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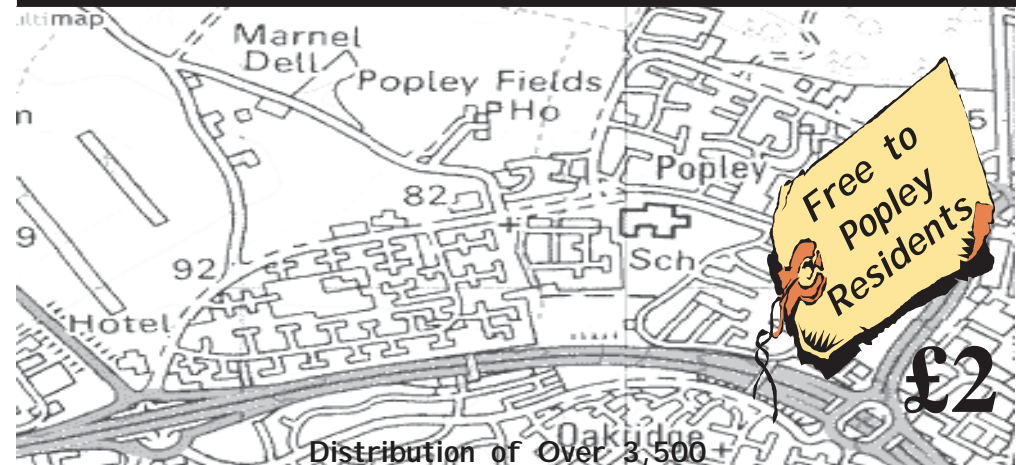
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

June 2007

Issue 64



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20–06–07)

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Message From the Editor:-This issue is now the 60th that myself and Paul have edited. It is also our 10th anniversary of becoming involved. Of course Iris King and Ron Rowe can boast 4 more issues than us as they were in it from the very beginning five years before. We have had a fantastic team working together. We would like to say a huge big thank you. We all hope you enjoy reading your "Popley Matters"? What a glorious day for Popley Festival Conditions were perfect. The intention was to stay for a couple of hours and that soon went out the window as there was so much to see and do. I love catching up with old friends every year. People come from miles around to our Festival.

I didn't think there would be enough room for the Popley Festival as we had come to know it, but I was wrong. There were a couple of teething problems and things that needed slight adjusting but on the whole fantastic. I spoke to some of the organizers and they are already planning next year's festival, and the plans already are for the festival to be even bigger and better with a few more surprises. The estimated figure of how many people came was around 12,000. It certainly was more than the 5000 last year when the rain nearly washed us all away. What are your memories of Popley Festival over the years? Write and let us know? I remember its humble beginning at St. Gabriels Church when it was started by Captain Dave Phillips (Boys Brigade) in the church hall and car park. Both my sons were in the Boys Brigade so it must be about 30 years ago. I remember helping on the stalls and how quickly the event grew. I remember sunny days and think it has only been the once that it has rained enough to keep the number of visitors down.

Did you fill in the questionnaire for residents about what you like or don't like about Popley and how it can be improved? As a resident I certainly did. The forms will go to the LSP (Local Strategic Partnership) and they will look at what can be done. As soon as we get any details we will of course keep you all informed and report back in your Popley Matters.

We are again desperately looking for more volunteers to deliver your Popley Matters, mostly in Popley Islands. We also need a treasurer. If there is anyone out there who would be willing to do either please ring me on 819924.

If you want to volunteer, advertise, write a letter, or submit an article we can be contacted on 819924 or 411113. You can also write to P O Box 6727 Basingstoke, RG24 9GG or pop a note through my door at 405 Abbey Road.

Hits on www.popley.matters.org.uk website for month of May: 1882

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; Acting Treasurer/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; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Judy O Connell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes

Youth Volunteers; Martin Stacey;

More Volunteers Welcome

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Letters to The Editor



an excellent resource in the woods at Carpenters Down and I would like to see that better used with maybe a trail for the public and school children to learn just what a variety of flora and fauna we have on our own doorstep in Popley.

Dear Editor; I've only come on for a MOAN..... I called at the council offices yesterday to purchase some green waste bags that you used to be able to get for £1 each. Only to find that they are no longer available, Why?

The new garden waste bags are far too big for most town gardens, (two bed roomed houses in Popley all have very small gardens). These bags are far too big for my garden, its doubtful if they would go through the gate, even if I could lift it?.

Like a lot of other people here in Popley I like to re-cycle where I can, so please can you ask if we can have them back? At least I was able to get rid of the waste, rather than put it in the

black bins. So where or how, can I get rid of the garden waste now?

Isabel

Editor's Reply; A very good point. Is there anyone else in Popley with the same problems or thoughts on this issue. In the meantime I will put on my Councillor hat and see what I can do on this subject.

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**



BLINKS LEGENDRY FREE PARTY NIGHT IS BACK.

Dance Decades 2007 is back. This fantastic free party night is the party night that Basingstoke has come to love. Dance Decades 2007 will take place on Friday 8th June from 8pm to late.

This great party night is being held at The Hampshire Centre Court hotel, Basingstoke.

Join BLINK and their ultimate dance band BAD TOAD, perfectly fused together with DJs playing the dance floor fillers from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and today.

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Want to become a Young Ranger?

Your Popley community wardens, Sarah Ratcliff and David Mason, would like to introduce a new wildlife conservation group for 10 to 16 year olds - *The Basingstoke and Deane Young Rangers' Group.*

Working with park rangers, this group will give young people the chance to develop new skills, learn about the countryside and do their bit to protect the environment. It will also be a great opportunity to meet new friends.

Activities the young people will be getting involved with will include:

- shelter building
- ancient woodland crafts
- coppicing
- pond maintenance
- tree planting.

The workshops will be fun, free and will take place during the school holidays. Park rangers and wildlife experts will provide full training. The first activity will take place on Thursday 31 May, when the group will be carrying out pond surveys in Carpenters Down Woods.

If you would like more information, or a membership application, please contact Liane Green at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 845630 or email liane.green@basingstoke.gov.uk



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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; Thank you for all the work that it must take to get Popley Matters out to us. It is a good magazine and I read it from cover to cover every month. I find it has a bit of everything from information to some really funny bits. I would like to read more about how people came to live in Popley and what their memories are. I bet there are some really interesting stories out there.

Regards Mr Reader Popley Islands
Editor's Reply; Thank you. The current team has been together now producing the magazine for over 10 years. I will pass on your good wishes to all the team.

Dear Editor; In reply to Soapbox who seems confused why the estates on Popley have numbers, I believe I can help. Shakespeare Road was the first estate to be started, Maldive and surrounding area was next, and then came Falkland Road and the rest of that estate. Next was Abbey Road area followed by Trinidad and Tobago, and finally Pershore Road area.

As all this was being put up as soon as possible as the housing was needed quickly. There was more than one estate being built at the same time. Of course there was a lot of contractor lorries, tradesmen etc going to these building sites and as a lot of the roads had not yet been named it was easier to just call them Popley 1 2 3 4 5 or 6, so everyone knew where to deliver to or where they had to go to work. Later they were designated as 1 Popley Poets, 2 3 5 and 6 Popley Islands and Popley 4 as Popley Abbeys. I do not know if these addresses are still valid or are we just Popley East and Popley West now. The estates are still called by numbers by those of us who lived and worked on these estates just out of sheer habit, which is a shame because if we were made to have an address with a number in it we would create about it. The fact is of our own fault that we

are known as numbers. If I should be proven wrong in any way as regard detail I do not mind being corrected.

Mr G Ascension Close

Editor's Reply; There have been lots of changes and it is no secret that I do not like Popley being categorised by numbers it was indeed for the convenience of the builders and delivery people as was many other "new estates" I don't know why Popley is the only one of them that still uses numbers. What do you think write and let us know.

Dear Editor; I am not really writing this in order for it to be printed, but in the hope of opening a discussion.

I'm currently involved in some MA research that has made me very aware of the challenge we face as fossil fuels become increasingly limited and expensive. This could have a massive impact on food availability since so much is imported and travels huge distances. I feel concerned that so much local farmland is being lost which might one day be an essential resource for Popley. I'm wondering if there are small steps that could be taken to help us become aware of the need for local food and less dependence on oil. For example, the council could plant more fruit and nut trees in parks and school fields; there could be greater emphasis placed on land for allotments and more 'show' allotments in parks to encourage and teach interested people; there could be a community compost scheme at the dump making compost more cheaply available for those growing vegetables; local schools might have vegetable gardens and fruit trees. I understand that there is sometimes pressure to sell allotment land to housing developers. I think this would be disastrous.

Rachel Rivett

Editor's Reply; Thank you, you have made some excellent suggestions. There are some apple trees by the dual carriage way and we used to have hazelnut trees in parts of Popley. We have

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

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Six members of the Beaver Colony received the Chief Scouts Bronze Award recently from the District Commissioner, Andy Cullen. This is the highest award that can be given to a Beaver Scout and requires full commitment to the programme of activities and achievement in several specific areas such as outdoor pursuits, exploring, friendship and creativity. Well done Samantha, Thomas, Harry C and Harry M, Ethan and Austin and good luck as you move on to the Cub Scout section to reach new heights!

Four members of the cub section moved on to the Troop recently. We wish them good luck. They are already looking forward their first camp as scouts at H007.

Excitement mounts as Basingstoke's Centenary of Scouting '3-D 2007' Activity Day in July approaches. Over forty different activities will be on offer ranging from high ropes, climbing walls and a laser dome to crafts, pony rides, air rifle shooting, archery, an animal petting zoo and arena displays with birds of prey and vultures, the New Forest Scout Band and a one-man-band. The day will end with a traditional campfire. '3-D 2007' is a day of celebration and fun for all Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers in Basingstoke and is restricted to members only.

At the end of July twenty five Air Scouts, Cubs and Leaders will join four thousand others for Hampshire Scouting's H007 Centenary Camp on the New Forest Showground. As well as on site activities like go karting, high ropes and assault courses the programme will include off-site visits to Thorpe Park, Longleat and RAF Hendon together with dragon boating and water activities. One of the highlights of the week will be Sunrise Day on 1st August when campers will be joined by the Beaver section. 1st August is the precise day upon which Lord Robert Baden Powell, the Founder of Scouting, first blew a kudu horn to signify the start of his experimental Scout camp on Brownsea Island in 1907 for twenty young lads. The Scout Association in the UK alone now numbers just under half a million!

Air Scout Group can still accommodate new recruits in the Cub and Scout sections. Contact the leader or just come to Base 2000 one evening for a visit.

The Group Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th June. All parents of members are expected to attend. The Group is anxious to appoint a Group Secretary and to find a new Bookings Secretary for the building as Helen Brown wishes to retire from the post. New leaders for all sections are always welcome. The more adults involved the wider and more varied the programme can become. No previous experience is necessary as training and support for leaders is ongoing. The role presents a valuable opportunity for personal development as well as the satisfaction of seeing young people mature into contributive members of our local community.



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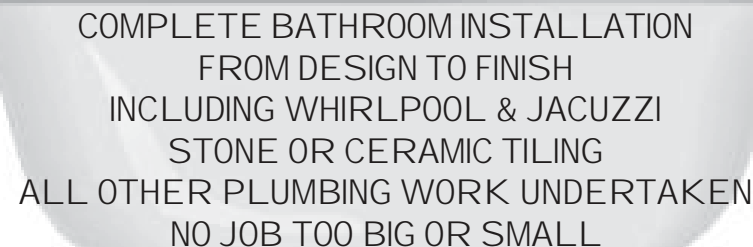
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Councillors Page: I have asked for it to be put on the agenda that after the building finishes that the speed limit along Popley Way remain at 30MPH. With the new school, two churches and two elderly residents homes I would like to see it further reduced to 20MPH. Popley Way should not be used as a rat run.

The Friday Club at Melrose Hall was threatened with closure and the 12 members having to go to the Roger Morris Centre. However there is a consultation going on to enable the members to stay and help run it themselves. At present it is funded by HCC and PCT (together). They will need some volunteer help so if you can spare some time on a Friday between 10 and 3 please let me know.

Everest Community College is going full steam ahead and on time with a lot of excitement for the move in September.

Just a quick update on the Hearing Impaired Unit, there is an extension of a year while more consultation goes on. It does not make sense to disband an excellent facility to send our children miles away to Farnborough when everything is already there and proving to be having amazing results for our children. Jane Frankum County Council Basingstoke North ☎819924

Popley West: I have asked the officers to look at the layout of the markings for parking at Abbey Road shops. The white lines need re doing and a disabled parking space nearer to the shops directly outside. We have put in objections to some planning applications where they have applied to convert 3 bed roomed family homes into flats, or 5 bedded rooms houses of multiple occupancy. Parking, noise and other factors are the issue.

The community garden outside Melrose Hall is certainly taking shape and it is being put forward for an award in the Community Garden Competition. There has been a lot of work done over the last few months by some very determined volunteers.

Popley Festival was a success yet again. It was estimated by the organisers to have been attended by 12000 visitors in the new venue. Popley sure knows how to hold events. Paul Frankum ☎472496

Popley East. Many of the residents will be receiving a survey to ask what you think about keeping the slip roads that were temporarily built while the sewage works are being done. Parents have said how much better it is with the one opposite the school. Please let us know what you think.

There are planned improvements (stage two) that are being consulted on for Guernsey and Jersey Close including: opening up the parking court: creating additional parking: resolving issues where parking areas are "stepped"; and improving the general visual appearance of the area.

We are still working towards getting the speed limit reduced to 20 MPH in Shakespeare Road. Mary Brian ☎322108

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Are you helping the borough to bloom?

Do you have a garden to be proud of? Are you a keen gardener, or do you know someone that is? Now you have the chance to recognise the green fingered residents who work so hard to make the borough a better place to live.

Basingstoke in Bloom is an annual event that aims to encourage and reward the efforts by local residents to enhance the appearance of the local environment. Last year's event was a huge success and the organisers are hoping for even more participants this year within the three categories:

- 'The Best Front Gardens in the borough',
- 'The Best Photographs of the borough',
- 'The Best Primary School gardens in the borough'

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Head of Street Care Emma Broom said: "The hard work that goes into creating beautiful gardens and open spaces is enjoyed by everyone, so this year we are welcoming nominations not just from the gardeners themselves but from anyone who has viewed and enjoyed their achievements.

"The best entries in this year's Basingstoke in Bloom competition stand a chance of representing Basingstoke in the South & South East in Bloom competition. Last year the borough was awarded a prestigious silver award in the regional competition for its efforts in making Basingstoke 'Cleaner and Greener'.

"The campaign not only focuses on green-fingered gardeners but also looks for community involvement to improve their neighbourhood in areas such as; seasonal planting, conservation, recycling and various initiatives to reduce litter, graffiti and vandalism.

"We hope that as many residents as possible will get involved as all effort, however small, will contribute to Basingstoke's success in this competition."

The deadline for entries into the Basingstoke in Bloom competition is 25 May for the Primary School entries and 6 July 2007 for the other categories. The winners will be awarded their prizes at the Basingstoke in Bloom Presentation Ceremony, which will take place in October.

For more information or to obtain an entry form: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/inbloom or from Liane Green 01256 845630 liane.green@basingstoke.gov.uk

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Nice To See You

Popley Conservation Volunteers

It is always a pleasure to welcome and show people around who are interested in conservation and green space around Popley.

A couple of months ago our MP Maria Miller came to work with us and look around.

In April, Hampshire Wild life Trust paid a visit. A great deal of interest was shown in the Popley Ponds and the mitigation area. With the help of ecologist Matt Smith it was possible show them all three species of newt that inhabit the ponds.

The long dry spell during April saw the waters in Popley Ponds drop more rapidly than normal. It soon became clear that parts of the pond would soon dry up completely. We knew that one area in particular would have frog and newt tadpoles so for the second year running it was decided to mount a rescue and transfer as many tadpoles as possible to the main pond. On our visit our local Community Wardens, Sarah and David dropped in to see how we were progressing. The photos show David and Sarah looking inquisitively at some bugs that had also been caught and enjoying a joke with us. It was good to be able to welcome them and know they are keeping an eye on things.



Later we were joined by a couple of youngsters. Popley Ponds is a great place for youngsters and they are often very inquisitive and full of questions. It is great to see young people take interest in nature and it is a delight to answer their questions.

As Popley Conservation Volunteers are becoming better known we are increasingly receiving request for help with conservation work. It is flattering to be in such demand but we are now reaching the stage where it might not be possible to meet all the requests. So in the future we may have to turn down some calls for help.

Some of the plans for this summer include a bat evening, and a moth trapping evening. It looks as though we may be involved in creating a new pond at Marnel school.

As I have said in the past most of our volunteers come from outside Popley so if there are any parents or residents in Popley who would like to contribute to a greener Popley please contact our secretary: Lee Roth lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk or 01256 330738

Announcement. Popley Conservation Volunteers AGM will be held at Popley Fields Community Centre on 26 June 2007 at 7.00pm



Making Hampshire Safer



BBQ Safety.

The season of sunshine, laughter and good times is nearly upon us. Barbecues, parties and beers, here are some tips to ensure your BBQ, doesn't end in tears!!

- ✓ Make sure that your barbecue is in good working order.
- ✓ Set up your barbecue on level ground away from fences, bushes, tents or buildings.
- ✓ Only put about 5 cm of charcoal in the barbecue and store the rest away from the fire.
- ✓ Make sure the coals are cool before you try to move the barbecue. Once cool, dispose of the ashes safely - never place them in dustbins.

Gas Barbecues:

- ✓ Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.
- ✓ Change gas cylinders in the open air if possible to ensure good ventilation.
- ✓ If you have a protective cover for your BBQ ensure that the unit is completely cool before covering and storing away.
- ✓ If you find a leaky joint, try to tighten it but be careful not to over-tighten it.

NEVER: Use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue, only use recognized lighters or starter fluid, on *COLD* coals.

Top Tips:

- *Keep young children, animals and ball games away from the cooking area.*
- *Only use recommended fluids or fire lighters and never petrol.*
- *If you suspect a leak to the gas cylinder or pipe work, brush soapy water around all joints and watch for bubbles.*
- *When you've finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinders before you turn off the barbecue controls, to ensure any gas in the pipeline is used up.*
- *Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby in case of emergencies.*

REMEMBER: *ENJOY YOURSELF, but too much alcohol and fire don't mix!!*

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



We are very busy here at the hall preparing for our 10th Anniversary fun day. Please see our larger advert for further details, we hope to see you there! We are holding our AGM on 25th June 2007 at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Are you a parent or carer of under 5s?

Come along to Popley Little People parent and toddler group here at the hall every Wednesday Morning 9.30 - 11.30am. Only £1 per family with refreshments included. On **20th June** we will be having a **Clap Sing and Play session** bringing all the fun of the popular Hooray Hooray Pre-school Music and Movement Programme to our Group, as seen in the Basingstoke Gazette. The fun filled session includes singing, action rhymes, mime, creative dance and musical activities with a set of high quality percussion instruments. Find out more and let your child meet Henry and co at www.hoorayhooray.co.uk, or call into the Office Mon - Fri 9.30-11.30am.

Weekly programme of Events:

Monday: 9.30-12 Friendly Café. 7.30-10.30 Healing and Holistics.
 Tuesday: 4.00pm - 7.30pm Petite School of Dance.
 Wednesday: 9.30-11.30 Popley Hooray Pre-school Music and Movement Programme to our Group. 9.45-11.30 Quit Smoking Clinic
 Thursday: 9.30-12 Friendly Café 6.30-8.30 Weight Watchers.
 Friday: 10am-3pm Together. Youth Club 6.30-7.45 5-10y 8.00-9.15 11+
 Saturday: 9-12.30 Petite School of Dance.
 Sunday: 10am Melrose Christian Fellowship, 6.30-8.00 MCF.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, Conferences and all your private hire needs. We take bookings for both occasional and regular events.

Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information.

Melrose Gardening Day May 4th

After days of scorching sun May 4th the date set for the Community Volunteer Gardening event at Melrose Hall, was a little overcast. But still we gathered as a small but determined group to tidy up and plant new plants in the garden area around the hall.

There was a band of twelve willing and able volunteers. We had a safety talk first, then the jobs to do were handed out: everything from weeding to trimming down the overgrown shrubs and hedges.

I started well with my litter picker but then I hurt my back and had to go home. Ken took photos while the group carried on working, then came back home to check on me and show me the progress being made.

Everyone worked so hard and by the end of the day the area was transformed. Thank you to The Shaw Trust who donated some really great plants, and a big thank you to all the workers. The garden is going to look even better when all the flowers are in bloom.



On the 25th May we had our first official presentation evening with lots of awards to hand out, so here goes!

Congratulations to Jacob Austen, Josh Poynter and Jack Prince who won the Player of the Year trophies for 2006/2007.

- Manager's player:** U7's Spurs: Danny Mayre, Dynamos: Keiran Carr.
 U8's Tornados: John Bailey, Whirlwinds: Keiran Poynter.
 U9's Renegades: Connor Oates, Hurricanes: Bradley (Macca) Lyte
- Parents' Player:** U7's Spurs: Ryan Ledger, Dynamos: Josh Poynter.
 U8's Tornados: Jacob Austen, Whirlwinds: Jamie Bartlett.
 U9's Renegades: George O'Shea, Hurricanes: Bradley (Macca) Lyte
- Players Player:** U7's Spurs: Jack Rush, Dynamos: Keiran Carr.
 U8's Tornados: Fynley Judd, Whirlwinds: Nathan Parker.
 U9's Renegades: Jonathan Page, Hurricanes: Bradley (Macca) Lyte
- Most Improved:** U7's Spurs: Declan Stephens, Dynamos: Aaron Taylor.
 U8's Tornados: Cameron Grist, Whirlwinds: Gorden Mahoney.
 U9's Renegades: Billy Turner, Hurricanes: Shanika.
- Golden boot:** U7's Spurs: Ryan Ledger, Dynamos: Cole Oates.
 U8's Tornados: Jacob Austen, Whirlwinds: Nathan Parker.
 U9's Renegades: Jonathan Page, Hurricanes: Mason Searle.

Just a few names to watch out for next season,

U7's: D'Andre Brown and Blaise Ely. U8's Jack Rush and Declan Stephens.

U9's Jack Parrat and Jamie Bartlett. U10's Shanika, Billy Turner and Jack Prince.

I can't wait to see what the Renegades are going to do next season. Considering they started at a late age group, I think they've done extremely well. They have got some great team players. A few of them will stand out next season and one of them is Jonathan Page. Jonathan has the ability to use his speed to get into areas of the pitch to receive the ball, turn and run at players. He also uses his team mates around him. Personally for next season, we will be expecting 50+ goals. I watched at the Popley Festival as Jacob Austen was putting some cracking balls through for Jonathan, and with a bit more tuning could be the ultimate striker.

Marnel School; year 3 and 4 won their age group at the Popley Festival Schools Tournament beating Chineham Park 5-0 and 6-2. Well done, very proud. Bring on Merton and St Bede's.

Thanks for your support.

Lee Austen

Tel: 07811167791

Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk (that's hotmail, not hotmale)



Hi all,
 I've just sat down in our beat office in Old Basing having had an excellent day at this year's Popley Festival. I'm sure everyone who went along enjoyed themselves as much as we have. Days like today provide a welcome change for us and give us something else to be proud of as Popley beat officers. There were about 15 officers that attended, including about 10 Special Constables, PC Thorne, PC Carter, SC Scantlebury and me. I don't think anyone has had a bad word to say about the day. All the officers were saying at the end how much they have enjoyed themselves and what a great day it has been.

I think we were all glad that the weather was excellent on the day and we couldn't have asked for it to be any better. I think it added to the experience of the whole day and helped to create an excellent atmosphere that was enjoyed by all.

We were mainly involved in patrolling the area both on foot and on bikes and of course the all important raffle! We realise that the biggest problem we had today were problems with parking and this will be rectified for next year. It has been brought to the attention of the organisers and we will be putting out more no parking cones for next year along the road and up into the streets. Anyone who obstructs the roads next year will be dealt with by means of a £30 fine. Apart from that, from our point of view, the day passed off without any major problems. Everyone was well behaved and we couldn't have asked for any more from the residents of Popley.

Residents were able to approach the local beat officers today and tell us about some of the problems they have in their areas. We really enjoy engaging with our local residents, and days like today help us to do that. We are able to find out where the problems are in the area and what we can do to help.

All in all today was excellent and I don't think we could have asked for a better day. We are now all looking forward to next year!

PCSO Smith 13324

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Come and visit us for further details phone
Tel: 01256 410119/07971864304

Thank you from Paul Frankum 2007

I would like to thank you for your support in the Election 2007 and voting in the highest numbers in Popley West's history.

Popley is changing fast and we are determined to get the best we can for our residents, after all I was brought up here and all my family live in Popley.

We have regular surgeries and are doing a street surgery every month. Our home phone numbers are

Paul Frankum 01256 472496

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Or you can always write or knock on the door at 405 Abbey Road, Popley West, Basingstoke, RG24 9EL.

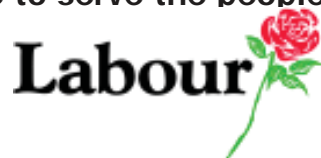
We will continue to write a Councillors page in the Popley Matters so that we can let you know what is happening.

We will not be sending leaflet after leaflet unnecessarily through your doors in the interests of environment and to save paper. We will continue with our quarterly Banner.

We will not be getting into political slanging matches with the other political parties. We will be concentrating on local issues that affect our day to day lives for us and our families.

Thank you once again it is a privilege to serve the people of Popley

Paul Frankum Popley West Councillor



Melrose Community Association Fun Day

This year is the 10th anniversary of the opening of the new Melrose Community Hall



Come and celebrate with us!

Saturday 16th June 2007
12noon - 10pm



Bingo

BBQ

Team Music Quiz

Tombola

Karaoke

Bouncy Castle

Treasure Hunt

Fire Engine

Mock Tails

Refreshments

Clown

Balloon Modelling

Fancy Dress Competition - Circus theme

Exhibitions and displays by our resident groups:

Friday Youth Club

Petite School of Dance

Popley Little People.

Quit Smoking

Weight Watchers

And much more!



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Bermuda Community Association Hall

Why not join us here to play Bingo

Every Tuesday evening

Doors open at 7pm

Eyes Down at 8pm

Finish around 9.45pm

Very friendly atmosphere

Light refreshments are always available during the break

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, crisps, biscuits etc.

This is a non smoking establishment

In order to play you must be over 18 years old.



What's going On at the Bermuda Community Association Hall

<u>Monday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	Adults Singles Club 6pm to 7.30pm
<u>Tuesday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	BCA BINGO Night 8pm to 10pm Doors open at 7pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	Hall available for hire for the evening only
<u>Thursday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	Papercraft 7pm to 9pm
<u>Friday</u>	Pre school 8am to 4pm	Friday Club (5 to 10 year old) 6.30pm to 7.30pm
<u>Saturday</u>	The Hall is available for hire	
<u>Sunday</u>	Family Fellowship Meeting 3.30 to 6pm	

**Small meeting room also available
for hire during the day and evenings**

The Bermuda Community Association
40 to 44 Bermuda Close Basingstoke RG24 9PE
Telephone 01356 363156

School Governors

Have you ever considered being a school governor? I have been a school governor for nearly 15 years and find it really enjoyable and rewarding.

The School Governing Body system is designed to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity to have their say in the management of the school. School governors are chosen to represent the parents, staff, local authority and local community. However, the system does rely on people to volunteer to play their part. School governors are unpaid volunteers and a fairly serious commitment is required. Because being a school governor is a fairly serious commitment, there is always a shortage of volunteers.

Each year, governors are usually expected to attend approximately 6 full governing body meetings held in the evenings and 6 committee meetings that may be either in

the day or the evening (times are agreed by committee members). This averages at about one meeting per month and there is paperwork to be read in advance of each meeting. New governors are offered training and support –usually either 1 whole day or 3 evenings and a visit to the school.

If you feel a bit apprehensive because you don't know what a school governor does, don't worry, everyone was new once and there is plenty of support and training. You do not need to have any particular qualifications

or experience to be a school governor. However, all governors must agree to a criminal record check to be sure that they are not a danger to children. Governors must be able to read the paperwork provided and be able to contribute to meetings.

The most important requirement is a commitment to ensuring that all children have the best possible educational opportunities.

So why become a school governor? There are other opportunities for people with skills in sports, drama, cookery, art etc to volunteer to run activities for children. School governors are part of the school management team. This can provide an excellent opportunity to use management and organisational skills, and experience that you may have gained at work or through a group, a club, a church or similar organisation to benefit local children. Playing a part in the education of our children is very rewarding. Parent governors are elected from parents of pupils at each school. Parents who are interested in being a governor at their child's school should contact the school directly to learn whether there are any vacancies. Community governors represent the local community and are appointed by other governors on the governing body. If you are interested in being a community governor of a local school, approach the school directly. Local authority governors are appointed by our local councillor, Jane Frankum. If you are interested in being a local authority governor, Jane would love to hear from you. Jean (School Governor)

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

What's on at Popley Fields Community Centre?

<u>Monday:</u>	Treasure Island Playgroup:	9.15-11.45 & 12.30-3.00
	Popzone Youth Club (8-13yrs):	18.00-20.00
<u>Tuesday:</u>	Treasure Island Playgroup:	9.15-11.45
	CMA Kickboxing:	18.30-20.00
	Knights' Circle:	19.30-22.00
	Salsa (10 week course)	20.15 - 21.15
<u>Wednesday:</u>	Treasure Island Playgroup:	9.15-11.45 & 12.00-3.00
	Silverwings Linedancing Beginners:	18.30-19.30
	Silverwings Linedancing:	20.00-22.00
<u>Thursday:</u>	Treasure Island Playgroup:	9.15-11.45 & 12.30-3.00
	Parent & Toddler Group:	10.00-11.30
	Dynamic Twirlers:	17.00-18.30
	CMA Kickboxing:	19.00-20.30
<u>Friday:</u>	Treasure Island Playgroup:	9.15-11.45
	Health Walks (meet in reception)	11.00 - 12.00
<u>Saturday:</u>	Available for hire for Weddings, Parties, Christenings and Private Functions. Function bar facilities are available.	
<u>Sunday:</u>	New Testament Church:	10.15-12.15
	Car Boot Sale:	9.00 - 1.00

Also available for Parties, Christenings and Private Functions.

Function bar facilities are available.

A range of rooms are available for hire for courses or conferences daily at very reasonable rates. Refreshments and catering options are also available. We are also the chosen venue for many other Community Groups and their activities.

**Call for details on 01256 414494
email popleyfields@hotmail.com
or just call in to the centre.**

Dear Friends

I took a month off writing last month because of the pressures of Easter, but what a fab time it was. This month it was suggested by the editor that I write something about St. Gabriel's as we don't often blow our own trumpet – so here goes!

When I arrived three years ago, St Gabriel's had a very small but very faithful congregation and for the most part the church had slipped below the horizon of most of the residents of Popley. It seemed that many didn't even know we were here. When I was growing up in Manchester, the two focal points of the community were the pub and the church, and I guess that was so for most communities. Allegedly, Norwich has 365 pubs (one for each day of the year) and 52 churches (one for each Sunday)! So we were determined at St Gabriel's to become a focal point for the community.

Three years later we're well on our way to achieving that goal. On Monday mornings Babysong meet in the hall. This is a group for young mums with infants and toddlers who gather to learn and sing nursery rhymes with all the actions. The object is to aid and improve the development of speech and motor skills for the young ones, as well as providing a great social time for the mums. On Monday evenings the Boys Brigade meet in the hall – a great way for boys from age 5 upwards to meet and share in games and activities in ways that provide learning and fun.

Tuesday mornings the Well Baby Clinic run by Hampshire PCT meets in the hall, and every other Tuesday our craft group use the church while enjoying tea and cakes. Tuesday evenings from 5.30 the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts use the hall. Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning Kumon Maths and English group use the hall to provide extra coaching for children in these important subjects, while in the evenings one of our Bible study groups meet in the foyer from 7.30 onwards.

From July 12th Thursday afternoons will see the Golden Club meeting in the hall. This is a group for senior citizens who meet for a game of bingo and a cup of tea – a very social place to be! On Fridays the Mums and Toddlers group Funky Munkys meet in the hall from 10.00 am till 2pm.

St Gabriel's is a busy place these days and all our groups are open to you, the community.

So what happens on Sunday???

Our services have grown along with everything else at the church. We meet at 10.30 for Family Services which are lively and informal while retaining the best elements of traditional church worship. On any typical Sunday our congregation represents all ages from eight months to the over eighties. It's a great family atmosphere where all are welcomed irrespective of background – and that's as it should be.

If you haven't been to St Gabriel's before, or haven't been back for a while, why not pay us a visit and see just how good God really is!!

With every blessing
Arthur.

with me.

As I have said I loved my job and the people that all worked so hard to make people better and get back on their feet. I have known people complain about Basingstoke Hospital but the work the staff do does not justify that. I owe my life to them and I know many people of Popley do as well. Over the past couple of years I have had to go on life support. but they, or should I say Her Indoors, can't get rid of me that easy. Every morning we are up by about 5.30 in the morning and by 6.45 she is off to work making sure that I have everything and I am safe. She has to work because we could not pay our mortgage otherwise. I do contribute but if she were to stop work then I do not know what we would do. Her Indoors drives the 59 miles to work each day down the motorway to Bournemouth and back again in the evenings at about 4.30. I try and do as much as I can in the day, and as she has sorted dinner out I only have to put it on. When she gets in she finishes it off. She has a very stressful job and to have me to look after aswell puts a great strain on her. We never expected our lives to turn out like this. We expected just to grow old together and enjoy retirement and have a bit of fun along the way. We still do but it is limited. If any one said to me you can have whatever you want just make a wish. I would just wish for Her Indoors.

I have over the years met some wonderful people in Basingstoke and across the country on my travels. I have stood by our town because of what they gave my children and us. Would I go to another place? No, we have lived here over half our lives. Basingstoke gave our children the start in life that has put them on a road to enjoy the same life Basingstoke gave us. So on my travels I always say "Come and see us it's a great town. Everywhere has its problems but we are no worse than the next town, but above all the people in it will always make you welcome. None more so than the community on the Popley estates. They are like family to me. They do not knock on the door every five minutes but do look out for me and always ask after me if they haven't seen me about. Well I have gone on a bit again this month and I know that people will have different views on the matter but I can only talk about my feelings. If you read our local papers compare them with others across the country. They also believe in the community we live in, and the people. That to goes a long way. It's the big 60 for me this month. I put that in just in case anyone wants to send a card full of twenty pound notes! Finally can I say a big thanks to the Council Gardens and Parks for sorting out a problem we have been having with trees and grass over footpaths. I wonder could the finance department give them a bit more money to do the rest of the paths by cutting back grass off them, it looks so much tidier. Last but not least can I congratulate Councillrs on retaining their seats this year on Popley. Till next month

The Old Codger

The Old Codger

I was reading a book the other day when Her Indoors said I had it upside down. I told her it was my glasses. That shut her up to think I could need new glasses. It would cut down the amount she spends on clothes. Now I know I keep having a go about her in these diaries, but it is all fun.

We met at a dance hall in Croydon. I was besotted with her, (fool I know. But you know what happens fellas, they flash the eyelids and that is it). We got married in a place called Selsdon and had a big old fashioned knees up reception.

When we came to Basingstoke it was for a better life for our son, then our daughter, then another son.

All our children went to Chineham Park School, and every year we would help decorate the float for the Basingstoke Carnival. That was a great week, seeing how the people of Basingstoke came together. How proud we were if they won, and even if they didn't seeing people having a great time, and us of course.

I would dress up as Father Christmas for them and give the kids presents at Christmas, and go to see the nativity plays. Again, to see how proud of the little ones the mums and dads were. All our children went on to John Hunt all achieving the best they could do. The teachers worked hard to get the best out of them. My eldest son went on to London University and got his degree, my daughter went to college, did her NNEB and became a nanny, and my youngest son, who does so much to help me, went to college and became an electrician. He has gone on to gain many other qualifications as well. He is our handyman, he puts down floors, fits kitchens, fits bathrooms, decorates and so on.

When I left school I went to Brixton College and did mosaics, creating some lovely murals across the country in churches and buildings. I loved that but this became a very expensive job and so now you do not see many about doing this work.

When I came to Basingstoke I was a tile fitter and after a few years I was made redundant. I went to work for the hospital as a porter and I loved every bit of the job. I progressed from kitchen porter to portering manager. Then in 1995 I was standing in the doorway at the hospital and felt unwell it took two or three days before I went to my doctor. He sent me straight to the hospital as he suspected I had a stroke. Not long after that I had another one then I became epileptic. That was when the consultant said I could no longer work, it would kill me. I cried. I don't mind saying it. Our world turned upside down. We came home and again Her Indoors sat at my side crying



"GIVE ME A BREAK!"

The story is told of an atheist spending a quiet day fishing when his boat is attacked by the Loch Ness monster. The beast tosses him and his boat high into the air, then it opens its mouth to swallow them both. The man cries out, "Oh my God, help me!" Suddenly the attack scene freezes in place. As the atheist hangs in mid air, a voice from heaven says, "I thought you didn't believe in Me!" 'Come on God, give me a break!' the man pleads. 'Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!' Billy Graham says, 'Whenever someone asks me how I can be so certain about who and what God really is, I'm reminded of the story of the little boy who was out flying a kite. The wind was brisk and large billowing clouds were blowing across the sky. The kite went up and up until it was entirely hidden by the clouds. "What are you doing?" a man asked the little boy. "I'm flying my kite," he replied. "Flying your kite?" the man said. "How can you be sure? You can't see the kite." "No," said the little boy, "I can't see it, but every little while I feel a tug, so I know for sure it's there!"

Don't take anyone else's word for it. Find God for yourself by inviting Jesus Christ into your life. Then you too will know by the warm, wonderful tug on your heartstrings that He's there for sure, and that He lives in you!

Extracted from: "The Word For Today"- Summer 2007 (May-June-July)

You may obtain a free copy of the "Word For Today" by visiting Melrose Hall

POPLEY FESTIVAL – THANK YOU!

What a great day on Sunday 20th May on Popley Fields. Thank you God for great weather (some of us got lovely suntans!), thank you Popley residents and others for supporting the event, thank you Popley Festival Committee members and volunteers for making it a great day and if I have forgotten any one – Thank you!

Philip Keeble – Popley Festival Committee Chairman.

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. For further information contact

Pastor Philip Keeble on 428795

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



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Dont forget to come to our Great Summer Fete at Melrose Hall on June 9th from 2 till 4pm

There will be all the traditional attractions. Entry is free and all are welcome

Bouncy Castle
Face Painting
Variety of Stalls
Refreshments
Tombola



And BIG Raffle with many good prizes including family days out at Paultons Park and Bird World

Over 55's Forum

The next Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th June 2007 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. Registration 9.30am for 10.00am start. Finishing at 1.00pm

Our guest speakers confirmed to date are EDF Energy (Gas & Electricity) and Stagecoach. I am waiting on a reply from NTL.

The Forum is going from strength to strength and our membership is over 300 at this moment in time. Members of the over 55's forum have said that the amount of information supplied to them by this Forum is magnificent.

Anyone wishing to join or attend for the first time should inform myself by ringing 01256 412119 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com, so that places can be booked.



Citizens Advice Bureau is a free service, available to everyone, and accessible to all. We are here so that you have someone to talk to in confidence about a vast array of issues, including;

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Immigration and Nationality – Coming to the UK / Staying in the UK

Don't leave matters to get worse. Come and talk to us. We can help.

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau, The Library, Town Centre, Basingstoke.

Telephone 01256 322814. Opening Hours: Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 10.00 to 12.00 noon, Thurs 09.30 to 11.30. Appointments by arrangement.



Unfortunately we experienced another break-in at the Pre-school, during which our outdoor storage facility and play equipment was damaged, and some items stolen. However, the Four Lanes Trust has provided funding for CCTV cameras to be installed for which we are awaiting planning permission.

The Pre-school staff are donning their running shoes this year for the Race for Life to raise money for cancer

research. Parents and friends of the Pre-school are offering their support and we wish them lots of luck whether they run, walk or crawl the 5km!

The Pre-school trip to Finkley Farm on the 26th April was a big success. The children (and adults!) had a great time and the trip tied in nicely with the Pre-school's springtime topic.

Our older children are now preparing to leave the Pre-school to start school and our younger children are looking forward to returning in September.