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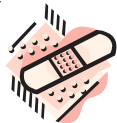
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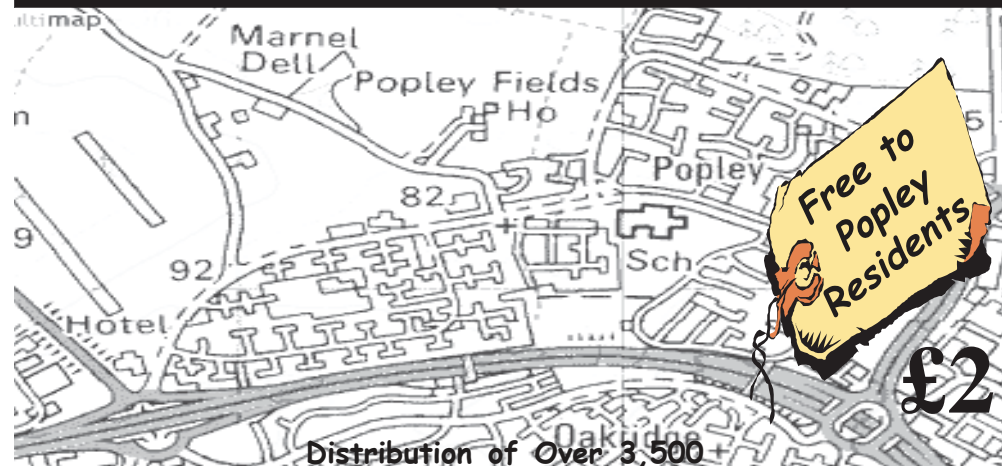
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

March 2007

Issue 61



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-03-07)

Message From the Editor:- I went delivering the Popley Matters with Iris King, our distribution manager in the Marnel Park area. We met some of our new neighbours. There is quite a mix of houses there. We spoke to some young couples who had got their first home, after being on the waiting list for what seems ages. They were out walking near Popley Ponds with their children who were so excited.

If the old saying is correct then March will bring a windy month, so watch the fences again and loose things flying through the air.

Lots of news again in your Popley Matters. I hope you agree that it is a good way to try to keep up with the news in Popley all year round. There is a report from Basingstoke Firefighters on page 9 with some advice on wheelie bin fires. The new Popley West PSCO (Police Community Support Officer) has a description of his job in Popley. To read more about it turn to pages 14 & 15. There's an update of the new school and Merton Rise development on pages 19 & 20. There's advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau on where you can get advice from on page 6. There's a report on the Community Street Surgery, not only the first in Popley, but the first time in the country that so many agencies came together to speak to residents. Police, Fire, Community Wardens, Sentinel Housing and Councillors all coming together to directly talk to you, on pages 23 & 24. Of course there's the Diary of The Old Codger on page 12.

We have had some new people join us on the Popley Matters Website message board, so welcome to you all. If you would like to talk to other people that have an interest or live or work in Popley, you can find us on our Popley Matters website; www.popleymatters.org.uk and go to the message board. We have people who come from Popley and other areas in Basingstoke and even one person from Australia.

Hits on www.popley.matters.org.uk website for month of February: 1293

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.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Kevin Walker; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;
Distribution Team: Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Irene O' Brien; Iris King; Colin Karslake; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; Kylie Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Judy O'Connell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes
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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; Do you use Travel Tokens and you have any left over at the end of March, why not put them to good use? You can help the charity Neighbourcare. They take people to doctors and hospital appointments, befriending, shopping, and so much more. Please contact Iris King on 411113.

Editors reply; I think this is a great idea and I checked with the Travel Token department in the council offices and they said that it was permissible to donate to any of the registered community transport charities in the Basingstoke and Deane area. I know that Neighbourcare would be delighted to receive them.

Dear Editor; I have noticed that some of the houses across the road in Marnel Park are occupied. Can I welcome the new families and residents to Popley? I remember many years ago the thrill when me, my husband and our two children got our house in Popley. If they are as lucky and as fortunate as we have been they will know what it is like to be really lucky. *Editors reply: Thank you I am sure there will be many residents of Popley that remember too. It just goes to show that we are an inclusive and great community, and it was good of you to think of writing in to welcome the new residents.*

Dear Editor; I notice that John Hunt School looks nearly finished. When will

the children be able to start in their new school? It looks very big and I suppose it will have all the new technology stuff that the kids need today? Will the residents be able to use it for things like we did in the old John Hunt Community School?

Editors reply: The new school will be called Everest Community College, and will have all the modern facilities that you would expect with a new and modern school. But, yes there will be much more with a community wing and sports facilities. And the answer to your question, if we will be able to use it like the old John Hunt, the answer is yes. There will be even more facilities on the school site just about everything except a swimming pool.

Dear Editor; When will the new swimming pool in the town be open, it seems to have taken a lot longer than was expected. Claire aged 10

Editors reply; By the time you read this Claire the swimming pool in town will be open. I hope you enjoy it. It is important to learn to swim.

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



Construction work in Popley

Over the next few months a number of different companies will be working in Popley. A focus group has been working together to try and limit the disruption.

Thames Water is continuing with the construction of the new sewer in Shetland Road. Its contractor J Murphy and Sons will also be laying some new cable ducting for Scottish and Southern Energy. This work, part of a wider project to reinforce the electricity network between Bramley and Basingstoke, is being carried out ahead of the main project to minimise disruption to Popley residents.

Hampshire County Council will be carrying out some road improvement works from March. This will include working on the A33 and Popley Way. Popley Way will need to be closed for for 8 weeks starting in April 2007 (At the Reading Road end. Dyer and Butler have been appointed to carry out the work of the council

For further information on the road-works, visit the Hampshire County Council website at

www3.hants.gov.uk/northbasingstoke-roadworks

Alternatively, call the Hampshire Council on

0845 8504422

Next month, each company will be providing further details on their specific works.

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Page 2

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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

Jerry English of Speckled Wood Road has been recruited as the new Group Scout Leader subject to satisfactory completion of the Scout Association's appointment procedures for adults. He has a wide experience in the helicopter industry and naturally that includes a particular interest (and ability) in flying. Leaders will shortly be meeting with Jerry and look forward to working with him to expand the activities of the Group and increase membership.

Both Scout troop and Cub pack will be sending a contingent to H007 Hampshire Scouts' Centenary Camp in July 2007 and a few Beavers will join in the celebrations on Sunrise Day 3rd August. The camp is being held on New Park (the home of the Hampshire Show) and is expected to attract several thousand Scouts from all over Hampshire. The activity programme offers a wide range of pursuits including laser mission, quad bikes, high ropes, circus skills and visits 'off site' to attractions such as Thorpe Park, Longleat and canoeing/kayaking. Members will pay their own camp activity fees but Group funds will cover the cost of transport to and from the site for personal gear and equipment and the catering for the week.

The Cub section would particularly like to increase its leader/section assistant provision so if anyone out there has an interest in providing active programmes for young people aged between 8 and 10½ years please get in touch. All leader posts are voluntary and do not necessarily involve a requirement to wear uniform. Prospective leaders/section assistants are required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau application form in the event of wishing to take out an appointment.

Sadly the Beaver section is full but there are vacancies for recruits in to Cub and Scout sections.

Crime Reduction Environment Week

CREW will be in Popley from Monday 19 March – Saturday 24 March. Hampshire Police, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and many other agencies, groups and individuals will be working in the Popley area to:

- Clean up the environment
- Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce fear of crime
- Make it an even safer and friendlier place to live and work in

To achieve all of this it is important that you let the CREW staff know what may be concerning you and what you think needs to be done.

There will be lots of things happening during the CREW week and it would be great if you and your friends and families can take part in some way. Some of the facilities on offer during CREW are:

- CREW base at Popley Fields Community Centre. Open Monday – Friday (10am – 5pm). Please visit/contact to report any problems or to gain information from the enquiry desk or the various displays and staff available from different agencies (Base Tel: 07717 – 306399)
- Youth night at Popley Fields Community Centre - Monday 19 March (6pm – 9pm) — many activities provided free for CREW (Ages 8 – 18yrs)
- Public meeting at John Hunt School - Tuesday 20 March (7pm – 9pm) - An expert panel from key agencies involved in CREW will be available to answer any questions or concerns that Popley residents and employees may have (Light refreshments provided)
- Youth activities/disco at Popley Fields Community Centre - Friday 23 March – (Between 5pm – 9pm)

There are many other things happening during CREW and further information about CREW and the different activities going on will be made available on leaflets and posters that will be provided to schools, residents and businesses in the Popley Community.

There will be an official launch of CREW at 2.30pm on Monday 19 March at Popley Fields Community Centre, which you are welcome to attend.

Police Constable Paul Green is the CREW coordinator and he can be contacted on: 01256 – 845316 or paul.green@basingstoke.gov.uk

Councillors Page:

I protested soundly about the possible decision to close the Hearing Impaired unit for our children in Basingstoke. It is madness to me to spend £100s of thousands of our council tax money on a great scheme to help our children with hearing difficulties in Basingstoke at South View School then propose to close it just two years later, and move the provision to Farnborough. They will have to spend as much again. I have signed a call in to ask that it is looked at again. I believe they have got the figures wrong.

Another battle that all the Councillors are fighting for is for children usually under two who have "clicky hip" and have to go into an enormous plaster cast. This entails a long bar as well to keep the legs in a sideways almost splits position. Can you imagine for about 9 months trying to get the child in and out of a car in the narrow parking spaces we have. We are asking Hampshire County Council to allow them to have a temporary blue badge. At full council they have agreed to look for a solution.

Jane Frankum County Councillor Basingstoke North ☎819924

Popley West: The double yellow lines in some of the roads in Popley have now been painted. It should improve the safety on the roads, just in time for the Easter holidays, and soon it will be the long school summer holidays. They will be monitored and if any changes are needed it can be done in the future.

At last the path to Merton Schools has been finished, and was completed during the half term.

After some emails and phone calls the paths have been swept. Unfortunately due to some fly tipping and people not disposing of their rubbish in the bins, or taking it home with them the estate needs doing again. There is a pilot scheme of having a street cleaner assigned to an area. It has started in Popley Poets and we hope it will be expanded to all of Popley soon.

If you are having problems fitting all your recyclables in the green bin you can apply for a bigger one ring 844844. Paul Frankum ☎472496

Popley East. Today I'm going to talk rubbish! Litter and fly tipping is a big problem at the moment. Major changes were made to Street Cleaning last year, changes for the worse by the looks of it! We also had the number of graffiti people and pest control officers cut by 50% courtesy of the new administration. Clueless!

Construction traffic. It's been hell for people in Trinidad Close, Tobago Close, Malta Close, Timor Close, Gilbert Close, Cayman Close, Lundy Close and Faroe Close! Problems range from early deliveries waking people up at 6am, to parking, obstruction, and blocked off pedestrian access. Rest assured I'm fighting this.

The flooded underpass at Carpenters Down was in a terrible state. It should be clear now, although it's been cleared before and flooded again. We should fill all our underpasses in.

I was very pleased to be invited to a free fry up at St Gabriel's Church on Saturday 10th February. They called it a Men's breakfast, but there was enough to feed a small army! Fortunately the Popley Conservation Volunteers had some work on at Popley Ponds so I could work it off before going to the gym in the afternoon as part of my Marathon training. But more about that next issue. Andy McCormick ☎419376

You are warmly invited to Worship with us

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Treasure Island Play Group

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the Popley community showing an interest in matters close to their hearts". The Fire Service was not able to stay very long as they had a call, and of course that took priority. But Ryan Thurman asked me to quote him as saying "Street surgeries are very useful for the Fire services as they enable us to get to the heart of the community and find out from residents themselves what their concerns are. They enable us to identify our most "at risk" areas and work with the members of the community to reduce the risk of arson. They also enable us to build relationships with our community, and allow people easier access to us and the services we offer which, in turn works towards a better environment to live in". Dawn Stanley from Sentinel worked really hard too, and was able to help many of the residents with quite a variety of issues from a problem with a fence to a safety check.

As it was so successful we plan to do another at the beginning of March. We will leaflet on the Friday before so you can put up the sign if you want us to call to talk about your concerns and issues. We will do our best to help you. If you want to contact anyone of the Popley Community Team the numbers to call are; Sentinel Housing 0800 1955515, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council 01256 844844, Hampshire County Council 01962 870500, Police 0845 0454545, Community Wardens 01256 845508, Popley West Borough Councillor & County Jane Frankum 01256 819924, Popley West Borough Councillor Paul Frankum 01256 472496 Hampshire and Fire and Rescue 02380 644000




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Please contact Morag 01962 845700 or morag.currie@hants.gov.uk



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If you are in work you might be entitled to Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit.

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If you are unemployed you might be entitled to Job Seekers Allowance.

If you live in rented accommodation maybe you can claim Housing Benefit.

Are you claiming Council Tax Benefit?

Are you over 65 and finding it hard to manage – you might get Attendance Allowance.

Are you caring for someone – you could claim Carers Allowance.

All of these benefits, and others, may be yours by right if your circumstances fit. If you want to check that you are getting everything you should then contact:

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.

New Street Surgery Report Feb 3rd 2007

It was a lovely clear day on Saturday February 3rd, Paul and I had leafleted the roads we had chosen to start the new idea of a community street surgery with, the night before. It had taken a while to organize. It came from an idea from Paul while some of us were sitting in St Gabriels Church Hall at our usual monthly community surgery. We had only one person come that day and wondered what could we all do to get to speak to people to see what their concerns and worries were about.

The police and Sentinel were the first to say yes, and the Community Wardens come every month to the Community drop-in. The only difference was that we would be out on the street (just exactly what the Scrutiny Committee had recommended) and then reported in the local papers. When I contacted the Fire Service they were delighted to join us in reaching and talking to the residents. The press were there at the launch as this was a new idea, and had not been done anywhere else in the country. It was not about politics it was about reaching those people who find it hard to come to surgery, or people who worry about things but don't really know who to talk to.

We were just thrilled that so many people wanted to talk to us and on so many different subjects. We had everything from planning, lighting,



landscape, noise, rubbish and the bins to the one that came up the most, parking! The biggest problem was the parking by parents dropping off and picking up their children and a solution is to be agreed with Farther Vincent Harvey and Rev Arthur Botham. The other major parking problem was by the workmen and they have agreed to put notices up to remind the workmen not to park on the grass verges and block in residents near the site.

PC Dan Carter found some untaxed cars and a dumped one that belonged to someone in Winklebury all of which he dealt with quickly. PC Carter said "The street surgery was a successful example of members of



Leader Mrs Jan Allen
Deputy Miss Deb Thane
Tel: 01256 351036

Charity Registered Number 1041186

Merton Poppits is a well established friendly playgroup based in Merton Infant School in Popley. We have an accreditation from the Pre-School Learning Alliance and we encourage healthy eating by supplying fruit during each session. We welcome children from 2 years 9 months and once the children have turned 3 years they can get their 5 free sessions per week.

This term the children have been learning about “people”. We have recently held a dressing’s up day using the people theme. The children have come to playgroup dressed up as doctors, nurses and firemen. They looked really great and all enjoyed talking about who they were and what sort of job they did.

We have some exciting fundraising events coming up over the next few months. On 28th March we are holding a fashion show at Merton Infant school with clothing from many well known high street stores which will be available on the evening to buy at discount prices. Tickets go on sale from 19th March and these are available from Merton Infant School reception priced at £2 per adult 50p per child. All tickets will be entered into a free prize draw on the night. We are in the stages of planning a Summer Fete on 9th June at Melrose Hall where we intend to have lots of exciting activities for the children and adults alike.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future. From all at Merton Poppits Playgroup.



On the 10th of March we will be holding a sponsorship day to raise funds for the club, the money will go towards new equipment, balls, cones, bibs etc etc.

The kids will have to score as many goals as they can in 1 minute, so I’m gonna put one of the mums in goal (not Mary!)

Last month was nearly a complete washout, but we still managed to get a couple of games in. The U9’s played against Chineham Tigers and came away with a 2-1 win, which is absolutely unbelievable, due to the fact that last time these two teams met the Tigers came away the 14-0 victors. So to say the least I think Danny and Chris deserve a big pat on the back. Well done.

I think it’s a shame that over the years the kids from Popley have had to look elsewhere to play their football and so many good footballers never got the chance. The thing is Popley has always had good football players for as long as I can remember. Loddon Dynamos probably had one of the best youth teams I have seen for a long time. They were winning everything about 8 years ago when my brother Stuart was playing for them. But the thing was the team consisted of at least 8 or 9 players from Popley, say no more!

Last week I had the best compliment I have ever had, (and no it wasn’t have I lost weight or my hair looks nice) but it came from one of the grandparents who was watching the Tornados, he said that they reminded him of the Loddon Dynamos team, which his son also played for, this was a massive confidence boost for me personally.

Anyway, if anyone would like to sponsor Jacob, a pound a goal, you’re more than welcome to ring me. I’ve got to pay for my Caribbean holiday somehow!

Thanks for your support.

Lee.

Any info contact Lee on: 07811167791 or 01256332124

What Colour Politics?

Popley Conservation Volunteers

Regardless of the colour of your politics, red, blue or orange, I believe people increasingly expect our politicians to be able to demonstrate their green credentials. So it was with great pleasure that Popley Conservation Volunteers welcomed our MP Maria Miller on our work party at Popley Pond on the 27 January.

Maria demonstrated her green credentials by getting stuck in to help remove some windblown trees. It was good to be able to show her around and explain the work we are doing. We were able explain the conservation work at Popley Ponds, the mitigation measures that are being put in place around the new developments and the conservation of green space in and around Popley.



Maria Miller with Popley Conservation Volunteers

So many politicians are keen on rhetoric but manage to avoid getting down to the practicalities.

When it comes to practicalities I think it is time to mention our local councillors. Popley Conservation Volunteers receive a great deal of support from them. Andy McCormick and Mary Brian are members and supporters of the group. Andy has turned out on a number work parties. I have a photo of him somewhere shovelling concrete! Then there is Jane and Paul Frankum. Most months I get chivvied by Jane, in the nicest possible way, to remind me that the deadline for Popley Matters Magazine is approaching. Without these gentle reminders I know deadlines would be missed. Between them Jane and Paul

publish and distribute the magazine around Popley as well as on the web.

It goes to show that many of our politicians really do support and care about their community.

A group who get a fair amount of bad press is young people and occasionally it is justified, but of course there are many exceptions. So it is a pleasure to be able to congratulate one of our young helpers, Rachel Duffy. Rachel started coming along to the group with her mum about 18 months ago. Being involved with conservation work was to be part of her endeavour towards her Duke of Edinburgh award. I was pleased to be able to write a reference for her and hear of her success in achieving the award.

A little while ago Rachel applied to join the Junior Ranger team at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. She must have impressed because the lower age limit of 16 was waived and she was accepted whilst still only 15! Congratulations to Rachel on her achievements.

It is gratifying to know that there are young people who do care and are prepared to devote time to the community and conservation.

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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A NEW LOCAL

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If you would like us to clean your windows on a fortnightly or monthly contract, please ring one of these numbers

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01256 411036

07979 437514

01256 478058

The basic price will be £10 this will cover the ground floor and first floors front and back, with other floors and services at extra cost, as our equipment arrives i.e. for second floors and inside windows

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services to provide access to the new school and the first housing land (Phase 1) which is to be sold shortly and development of dwellings will commence from April 07 onwards. There is likely to be a need to re-close Sherborne Road to complete outstanding works, and on the assumption that the recent application to formally close Sherborne Road is successful, this road may not re-open again. An application to stop up part of Chineham Lane is also being considered – these arrangements formed part of the School Application and already have planning consent subject to the outcome of these closure applications. The intention is to implement the works prior to occupation of the school and/or any dwellings in Phase 1.

Marketing for Phase 2, which includes the Neighbourhood Centre which will provide a new supermarket, other smaller shops, medical centre, private nursery, pub etc has now finished and we are in the process of considering some very high quality design proposals from a number of parties. Formal selection will take place in April with sales programmed for March 08 ensuring that the neighbourhood centre uses will be available for both use by local residents and letting (by local businesses) from April 09.

Work is now commencing on the masterplanning for the remainder of the Merton Rise site (land between Sherborne Road and A340), with a view to marketing part of this land this Autumn. Again it is proposed to implement the primary infrastructure (highways and services) for this part of the site, and a planning application has recently been submitted for these works. These works will commence late Autumn for a 12-14 month period with access from the A340 to minimise local disruption.

Finally, in relation to the existing school site, and following the sale of the Phase 1 land to Linden Homes before Christmas, they have commenced some enabling works. With the programme for the relocation of the school to the new campus more certain, we are currently marketing the rest of the school site to ensure the sale of this follows the relocation as closely as possible.

I apologise for the length of this update! I would always prefer to provide you with information when there is something to say, but for those who know me I am never generally short of words!

Regards as always
Louise Hague
Merton Rise Project Manager



Fires In Wheelie Bins.

- Fires in wheelie bins are becoming more and more common place.
- **Every day in Basingstoke there is an arson attack of some description.**
- **The easiest thing for arsonists to target are wheelie bins which can be moved and placed against walls or doors.**
- **Keep your bin secured in a bin shed or out of sight.**
- **Don't store your bin near your exit routes from your home.**

Did you know?

If you have information about someone deliberately starting fires, you can call Crimestoppers on: **0800 555 111**

- Phone free any time.
- You will not be asked for your details.
- We will not contact you.
- You will not have to go to court.
- No-one will ever know who made the call.
- You may get a cash reward if your information leads to the charging of a suspect.

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

BIG BEN PROPERTIES
INVITE YOU TO A UK PROPERTY SEMINAR

AT

POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2007

STARTING AT 7.00 PM

COVERING PROPERTIES IN:

THE UK

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THE SEMINAR BY
CONTACTING

NEIL OAKLEY ON: 01256 411682 - MOBILE: 07926 350272

OR EMAIL: neil.oakley@yahoo.co.uk



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Find the answers to your questions by attending one of our FREE local Start Up awareness events in February and March 2007

Call 0845 600 9 006



Merton Rise and Everest Community College, Basingstoke – Project Update

Forgive me it has been several (Popley Matters) Issues since my last.....project update!

Hopefully you are able to see some real progress on both the existing school site and also the Merton Rise site since my last jottings.

On Merton Rise, we are now some 14 months through the main contract for the new school, the opening of which is programmed for September 2007. Following the completion of the buildings/surrounding areas, a period of "fit-out" will be undertaken before the school transfer into the new complex. The "move" is programmed for the summer to start the new academic year in the new school.

As the school takes shape, we are now considering some of the real practicalities, like for example how to ensure pupils (and staff, visitors and community users) can travel to and from the school safely. To this end (and as a requirement of the planning permission for the new school) we are currently preparing a draft School Travel Plan. This will initially identify a number of safe routes to school to be used whilst the development of the land below the school and/or completion of the road network is undertaken. The Travel Plan will be developed by the school and other interested groups once the school has opened but it is important that clear and identifiable routes are designated at the outset. Also there is an awareness that these may change, or more likely be added to, as the development of the housing and neighbourhood centre progresses over the next few years.

An 'invitation only' School Travel Plan event is planned in March to discuss how the Travel Plan can be developed and this will involve staff from the school, Student Forum and PTA representatives, governors, Local Members and also other groups e.g. Community Wardens, local Beat Officer etc. If you have particular views relating to the Travel Plan then please contact one of these representatives (or me) , so that your thoughts can be incorporated into the Plan. I should however warn you, that the Plan **will not** provide funding for major improvements to Popley Way or perhaps provision of new links from more remote areas in the school catchment. Funding to undertake these improvements has already been (or will be) collected as part of the planning permissions granted on sites in the area but the Plan **will** be important in determining how and where this funding might be spent. So your participation is important.

In January Chineham Lane was re-closed to allow completion of the spine road and

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Time to change!

One day some religious people tried to trick Jesus. It was quite serious – you might say a matter of life or death. This is what happened: In Israel, the Roman government was in charge. Roman law said “no executions without a Roman trial”. (Death penalty if you ignored it). Jewish (Old Testament) law said “anyone found committing adultery must be stoned to death”. (Death penalty for anyone ignoring it). So these religious types found a woman caught in the very act. They dragged her in front of Jesus and demanded His answer “What does the law say we should do with this woman?” (They thought to themselves, whatever Jesus does, either way He’s dead!) Jesus ignored the fear stricken woman and her accusers. He started doodling in the sand. The Bible does not say what was written, but it must have been pretty powerful because after a while Jesus looked up at them and said “He who has never committed sin, let him be the first one to throw a rock at this woman”

One by one the men began to drift away and when Jesus looked around there was no one left except this lady. Jesus turned to her: “Is there no one left to accuse you?” “None, Lord she replied. “OK then, neither do I accuse you – but in future stop messing around with men!”

The point of the story? Well, in the last few weeks the news has been full of the break down of our society: UNICEF – UK worst for children’s well being/Archbishop of Canterbury – marriage devalued by the government/Young people and guns – no father figure.

I don’t have the space for detail, but history shows that nations/societies are unlikely to survive after 3 generations where a major factor in their decline is a disregard for marriage and family as God intended (One husband/One wife for life - Genesis 2:24). I grew up in the 60’s when the so called “sexual revolution” was all the rage. Life was more stable then but look at it now! And this revolution, what has it done for us? Aids, STD’s, divorce, fatherless children, crime on the streets – one could go on. Make no mistake unless we turn around it will be our children/grandchildren who will pay the price (They already are to some extent).

How can we change? It starts with one person at a time. Jesus still stands with us and says “I’m not accusing you but lady/man you need to change” The great thing about God is that He doesn’t just say “Change or else”! He actually gives us the desire to change and then He gives us the power to do it. All you have to do is ask . Too much at stake for us to ignore the God who loves us.

Miriam’s story...

Although originally from Leeds, Yorkshire, I have lived in Popley for 17 years. I ended up here as my husband was in the RAF. We had lived in the North of Scotland for 5 years. I wanted to go home but God had other ideas about that as He usually does but He’s always right!

I used to attend the Basingstoke Community church at Oakridge but as God had put me where I live I felt I should be worshipping and working in Popley.

I joined Melrose Christian Fellowship about 6 or 7 years ago, I forget times goes so quickly! I became involved in the church there and now run the Bermuda Close kids club in the Community Centre on a Friday at 6.30 pm.

I work full time as well as running weight watchers classes and working for the church but having a personal relationship with Jesus makes a difference. My life isn’t easy, believe me, but as the song says “because of Him I can face tomorrow”. Why not give Jesus a try - you have nothing to loose and everything to gain.

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

The centre is very busy at the moment with lots of private parties and events being held. But we are always keen to hear from you so we can adapt our programme to suit your needs. So call us and let us know what you want!

POPZONE: Lots of kids are still attending on Mondays between 6 and 8pm. We have very few 14+ year olds attending the 8 to 10pm group. We would really like to know what you the young people want us to provide in order to make better use of the time.

We also have had some staff illness recently which has led to some sessions being cancelled. This has highlighted our need to encourage more adult volunteers who can help us. So anyone wanting to work with young people or who have a skill you would be willing to share with them, we would love to hear from you!

GARDEN: As I write this, the Princes Trust group have kindly embarked on a project to improve our garden, including building some vegetable plots which the Borough Council hope to help us with by setting up a gardening group helping to encourage residents grow, cook and eat healthily.

So anyone interested in being involved in helping tend the plots or learning more about plants and vegetables, we want to hear from you now!

QUIZ NIGHT: Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the quiz night planned for 16th March has been cancelled. We hope to be able to hold another in the autumn.

POPLEY FESTIVAL: As 20th May approaches fast, we are keen to hear from anyone who will be able to help steward or help in any way on the day of this busy festival which is a great event for Popley and which benefits so many local organisations.

Contact Mark on the above number if you can help.

Lastly, we are a registered charity and a Community Association, working to help provide you, the residents of Popley by operating a Community Centre and working in a much broader way to help improve Popley. If you would like to be involved in shaping how Popley develops and how the centre develops, call us now to find out how you could help.

Diaries from the Old Codger

When I was young I was always told by Mum and Dad to stand up if a lady came in the room, No not Her Indoors. But you were taught this at a young age also you gave up your seat to an elder, but kids of today or most of them no longer do this. I have seen kids sitting on chairs and mum sitting on the floor or in public places like the town. Now if I did that as a boy my ear would be stinging now and look very red.



So many of the old virtues in life have gone, kids do not call blood relatives Aunt and Uncle as they should do. As a small boy my parents friends were as far as we were concerned were called Aunt and Uncle. I worked with my Uncle for many years in the building trade, on the sites we where on I called him Joe but after work and at home he was Uncle Joe that was not my idea it was my Uncles.

All of these things were out of respect more than anything. So what has happened in society to change attitudes to the elders in the family environments, some years ago now I heard my cousin call his Mum Mary and Dad Mac, my brothers children called him Terry. When I first heard them say it I went mad at them and told them what I felt, they did not like it. I did not care but when they were around me it was Mum and Dad from that day.

We are to get the flats along Popley Way part of the John Hunt development and the Old Codger hates the idea of them. As you drive along Popley Way you are hit by them. However some of the ugliness could be elevated if they were to plant (and I know I don't like them) but the leylandi trees on the grass verge so to mask them from view. It would also stop the amount of leaves we have in the autumn. We all know we need houses so badly. The thing is to STOP speculators buying them up then renting them back to the housing associations at unbelievable prices. They are needed for people that can pay a rent or mortgage that they can afford in order to stop this practice going on. Not for the housing associations to pay out and the people living in them claiming massive rent allowances. Years ago we had what was then called gymslip mums, they had to live at home with family. It has become to easy now for them to get a two or three bed house just for two or three of them. Am I wrong on this? I don't know, what has happened to the extended family that would stand by each other? it is for people to judge I can only say what the Old Codger feels?

Dear Friends,

In the late 1970s I went to see Queen in concert (twice). There were around 25,000 fans packed into the stadium and the noise was really phenomenal as they belted out Bohemian Rhapsody, Killer Queen, Bicycle Race and such like. Afterwards I could barely hear for three or four days – but it was worth it!

The number by Queen “*I want it all, I want it all, and I want it now!*” kind of reminded me of how we tend to live our lives today. We live in the immediate, living for the moment – we want it all and we want it now. Freddie Mercury the lead singer of Queen once said “I am a wealthy man and I have the adulation of millions of fans yet with all that I still feel alone!” That really made me think about what it is I focus on and where my priorities really lie! What’s important is not what we have or what we own but with whom we share our life journey. At the very core of the human soul is not a need to be healthy, wealthy and wise (as good as these are) but the desire to be loved! We need good, strong relationships before we need wealth and ultimately we need a relationship with God! To illustrate this Jesus once told a story of a man who accumulated great wealth but never lived to enjoy it - “*What use is it if a man gains the whole world but forfeits his soul?*” As Easter approaches and Lent provides an opportunity to ask ourselves “what state am I in with God, do I even have a relationship with him?” That’s a tough question to ask but if we really want to make sense of our lives and our relationships it’s one we cannot avoid. Don’t end up like the man in Jesus’ story, or indeed Freddie Mercury. Have a blessed Lent and a wonderful Easter.

Your Vicar.
Arthur.

EASTER AT ST GABRIEL'S

Sunday April 1st PALM SUNDAY

10.30 Family Communion Service with Palm Crosses

Thursday April 5th MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.00 p.m. Passover Meal and Communion followed by stripping of the altar.

Friday 6th April GOOD FRIDAY

10.30 a.m. Family Service

12 noon – 3 p.m Three Hours by the Cross – a series of meditations and songs.

Sunday 8th April EASTER SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Family Communion & Celebration.



Age Concern are now able to offer low-cost toe nail cutting for older Popley residents. We have secured the use of a room at The Marlowe Surgery one afternoon every six weeks and can see nine clients during this time. I would appreciate it if you could let your ward residents know of this service.

The cost per appointment is £12.50, which is considerably cheaper than a private appointment. Our chiropodist is fully qualified – not just a foot health specialist.

All appointments are to be booked through myself at Age Concern on 01256 423874.

For your information we already hold clinics in Oakridge (2), Old Basing, Oakley (2), Town Centre (3), Winklebury, South Ham, Brighton Hill (2) and now of course Popley!

Thanks for your help.

Regards,

Beverley Jones

Community Services Officer

Tel. 01256 423871 (direct)



*4th & 25th March
John Hunt Boot Sale
Entry 8:30pm*

Easter Egg Hunt

Childrens Fancy Dress

Adults Easter Bonnet

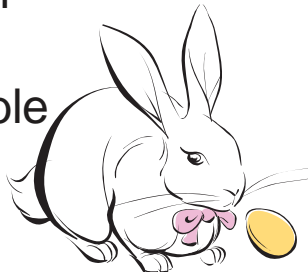
Competitions

8th April 2pm to 4pm

at Melrose Hall

Refreshments available

Tombola



When Her Indoors and I got married (no I was not drunk at the time. Mind you my best man and I had a few scotches before we went to the church, every thing went great. The reception was made by all the family making pies, rolls, sandwiches. A friend made the cake, my uncle made the jellied ells, cockles, winkles, whelks, and of course the booze. Yet again everyone had a good night on nothing except for what they done. Have you seen the cost of a wedding nowadays frightening? I was pleased to see that my son and his girlfriend are going to New York to get married. Then he said that we can have a party when we get back and I bet I know whose house it's going to be at. Still we don't mind as we all carry on in the same way as our fathers and grandfathers tradition. We all muck in, the door is open to anyone that wants to turn up as usual. By doing it this way every one feels they are part of the day as it were. As long as the couple are happy that makes me and Her Indoors happy.

I received an invitation in the post last month to go to a party. Again, see, I do take Her Indoors out now and then all be it for free. I wouldn't pay to do so. It was from a family I had not known well. I say this I did know the lady but I was six months old so the memory of her has faded over time. She turns out to be my great aunt; my grandmother's sister. Nan past away about ten years ago and was 96 years old. Well they are going to give this lady a surprise birthday party up in the East End at a football club so you can imagine the amount of people that will be going. I have not had a good old fashioned East End knees up for a few years now.

As you all know the Old Codgers ticker is not up to much nowadays in fact it is clapped out. However I have a great consultant called Doctor Bishop I expect he just feels over the moon to see the Old Codger; a pain in his behind! No he is always friendly and greets everyone and treats everyone the same. He is a great doctor with high standards that spreads amongst his team. They should all be congratulated for all their hard work. Many of us in the area have to see him and thank him for our lives.

Do not forget keep feeding the birds in your gardens. We keep getting cold snaps and birds will die if we dont. Also for our oldies, keep wrapped up and watch your footing if you go out.

Till next month,
The Old Codger

Introduction

The Government is committed to 24,000 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) nationally by April 2008 in support of the Neighbourhood Policing Model. Hampshire PCSOs work very close with Basingstoke Community Wardens, ACSO's (Accredited Community Support Officers) and of course Hampshire police. You will more than likely be bumping in to me whether I am conducting solo patrol on my bike or working joint patrols with the wardens.

PCSOs in Popley will be growing soon. Whilst I will be the main Popley officer there is a PCSO in Oakridge and a new PCSO will be brought in soon to assist with Popley.

What is a Police Community Support Officer?

PCSOs are employed as uniformed members of Hampshire Constabulary, recruited and trained at police HQ by trained police. I wear a similar uniform to regular police officers and may be seen cycling around with PC Thorne or PC Carter. Our core function is to perform regular visible patrols thereby providing public reassurance and dealing quickly with issues a local level to 'nip in the bud'. Like PC Carter and PC Thorne I work mixed shifts which could be mornings, days or nights according to the needs of the area. Hampshire Constabulary commits to 80% of a PCSO's duty time being spent on patrol.

PCSO powers include the power to issue fixed penalty notices for offences such as causing damage, low level disorder and harassment, fly-posting, dog fouling, cycling on the pavement, buying alcohol under age, littering etc. They also have powers to confiscate alcohol, drugs and cigarettes from people and require a person to provide their name and address. So summing it up we mainly deal with low level crime and Anti-social behaviour.

What about the variety of Community Warden Schemes that already exist?

Basingstoke Council has a community Warden scheme and there are also County Council employed Accredited Community Support Officers within the Basingstoke area. Staff in each scheme has different uniforms and different levels of authority, but all aim to provide additional community contact, and visibility. All such schemes therefore compliment the role of Police Community Support Officers and vice versa and there is no reason why they could not be dovetailed into the work of the Neighbourhood Teams in the area in which they are deployed to the benefit of all.

Residents already pay for police officers through taxation. Why should we pay again?

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This is of course recognised, but PCSOs are not police officers and are not trained as such. Whilst the police recognise the huge demand for 'more bobbies on the beat' and attendance at more anti-social behaviour incidents the reality is that demand on their resources is such that this cannot be achieved. Nor is it desirable to create Neighbourhood Teams consisting solely of police officers as they are trained for a far wider range of tasks. Officers deal with Emergency Response calls; protests by a variety of groups; management of high risk offenders, such as sex and violent offenders; investigation into Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime and victim support; public safety at major events, Counter Terrorism operations, Priority Crime Investigation (currently priorities include the supply of drugs, house burglary, vehicle crime and violence in all forms), Preparation of evidence for the Crown Prosecution Service. This list is far from exhaustive but seeks to demonstrate the wide range of roles expected from a small number of police officers and thus to indicate why general patrols are not as frequent as we would all like. PCSOs will carry out this crucial area of work. They are not trained to carry out the roles listed above and thus will therefore not be diverted from their core responsibilities.

So I hope this helps and remember, if you see me out on my bike, please don't hesitate to stop me and say hello.

Kind Regards

Phil Rapley



Left to Right PCSO Phil Rapley, PC Dan Carter and PC Paul Thorne