couple of names to mention this week, very well done to Finley Judd & Jacob Austen, both of whom have scored 30+ already this season!

(A) RENEGADES & (B) HURRICANES

Danny and Chris have come up with names for the U9's A&B teams as you can see from above. The idea is that the kids will feel more part of a team, because over the past 7 months I have noticed that some of the U9's are not giving their best. Maybe it's because we refer to them as A team and B team, I'm not sure.

Tornadoes & Whirlwinds

Tornadoes have had some great games this month with Jacob scoring another hat-trick against Hatch Warren and 2 goals against Loddon. Jack Parratt has come on over the last 4 weeks. Jack has always been strong but kept diving in, so we have been working with him in training and now is getting the hang of staying on his feet and letting them make the mistakes. Well done Jack. Whirlwinds have been trying really hard lately and have had a couple of draws, their best result coming against Winklebury.

What is a Pond?

Popley Conservation Volunteers

Last month I asked how deep is the White Horse pond? I think the answer was something along the lines of "it all depends how much rain we have had"!

Another question which we might ask is, what is a pond? Most people seem to have a good picture in their mind what a pond looks like but when asked to describe one, it soon becomes much more difficult. When does a puddle become a pond and when does a pond become a lake?

The accepted criteria is, *a pond is a body of water between 1 square metre and 2 hectares (or about 5 acres) in area and holds water for more than 4 months of the year.*

There are many misconceptions about ponds. A common one is that it is bad for a pond to dry up and often attempts are made to deepen a pond that does dry up. This is mistaken. For instance the White Horse dries up on average about every 3 years. Indeed, it dried out two years running during 2005 and 2006. This does very little harm because many species are well adapted and some actually need a pond to dry out in order to flourish.

One of the reasons the White Horse is such a wonderful breeding site for amphibians is that, because it dries out from time to time, fish cannot become established. This in turn means that the amphibians are not eaten and have an ideal breeding site in which they flourish. This makes the White Horse a very special site and is the reason it has been given the status of a local nature reserve.

Before and during the 20th century there were many thousands of ponds but since that time it is estimated we have lost over 75% of them. It is thought there are about 400,000 left but how anyone would know I am not sure. That small dried up muddy hole in the ground that is so easily passed by during the summer would not be recognised as a pond by most people, let alone recorded. Yet the chances are that it is an important ecosystem.

With habitats being lost at an increasing rate, people are beginning to wake up to the fact that it is important, where possible, to conserve them. But to do that you first need to know where they are.

This year Popley Conservation Volunteers in collaboration with Hampshire Wildlife Trust, are going to survey ponds around Basingstoke. It would be nice to find some rarities but even if we don't we will at least have new records of ponds not previously documented.

If you would like to know more about Popley Conservation Volunteers or join us in any of our work, contact our secretary, Lee Roth lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk or 01256 330738

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Melrose Hall will be celebrating its Tenth Anniversary this year, (yes the new centre has been up that long) We would like to invite all the people, past and present who have been involved with the centre to celebrate with us. On the 16th of June which is a Saturday, from 12 noon till 10pm we will be holding open house at the centre.

What we need from you is ideas as to how you would like the day to go. So all you past committee members and tile makers that have helped to make Melrose Hall what it is today please come forward and suggest what you would like to happen on the day. We are open from 9.30am till 11.30am each morning and you could also leave a message with your suggestions on 01256 420 676 or with Iris on 411113. Thank you.

The Centre is still thriving and has plenty of activities to take part in from dancing, the Friendly Cafe, luncheon clubs, to weight watchers and Popley Little People, so if you just keep walking by, why not stop one morning and pop in and see what your centre has to offer you.

Louise Tuck, Chair

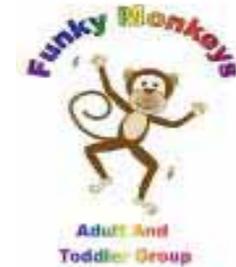
Friendfinder.

Are you aged 35+, single or a single parent, unemployed or part time, new to Basingstoke, feeling isolated, looking for a new social life? Perhaps you just want to meet people and have the opportunity to go to places that you would not feel comfortable going on your own. If so Friendfinder could be the answer for you. We are not a dating agency. There are NO charges whatsoever with us.

Do you want to attend house parties, skittle matches, bowling or pool? We could have evening get togethers at a local pub or club? Perhaps you have ideas of social evenings etc. If you are just looking for friendship or some new friends this could be the answer.

Friendfinder is a very new group in Basingstoke and the only way that it will grow is for people like you to join us and make it successful. If you wish to make new friends or want further details then please give me, Sandra, a ring on Bas 01256 474972.

Even More Funky Monkeys



When I became a Mom for the first time 2 years ago, I never thought I'd be helping to run a really successful adult and toddler group. But here I am having helped to set up Funky Monkeys that started just over a year ago, and we're already growing. Thanks to the support from the local community and the committee members' hard work, along with the friendly people who attend Funky Monkeys each week, we've been able to start another session on Friday afternoons to make room for the number of people who want to come along to our group.

So not only could you come to Funky Monkeys on a Friday morning, you could come to Funky Monkeys on a Friday afternoon instead – or have even more Funky Monkeys by coming to both!!!

So if you know a Funky Monkey who enjoys playing games, doing arts and crafts, and singing songs or their parent/guardian who needs a coffee and a chat, please join us at Funky Monkeys, every Friday at 10:30 until 12 noon or from 1pm until 2:30pm at St. Gabriel's church, Tewkesbury Close, Popley, Basingstoke. This is all for only £1.50 per family, including refreshments.

So if you're a Funky Monkey or a Funky Monkey's mate, come along on Fridays, to see you would be great.

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MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP – THE TWO DON'T MIX!

I heard an interesting BBC news item over Christmas. Apparently a survey had been done and the question was along the lines “Do you think religion causes more problems than it solves?” The outcome was that over 50% thought it did. I added my amen to that!

From the time that Jesus came into this world 2000 years ago (if not before), religion has been a problem. Consider the facts: Jesus was killed by religious people, the early Christians were killed in the name of religion, within 300 years the Christian church became a state religion (and the first “Christian” war was fought with the sign of the cross!) From then until now fight after fight has arisen in the name of this or that religion. Now, don’t get me wrong, I’m no pacifist. One of my favourite periods of history is World War II. I particularly like the aircraft of the time and have loads of plastic models mostly waiting to be made. (Yes, I know, how sad!). If I had lived then, I would have applied to join the RAF! No, there are times for war, and defending liberty and freedom is one such time.

But force or pressure has no part in telling the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ to a lost and lonely people. When Jesus was about to be arrested by religious leaders, Peter drew a sword and cut off the ear of one of the religious police. Jesus picked up the ear (ugh!) and put it back on the unfortunate mans head. He was instantly healed. (I wonder what he thought about that when Jesus later died). Jesus had a go at Peter and said these famous words: “Whoever lives by the sword shall die by the sword”.

No. Physical force can never be part of the Christian’s method of getting the message of Jesus across. Which brings me to this point. You may go to church, you may have been born into a “Christian” family or country but all of that is pointless unless you have a relationship with Jesus. Have you got it? Knowing Jesus and having religion are world’s apart (and having religion will not get you into heaven!) It’s time you got to know Him!

Linda’s Story

As I counted down the final minutes of 2006, I reflected briefly on 2006 whilst looking forward to 2007. I was born again (became a follower of Jesus) in 2003 and was baptised in 2004 but it was not until 2006 that I fully understood the power of the relationship that I had with God. I lost my Dad in 1997 after a 6 year fight with cancer. I had a hard time coming to terms with his condition and whilst he was alive I cried over his pain but when he died I did not shed a tear. I just felt happy that he had been released from his pain. I was told that I was wicked. It was not until 2006 that I began to really look for God in all of this. The Lord began to show me things and then I started to grieve and yet be at peace because Jesus told me that my Dad was with Him. You see, I hadn’t been sure because during his life I knew he had no interest in God. However at the end, my sister had spent much time with him, reading the Bible, praying and offering words of comfort. She even left her first ever bible with him. I was so glad to know that one day, when my time comes I will see my dad again but best of all I’ll see Jesus!

(Linda, who lives in Oakridge presently attends Melrose Christian Fellowship).

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.

Friday Clubs for the youth! Every Friday during school term time. Is there one near you? Melrose Hall, Bermuda Close, Base 2000 (behind Popley Fields) and Oakridge Hall4All. Infant/ Junior school age 6.30-7.45pm. Secondary School age (Melrose Only) 8-9-15pm
For further information contact Pastor Philip Keeble on 428795

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

POP ZONE : Plenty is going on for our usual Monday nights of mayhem so come along, especially if you are 13 – 18, at 8pm for a couple of hours.

We are in the process of handing out questionnaires regarding a Youth Café for the youths of Popley, so if you have any ideas or want to help, then come along and let us know. 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

Valentines Fun Night : Come along and bring the kids for a fun packed night with a Professional disco, licensed bar, food, face painting, raffle, tombola and competitions galore, including karaoke. Prices are £2.50 adult and £1 for under 16s.

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 will cost £4 but places will be limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Popley Festival: The Popley Festival this year will be held on Sunday 20th May 2007. It will be held 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!

.....
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

Tracy Neve Duty Manager / Youth Worker

Diaries from the Old Codger

I can't believe it is now February. I had loads of books for Christmas. I don't like these love stories just in case Her Indoors gets any ideas. My passion in reading is history books, the best being books on the First World War. Not because of the war but the men and the families that were torn apart by it. I have some cards that my Grandfather sent my Nan from France whilst in the trenches. Some of them with lace on them, a lot were embroidered. I also love medals. Unfortunately my fathers disappeared some years ago. but I hope I can replace them one day, also I want to get a set of good WW1 books but they are hard to get nowadays. If "Her Indoors" were in the trenches with these men it would have been ten times worse than what it was.

At the moment I have lost my speech again, "Her Indoors" reminded me that men say 10,000 words a day and women 15,000. She is in her element as she uses all of my words as well. That's where the men get the saying "I can't get a word in edgeways." Let's face it fellas, we can't do without them can we?

With all the rain we have had over the last two months it has topped up all our reservoirs. Even one of the biggest in Sussex is full, when in the summer they showed it 30ft below its level. The water table is high in the ground as well, but we have got some drawbacks with this mad weather hedgehogs out greenfinches goldfinches all still feeding off bird tables. Please keep it up as it will only take one cold snap to do damage. I wonder how many of you have fuchsias still in bloom. They should have been cut back to the ground by now. I have to wait till spring before I do them now. Well I say I will, I got Her Indoors a new set of garden gloves and cutters. See I can have good ideas for Christmas presents sometimes, I was not sure at first as the look she was giving me as she was opening and closing them in her hand. I sat in the chair and crossed my legs and gave a smile. One sad thing that happened in January is that all the shrubs in Longfellow were ripped out. Every morning these shrubs were full of chat from birds that found sanctuary in them from the weather. Again another bit of destruction for our songbirds in the area.

We keep talking about our youth in Basingstoke and the ones that roam our streets at night or stand around outside shops just being a pain, Why! To me the areas that do have problems are where the amenities are so poor. West Ham facilities are great for all but to build them all in one place was bad planning. Kids from the Popley's can, if they are lucky, only go once a week if that. Over our side of town that is becoming the most built up area they have nothing, this of course is only my view and of the kids I talk to around the estates. And yes, they do like to talk to the Old Codger. Our wardens and police do try and pitch in to help them and with the new school it will help we hope. The onlydraw back is, again, how far from the other end of Popley it is. Will mums and dads let their kids go there in the evenings if they can play games or go to clubs? This is why I have proposed to the council to buy two electric buses that will do a continuance loop around the estates to pick up and drop off kids, I say electric because of the environment. Also as one of our council members pointed out to me in the day time they could be used to link the hospital for people on the Popley,s. All of this service should be free. For one thing it will cut down on the amount of traffic that it is going to produce with mums and dads running kids to school in the car, but also trying to get parked at the hospital. I also feel these should be run by our council and NOT outside bus services as they are the ones that have cut us off.

Well I have sounded off a bit this month but I feel it needed to be said for the readers to make up their minds on the subjects,

Till next month
The Old Codger



Dear Friends,

Are you an optimist or a pessimist? What I mean is this – when you have a glass of something nice and drink half of it, do you then say your glass is half full or half empty? I'm definitely in the 'half full' category! Why am I asking you this? Well let me ask you another question – how do you feel about living on a building site? Almost wherever you are in Popley right now there is some form of building or road works going on. If you're the 'half empty' type then you may be thinking "what a pain! What, with the constant rain and wind, the mud everywhere, lorries thundering up and down the road, and all the noise." Quite depressing for this time of the year really!

On the other hand ... It's quite exciting to somehow be part of the transforming of Popley, to be living in the middle of what will emerge to be something of great significance. Of course we're going to have to live with the disruption for some time to come, but all change inevitably involves disruption to the normal routine of life. I believe that at the end of it all it will be worth it. Popley will have grown from a population of around 10,000 to one of around 15,000 – from almost 3000 homes to 5000, there'll be a new High School and other schools will grow. These new developments are a sign of growth and prosperity for the whole area and I for one am excited at the prospect for the future!

It hardly seems credible that at the end of February I will have been at St Gabriel's for three years. The time has passed so quickly and yet when I pause to look back I can see there have been so many changes. The church has grown in so many ways; in its life and witness to the love of Christ for Popley, in the congregation on a Sunday, in the use of its buildings and grounds, in the events it has staged. St Paul wrote "*If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation – the old has gone, the new has come!*" I see the transforming power of God at work everyday as I live and move among the people and places of Popley – His work may not be as obvious as temporary traffic lights, roadworks and mud on the road but all the signs are nevertheless there and the prospect of seeing more is an exciting one.

If you'd like to know more about his transforming power for your life please join us any Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m.

With every blessing.
Arthur
Vicar, St. Gabriel's



Hello

I trust you all had a great Christmas and New Year! I have gained half a stone, so I will be upping the patrols in Popley for 2007.

Shortly prior to 2007 an operation was set up all over Basingstoke to tackle vehicle crime in certain areas. I, along with others including PC THORNE, the Community Wardens, Richard Owen the Accredited Community Safety Officer and the Vehicle Crime Unit will be involved in the operation in Popley. As part of our patrols we identify vulnerable vehicles and when we can we will warn the owner of the vehicle there and then. To the others we gather vehicle information and send the owner crime prevention advice through the post. Examples of vulnerable vehicles I have seen in Popley include satellite navigation equipment, mobile phones and laptops being left in the car. It's important to note that every effort should be made to hide the satellite navigation cradle when not in use as potential offenders could believe the actual satellite navigation system is in the glove box. This has happened before!

I am looking forward to the new Police Community Support Officers starting in Popley. I am told this will be soon but I will let you know when it happens. Special Constables Stephen Gregory and Simon Scantlebury have now also agreed to come on board in Popley. They have already been involved in good work in Popley East including incidents of juvenile nuisance in Longfellow Parade. Both are aware of the Acceptable Behaviour Contracts that a number of youths have signed in Popley and these youths will be monitored by all agencies.

Neighbourhood policing is coming and I am hopeful you will see a noticeable difference in your neighbourhood in 2007! PC Thorne and I take Popley and its fine folk seriously and we will strive to keep you safe and happy within your neighbourhood. I wish you all the best for 2007

I am the beat officer for Popley West and PC Thorne covers Popley East. We can both be contacted on 08450454545. PC DAN CARTER

DIRECT SUPPORT FOR CARERS ACROSS HAMPSHIRE

Carers across Hampshire will be able to get out of hours support and advice thanks to the launch of a new telephone service Carers Direct.

0845 600 4555

The phone line will be working from 1st January 2007, replacing the Carers helpline number and service, and will be available for people in Hampshire who look after a friend or relative.

It's been created as a direct result of feedback from a carers consultation event held in the early part of 2006 and is aiming to strengthen the focus on information giving and support for carers across the county.

The service will provide a wealth of information and advice on local resources, services that are available including; welfare benefits, carers' rights and information on the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

In addition carers will have the opportunity to have their emergency contact details updated on their electronic file, a referral taken for a Carers' Assessment and/or reviews forwarded to the area office.

Executive Member for Adult Services Councillor Patricia Banks said: "We value the work that carers do across Hampshire. They enable many people to maintain a level of independence whilst remaining in their own homes, which is a priority for many people and an ideal that we support here at Hampshire County Council.

"Carers help vulnerable people maximise their wellbeing and get the most out of life and it is vital that they are supported in their role. We have spoken to carers across Hampshire and believe that Carers Direct is just one way that we can offer that support, along with information when it is required."

The service is available Monday to Thursday 5pm to 11.30pm, Fridays 4.30pm to 11.30pm and weekends and bank holidays 8.30am to 11.30pm.

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership where people come together to make their communities safer. It involves the Police, Community Safety departments of local authorities, other voluntary organisations and, above all, individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit.

If you would like to be part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area, contact the Crime Prevention Co-ordinator at your nearest police station, who will give you further information or will put you in contact with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator of the established scheme. If there is no scheme in existence the crime prevention officer will be able to advise you and assist you how to establish a scheme. Obviously, as the title suggests, Neighbourhood Watch relies on participation of the neighbours who live in area, whether this is a close, a road or a block flats.

Objectives of Neighbourhood Watch

- **To prevent crime** By improving security, increasing vigilance, creating and maintaining a caring community and reducing opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.
- **To assist the police in detecting crime** By promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity.
- **To reduce undue fear of crime** By providing accurate information about risks and by promoting a sense of security and community spirit, particularly amongst the more vulnerable members of the community.
- **To improve police/community liaison** By providing effective communications through systems such as the Neighbourhood Watch Ringmaster system, which warns Co-ordinators of local crime trends which they can disseminate to their scheme members, and by members informing the police of incidents when they occur.

How to Set Up a Scheme

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are run by their members through a Co-ordinator and are supported by the Police and in many Divisions, a local Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Schemes can vary in size. A volunteer resident Co-ordinator supervises the scheme and liaises with the Police, they receive information and messages to keep them in touch with activities, and some have marker kits, alarms and other security items, which are available to members. It must be recognised that the scheme is a community initiative, which is supported by the police,

not run by them, so success depends on what the members make of it.

The Police can't deal with the problems and issues arising from crime and anti-social behaviour alone; they need the help of the whole community. Neighbourhood Watch provides a way for local people to play an important part in addressing this balance and making their communities safer.

The Co-ordinator

The role of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is to set up and/or maintain a Neighbourhood Watch scheme within a specific neighbourhood/area. You will need to contact the crime prevention co-ordinator at your nearest police station that will clarify what is involved and the initial steps to take. Whilst each crime prevention co-ordinator may develop specific procedures, the following are suggested as the main duties which co-ordinators will need to manage.

- Encourage vigilance amongst scheme members and actively encourage the early reporting of suspicious incidents to the police.
- Receive crime information from the Neighbourhood Watch Ringmaster messaging system and distribute these messages to scheme members
- Encourage scheme members to be aware of and put into practice crime prevention measures, such as property marking and security devices.
- Keep a check on vulnerable households and provide advice to members about dealing with callers at the door.
- Circulate newsletters and other relevant information to scheme members.
- Welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood/area and invite them to be part of the scheme.

Supply each scheme member with Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention literature, such as Neighbourhood Watch window stickers and incident report cards.

Neighbourhood Watch

As the Police Community Safety Coordinator for the Basingstoke District I have a strong involvement with Neighbourhood Watch. There are over 300 schemes in the Borough but at present there are not many schemes in the Popley area. Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent voluntary organisation that works closely with the police and other agencies and it does make a difference in reducing crime and disorder and making neighbourhoods a safer place to live. It does not involve a lot of work, it doesn't have to cost anything to join and members of a scheme will benefit from building up a good relationship up with the Police and the Neighbourhood Watch Association. They will receive useful information and crime reduction advice and some insurance companies may offer discount to scheme members. Being part of a scheme will make people feel more reassured and it will be easier to tackle any local issues as a group rather than as an individual. If anyone is interested in finding out more about Neighbourhood Watch or about setting up a scheme please contact me (PC Paul Green) on the following:

Tel: 01256 – 845316; Email: paul.green@basingstoke.gov.uk

