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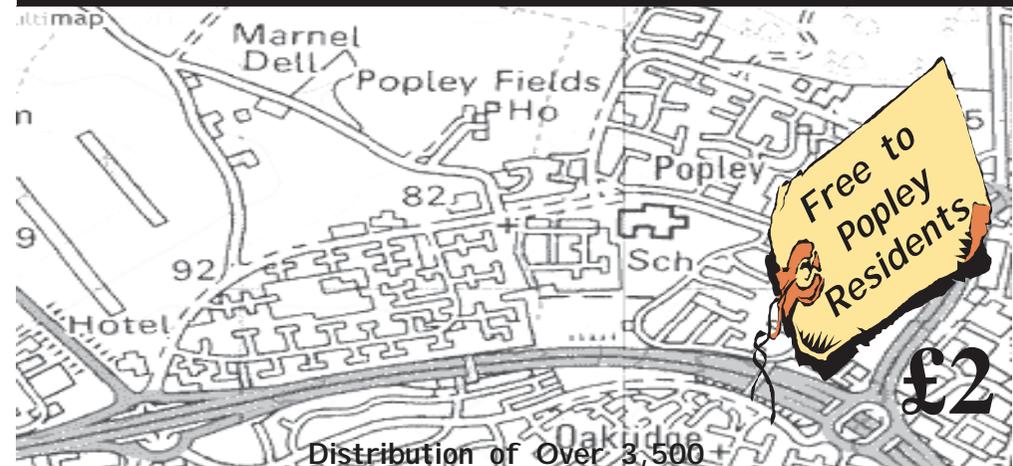
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

November 2007

Issue 69



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-11-07)

Message From the Editor:- The year is nearly over, it seems like only yesterday we were planning New Year and Summer holidays. November brings the fireworks that seem to go on week after week, bang, bang just as you have got the children to sleep. Then the pets get frightened and upset, it is just senseless.

I love to watch the fireworks at the big displays. Families enjoy letting off a few in their back gardens, but do we need others to let it go on for months? The Fire Service asked us to repeat last months Fire Service page it is on page 22.

We have a copy of the winning poster for Safety at Halloween most of the primary schools entered, and I am told by Paul that it was a really tough choice to make. The standard was excellent. The poster is on page 14 and 15.

The nine and a half million pounds improvement scheme for the Aldermaston Roundabout is due to start very soon. The report is on page 9. I have asked the officials to keep us updated so that hopefully we can put in a monthly report.

We are proud to be able to say that Simone Heath will be writing a page on issues and concerns that affect our youth. Welcome to the team. You can read Simone's first article on page 28.

The Community Wardens are working on their "Magic of Christmas" event if you would like to help please contact them on 845508 and ask to speak to David or Vikky.

Another exciting event to report is that is coming to Popley is The "PebblesCentre" which will be built in the grounds of Chineham Park School you can read more about it on pages 6 and 7.

There are several Christmas events and Fayres, if you are stuck on what to buy for presents I am sure you will find a bargain or two.

Congratulations to "Old Codger" who has had his book of childrens stories published.

Hits on www.popleymatters.org.uk website for month of September: 1202

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;

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Youth Volunteers: Joseph Duran, Matthew Stokes.;

More Volunteers Welcome

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Simone's Column

I'm Simone Heath, I am currently a year 10 student at Everest Community College. As you know, we have just moved to a brand new school, which has been an exciting and eventful experience. The building itself is pretty amazing, with its unique, modern, high - tech design.

The school now has some of the best technology and sports equipment around Hampshire, like the new ICT facilities which are fantastic, with computers that are built into the tables. So if you need to use a desk for writing in your lesson as well as a computer, you just push the screen down and you have a desk. That isn't the only great technology that we have, for instance the electronic windows that open to what ever extent you like and all by the push of a button. And if the room temperature gets too high or too low, then the windows automatically open or close. The college also has a swipe card system that *allows us* students and teachers to get in and out of the school, to register (which is still under construction) and also to pay for school meals.

Another great new thing about the college is the sports equipment and the huge courts and pitches. Most of the pitches have Astro turf and flood lights for later matches or clubs. What's more, is we now have a gym that will be opening soon, mainly for public use, where you can use some of the great, new apparatus to keep fit.

The layout of the school has been cleverly thought out, as each block is colour coordinated, to help everyone know where they are or which lesson they should be in. Block 'A' of the school is the green section. Block 'B' is the orange section. And lastly block 'C' is the blue section. In every students planner, at the back, is a site map.

The feeling of being in a brand new school is quite bizarre, but it is a privilege to all. It has been very hectic moving over to the college, but still its been exciting. I personally like the college and am having a good time learning in this new environment, yet it still feels strange, as many students would agree But in general I think most pupils are also enjoying their time at ECC.

I would like to make a point about the youth of Popley, as I think most other teenagers would agree that Popley doesn't offer much for us to do. The only thing I know of, is the youth club which is held at the community centre in popley fields. I don't really know much about it myself. I personally think a few more things should be set up for the youth to keep everyone more occupied, instead of just moping around the streets doing absolutely nothing. One suggestion I think most teens would be interested in, is if the council would build us a skate park over Popley fields. It wouldn't have to be very big, but I know a lot of talented young people who ride bikes, skates, and skateboards etc. and they would love to be able to have a local place where they can show their talent. I think that all the teens in favour of a skate park should sign a petition, as I know that loads of youths would really like the idea. I think this would keep the young people of Popley out of trouble, and I think it is good because it will help people to socialise.

Children and young people in care need you

Jane fosters 14 year old Elliott who is challenging but always rewarding. For the past seven months she has been helping him to build his self confidence through a range of activities, including sailing. "To see improvements in his behaviour and the laughter and excitement in his eyes, especially after sailing, is my reward, and makes it all worthwhile – it is what fostering is all about," she said.

At any one time there are around 1000 children in the care of the local authority with almost 700 currently living in foster families. Foster carers are highly valued members of the community and play a vital role in supporting children in care across Hampshire.

A bus campaign is currently underway across Hampshire acknowledging the excellent work our foster carers do but also encouraging those with an interest to find out more about the profession. Whilst the focus this year is on teenagers, the campaign hopes to recruit an additional 65 foster carers.

Commenting on the new campaign Councillor Patricia Banks, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Children and Families, said: "Fostering is all about making the lives and futures of children and young people better. If you enjoy working with young people please do contact us and find out more about fostering.

"There are different types of fostering. These range from providing vital respite care, emergency foster care, short term placements to providing long term placements, where a child will stay with you until they live independently. Whatever type you are interested in doing you can rest assured that it will make a real difference to a child or young person and their family."

Foster carers come from all walks of life. If you can take on the often challenging role of a foster carer, have the time and space in your life to care for a child, have an ability to understand how a child or young person feels when their life may not be going smoothly and enjoy being and working with children and young people, then fostering could be for you.

Full training and support is available as is an allowance to cover the cost of caring for the child or young person placed in your care. You will need to be able to work with children, their families, schools, therapists and social workers. Young people come into care for a variety of reasons and in most cases the aim is to get them back with their own families as soon as possible.

Fostering can become a career with some foster carers undertaking further training; able to take on more challenging placements and therefore they attract a skills fee in recognition of their contribution.

If you would like to find out more call Hampshire County Council's foster line on 0845 6011895 or visit www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk

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Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor, 'I would like to express my anger at the thoughtless people who set off fireworks before November 5th. Not so long ago it was unheard of to have fireworks go off even a week before Bonfire night. I understand that November 5th does not always fall on a weekend and so there may be parties on the night and the weekend before and after. But these days you hear them going off from middle October to middle of November. I own two cats, one of whom is very nervous and hates loud noises. Last year she spent the best part of the firework period hiding under my bed shaking.

Please residents think of the neighbourhood pets and save the fireworks for the weekend of Bonfire night. My cat in particular would thank you.' Ms W

Editors Reply: I agree that it is anti social and causes distress to lots of people and animals. The fireworks are often set off late at night as children are trying to sleep. Animals are often terrified and it seems to go on for weeks before and after Bonfire Night. I go to the Mayors Firework Display it is always an amazing display and the money goes to charity, and its safe. I worked for many years on the Childrens Ward and have seen some terrible injuries. Fireworks these days are much bigger and more sophisticated than the many years ago i was a child. I remember holding sparkelers watching the Catherine wheel and the odd rocket that we would put in a milk bottle and set off. We always had sausages (usually burnt) and jacket potatoes that kept your hands warm cause they were too burnt to actually eat.

Dear Editor, Having recently moved into Marnel Park I would like to mention that I am becoming alarmed at the amount of on road parking by other residents. Frequently the footpaths are like an obstacle course with the

high volume of vehicles, both large and small parked on the paths causing an obstruction to both the path and public highway, many are also obstructing junctions making their negotiation difficult and also extremely hazardous. I have contacted the council, but they are unwilling or unable to do anything.

It will not be long before there is an accident, or an emergency vehicle that cannot get to where it needs to.

Why in today's age of multi vehicle families have most houses only got one parking space with no visitor spaces?! Regards Mr L

Editors reply: I have been assured by the emergency services that they will get by to any emergency. The parking standards are a national standard and though it seems there are never enough I do wonder how many per household would be enough? Some households have 4 or 5 cars if this were carried through, very large areas of land that could be homes would be needed to cover these numbers for parking spaces. Having said that I can report that I brought this subject up again at the Transport meeting at The Ark on the 22 October and was told that it is being looked into. At present when new houses are being built the standard is to allow for one point five of a parking space, some parts of the county it has been raised to two point four.

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





Attention all slimmers! From Wednesday the 7th of October we have Slimming World joining our regular groups here at the hall. When 5 people join together they get the first class free and only have to pay the joining fee. Countdown s can also be purchased - pay for 5 weeks get the 6th free OR pay for 10 and get 11th and 12th weeks free. The class starts at 7.15pm. Contact Jo on 327771 for further details.

Do you have green fingers? Fancy doing some gardening but dont have a garden? We have a new gardening club here at the hall. It is held on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 1pm-3pm. We have a currently big project regenerating the gardens around the hall. Whether you can dig, prune, plant or weed or litter pick - we need you. All ages welcome but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Refreshments are provided.

- MONDAY:** 9.30-12pm Friendly Café
7.30-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistics
- TUESDAY:** 4.00-7.30 Petite School of Dance
- WEDNESDAY:** 10.00-11.30 - Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
10.00-11.00 NHS Quit Smoking Clinic
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
7.15 - Slimming world
- THURSDAY:** 9.30-12PM Friendly Café
6.30-8.30 Weight Watchers
- FRIDAY:** 10-3 Together
6.00-7.45 Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00- 9.15 Youth Club - age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9.00-12.30 Petite School of Dance
- SUNDAY:** Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

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Councillors Page: I attended a meeting with residents and representatives from Health, Social Services, Schools, Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke Council to talk about the new centre that will be coming to Popley Poets next year. I hope all the residents of Popley will benefit from this new centre. There is a report in this magazine and I will be writing more over the coming months to let you know how things are progressing.

I attended a meeting at the Ark to talk about Highway issues. I brought up concerns about the underpasses, parking, cycle tracks, poor street lighting, speeds and traffic lights in Popley.

The work will soon start on the Aldermaston Roundabout and if you have any complaints or concerns the number to call is 08456035633

The Boundary Commission have yet again changed the way Popley is split into wards! It does not affect the County area but will make a difference in the Popley East and Popley West wards.

As your County Councillor I will continue to represent you all on Hampshire County Council matters. Contact me by phone 819924 or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Jane Frankum County Councilor Basingstoke North(819924 or by email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: I was really privileged to be one of the judges for the Halloween safety poster. What talent we have in our schools. It was so very hard to judge and pick a single winner, after a lot of deliberation the winner was picked and a copy of it is in this magazine. There was some fantastic artwork from drawings to a felt pictures all were excellent. The boundary changes take Pershore, Evesham, Tewksbury and Trinidad out of Popley West and into Popley East so from the end of this month your new Councillors will be Mary Brian and Andy McCormick. Popley West will have all the new housing except the old John Hunt site, that remains as before with Popley East. It has been a privilege to serve you all and we are sure that Mary and Andy will continue to support you. Jane Frankum and I still represent the remaining roads and are here to serve you. All your Labour Councillors have been objecting to the division of our three and four bedroom houses being split into small flats we argued that we need more family homes, not more one bed flats. At the last planning committee five more were refused. Also Sentinel have promised that the flats proposed for five in fill sited will not go ahead after consulting with residents and Councillors. Contact us Paul Frankum 472496 cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East. Thank you to the many residents that have got back to me on the subject of flooding. We would like any one that has been affected by flooding and overflowing sewage, to get in touch with your Labour Councillors. So please keep the letters and forms coming in. We are gathering all the evidence, and when we have got it all together we will all approach the council. We will demand that there is a full and proper survey is done in Popley to address the problem. With the climate change it is not likely to get any better in fact it will get worse.

All the Labour Councillors continue to fight against losing family homes by being converted to small flats when there is a huge need for more homes for our young families.

At the end of this month the boundary changes mean that Mary and Andy will also be ward Councillors for Pershore, Evesham Tewksbury and Trinidad, we look forward to hearing from you. You can contact us by phone Mary 322108 Andy is 419376 or you can still write to Popley Labour, 405 Abbey Road. RG24 9EL Mary Brian ☎322108

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Dear Friends,

I wonder if you saw the programme on the TV remembering the 'Great Storm' of 1987 – twenty years ago. For many its difficult to forget that night and the damage that was done – I'm embarrassed to say, but I slept right through it, though not my wife who said she was waiting for the roof to come off and the windows to come in! I guess if you ask some of the older folk in our community they'll be able to remember storms of seemingly equal power and ferocity in the past but what struck me was that at the end of the programme one of the commentators said something like 'we can control many things but we can never control the weather!'

We all like to be in control, or at least think we are! It's an issue that seems to govern so many aspects of our lives today often in a powerful way. We like to feel we are in control of our careers, relationships, health, finances and so on. But what happens when we lose that sense of being in charge, when we feel that things are spinning out of our control! Oddly enough, panic is the most common reaction and people can begin to behave in the most irrational ways – so much so that they seem not to be the people we know and love anymore. St. Mark tells how the disciples are at sea in their ordinary, wooden-hulled fishing boat with its smell of salt and damp and stale fish. The stained and wet sails are straining under the increasing wind, and the ropes creaking – all so normal and familiar. But the power of the wind and the waves increases out of control, and Jesus is woken up in their anxious panic and they suddenly witness a much greater power and authority than anything in the created world as Jesus commands the storm to be still!

Jesus was actually asleep and the disciples woke him up to tell him to start worrying! It's worth remembering who were among the crew of this vessel - Peter, James and John all experienced fishermen. But the lake of Galilee was known for its sudden and ferocious storms with waves reaching over 20ft in height. With the stormy waves pitching the boat up and down, and water coming in over the side, it was beginning to look like a *Titanic* situation, and there was Jesus fast asleep in the bottom of the boat!

Sometimes we do that too, if life seems very scary and everything seems to be wildly out of control. We scream out to Jesus, demanding that he take notice and do something. It's almost as if we want him to join in our panic.

Often in life we will find that when we have invited Jesus into our boat – into our life – we don't get so thrown by all the stormy problems (things like quarrels between friends, loved ones moving away, financial problems, pressures and stress at work). And if we're panicking about them so much that we can't see Jesus helping us to weather the storm, then often we'll find that we're given a breather – a bit of space – where things are calmed down long enough for us to realise that, with God in charge, we don't actually need to be terrified.

Your friend
Arthur
Vicar of St. Gabriel's.

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Pebbles Children's Centre

The new children's centre for Popley was officially named 'Pebbles Children's Centre' during the summer, following a very successful logo and naming competition that involved local children and families. Over the coming months, it is hoped that all families in Popley will become familiar with the name and delightful logo. Currently most of these activities continue to take place on the Marnel Infant School site, in what was previously the Early Years Centre.

Early next year will see the extension of both Marnel Infant and Junior Schools, and the new Pebbles Children's Centre will be developed on the Chineham Park Primary School site. The staff who have been working with families at the Early Years Centre site will be relocated to the new children's centre. The centre will act as a coordination point and 'one stop shop' for local families to access information and a range of services. However, much of the services will be delivered as outreach in the community, The Pebbles Children's Centre logo will soon be used at venues in the community, including schools, community centres and health centres where children's centre activities and services for families and young children will be run.

The most important part of setting up the children's centre services is to involve the parents and children in having a say about what services they need, and how and where they want them to be delivered.

Each children's centre will have a Parents' Forum, run by parents, that will work with the centre manager to help ensure that the centre works effectively with the whole community and that parents are satisfied with the services offered.

Over the summer, a number of community arts workshops were held across Popley that provided an opportunity for parents, carers and children to begin to share their ideas for the children's centre. The families created some wonderful art and produced three large canvasses which will hang in the new centre when its completed next year. In the meantime they will be displayed in various locations around Popley for everyone to admire - so look out for them!

Pebbles Children's Centre will belong to the community and it is therefore really important that everyone has the opportunity to share their ideas and get involved.

If you would like further information about what services are currently available at Pebbles Children's Centre, or would like to get involved please contact : Debbie Martin 01256 357028

The Christmas Fayre

Christmas Tombola   Gifts & Crafts!
Raffle Chocolate Galore! Kiddy Craft

Come n' meet Santa Carols round the Tree

So much more and so much fun for everyone!!

 St Gabriel's Church 
*Saturday 1st December from 2pm - 5pm in the church on Tewkesbury Close

Every Thursday at St Gabriel's Church

The 'Golden Club' meets weekly on Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm in St Gabriel's Church Hall on Tewkesbury Close (off Popley Way). If you feel you're at a 'golden age' then feel welcome to come along. A very sociable club, offering a cup of tea, good company and a game of bingo.

For more details please contact Doris Saitch 462818.



The Golden Club
for those of a 'Golden Age'





Firework Safety

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

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

**DONT FOOL AROUND &
NEVER THROW FIREWORKS ONTO A BONFIRE!!**

Always follow all instructions and always put safety first.

Always store your fireworks safely: in a closed box & out of reach of children.

Always keep children well away from fireworks, and never let a child handle or light one. Even sparklers can be dangerous if unsupervised!

Tips:

* Have a full bucket of water handy for any emergency & for putting used sparklers in.

* At the end of your display, douse any 'dud' fireworks with water, then completely bury them in the ground. Alternatively, ask your Fire Brigade for advice as soon as possible.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

If you would like to know more about what children's centres offer please visit the website – www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-centres

One of the poems written by children and families as part of the community arts workshops and featured on the murals

P ainting and poetry
 E ating fruit
 B ig bouncy balloons
 B iscuuits and tea
 L is for a quiet library
 E veryone enjoying themselves
 S ugary sweets sometimes

C is for curly hair
 H is for their little hands
 I is for its your turn
 L is for the love they bring
 D is for the dirt they attract !
 R is for rhyiming and readiing
 E is for everybody can join in
 N is for nobody's nasty
 S is for sisters and brothers joining everyday

C is for children's center
 E is for everybody is kind and helpful
 N is for everybody's nice
 T is for the centre is a cool place to come
 R is for a relaxing story and tea
 E is for easy work and art



Over 55's Forum

Our 'Special Day' Variety show on the 29th September 2007 at QMC was a brilliant success with the Compere 'Delboy' Trotter lookalike being the STAR of the show, there were some 300 people attended and the comments that have been received from numerous people have been marvellous

Our December Forum meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday 12th December 2007 at the Carnival Hall,

Council Road, Basingstoke. Time; registration 9.30am for a 10.00am start- finish at 1.30pm. Our membership is now 392 and if anybody wishes to join, they should contact Gerald.L.Merritt 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke RG22 6QS or E-Mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com.



Basingstoke First Point is a short term generic floating support service that works across all tenures and households in Basingstoke and Deane. The service is available seven days a week including evenings and can provide up to two hours of housing-related support per service user per week for up to two years.

We aim to provide flexible housing related support to vulnerable people aged 16 years plus to meet their needs and aspirations towards living independently, to work in partnership to reduce and prevent homelessness, reduce social exclusion and promote links into the community.

We can help if you have housing related support needs, or face losing your home or need support to take up housing, to help you to set up and sustain your home or help if you are moving on from supported housing, prison or hospital to independent living.

Our friendly and experienced staff could support you to claim welfare entitlements and maximise your income, support to budget for rent and utility bills, liaise with the landlords/mortgage companies over rent or mortgage arrears, make links within the local community and support networks, support you to maintain safety and security of your home or move into a new home and help you to engage in employment/further education/training

Our service is free and self-referrals can be made by a telephone call or by completing one of our referral forms. Alternatively a professional can refer on your behalf. Once we receive this, a member of staff will arrange to meet with you to carry out a full assessment of your needs.

Post: First Point, Southern Focus Trust, The Orchard, White Hart Lane Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 4AF

Phone: 01256 423805 **Fax:** 01256 423807

Email: firstpoint-basingstoke@sft.org.uk

First Point Manager:

Sarah King

01256 423808

Sarah.king@sft.org.uk

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07810 286470

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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

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Tel: 01256 410119/07971864304

“Halloween without the mask!”

Sorry that this article comes a bit late because Halloween will be over by the time you read this but a number of people have asked me why we shouldn't get involved with it so here we go!

Many centuries ago, the pagans had 1st November as their New Years Day. 31st October was “New Years Eve”. The pagans had priests called Druids. The druids believed that to have a good new year, they had to honour “The Lord of the Dead” who would call up the spirits of wicked dead people believed to be trapped in animals because of their past bad behaviour (hence the proverbial “black cat”). These “bad spirits” would then return to their old home looking for an offering to appease them. People thought that if they didn't get an offering or gift, these spirits would torment the lives of the people living there. (Doors opening and shutting, footsteps, funny noises etc). This is where the term “trick or treat” comes from.

When the Christian Missionaries first came to Britain, the church compromised with the pagans and allowed them to keep 31st October as a special day but called it “All Saints Day” or “All Hallows Eve” (shortened to Halloween).

What does the Bible say about all of this? Firstly the spirits of dead people, good or bad, cannot be recalled nor can they speak to us. For example **1 Peter 3:18** says (that for the 3 days that Jesus was in the grave) He went and preached to the spirits of people who had died and who were kept in prison (awaiting judgment). In other words they cannot be released back into our world. So who or what was being released by the Druids? Spiritual beings called angels (meaning messengers of God) were created by God. At some stage, Lucifer, the highest ranking angel in heaven, attempted to overthrow God's government with the backing of, possibly a third of the population of heaven. He lost that battle and was exiled. He was renamed “Satan” All the angels that rebelled with him suffered the same fate. They are no longer known as angels but as demons/devils/evil spirits etc. They are expert at mimicry, can copy the voices and mannerisms of dead people and transform their appearance. (**1 Corinthians 11:14**). Where did they go after being thrown out of heaven? **Ephesians 2:2**. The earth (or the spiritual territory above it).

When Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment we deserved, Satan thought that he had won the war that he started ages ago but realised, too late, that he had lost it after seeing Jesus alive and well. Jesus took from him the “keys of hell and death” (**Revelation 1:18**).

When we give our lives over to Christ, he gives us eternal life and power over the fear of death and the grave. Satan and his cronies only have power when we give it back to them. We don't need Halloween or any other occult practice to do that!

It may be that you are experiencing “funny stuff” in your life or home. If you are I want you to know that Jesus Christ is the one with the power. Should you need help “Who you gonna call?”

COOKING NIGHT

This month we are learning how to cook. It might be Indian or African cuisine. It's a surprise because I don't even know yet! Sunday 4th November at 6.30pm

Friday Clubs for the youth!

Every Friday during school term time. Is there one near you? Melrose Hall, Bermuda Close and Base 2000 (behind Popley Fields). Infant/Junior school age 6.30-7.45pm. Secondary School age (Melrose Only) 8-9.15pm

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Meets at Melrose Hall, Off Abbey Road, Popley

(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



The £9.5 million, 14 month improvement scheme by Hampshire County Council will provide traffic signals on all six approach arms at the Aldermaston roundabout, together with road widening on the A340 between the roundabout and Priestly Road.

The proposals also provide additional pedestrian footways on Popley Way northwards from Abbey Road, on Oakridge Road from Osborne Close to the roundabout, and southwards along Aldermaston Road South to Hubbard Road. Essential major maintenance work to the carriageway and the drainage network will be included in these works.

The scheme will reduce overall congestion through better traffic management, provide more reliable travel times with new signals and improve road safety.

The Priestly Road junction will be altered to incorporate a new access to the Merton Rise development. A new residential-style road and footways will be constructed between the A340 and Sherborne Road to serve Merton Rise. The road will connect to an earlier phase, which is nearing completion on site. Work will include the installation of surface and foul water drainage and utilities (electricity, gas, water and communications) to serve the new development.

The County Council's Executive Member for Environment, Cllr Mel Kendal, said: “The A340 Aldermaston improvement works aim to improve road safety and junction efficiency in managing traffic growth, in an area that is rapidly expanding – there's outline planning permission for 950 dwellings, a neighbourhood centre and a new secondary school that is now open. Widening the roundabout carriageway to create additional lanes will work together with the traffic signals to optimise the traffic flow.

“We'll shortly be selecting a contractor, after which time we'll have a better idea of the programme of works. But due to the nature and scale of these works a number of statutory diversions will be in place before the works start, as well as advance warning signs.

“The County Council will do its best to minimise disruption to traffic during the works and has been liaising with the emergency services. However we do not anticipate that the traffic situation on the A340 during the works will be significantly different to what drivers currently experience.”

For more information on the Merton Rise development, visit www.mertonrise.co.uk.



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Hello Folks,
 It has been very busy, the last couple of months in Popley with various projects and issues to sort out. The PCSO's have been getting involved more with the local schools and indeed PCSO Phil RAPLEY was key in setting up a Halloween Poster competition. There was some really great entries from the local kids and we appreciate the effort put into making Popley a better place for all. The key message from the competition was to highlight safety at

this time of year. I would also urge parents to do their best to ensure that they know where their kids are, and that they are safe. More and more we understand that these kids are our future and if we can engage with them at an early stage then hopefully we can steer them away from the strong influences of the few that are intent to spoil it for all! I think we should try a few more competitions in the future. If you have any idea's for one then let me know. Email me on the Popley Matters Site or give me a ring on 0845 045 45 and leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

We are in the process of updating our equipment on the Beats. At the moment one big change you will see is the bikes we use. The new ones are bright white with all the trimmings. PC Paul THORNE has his already but I'm still in the queue. I'm very jealous! There is still no word on an office for us in Popley which I am hopeful will be resolved in 2008!! I won't hold my breath though as progress can be slow in this particular area. I am starting to enjoy the cycle from Old Basing However! I sometimes even divert past Old Basing Bakery on the way!! It's true what they say about Police- We do eat lots of cakes.

I recently spoke to Julie Rose (Everest College Head Teacher) and she informed me that things were going well at the new school. I do like the blazers! They look great. There have a few teething problems with parking and picking up and dropping off of kids at the school. Can I ask you to please be mindful of your speed when entering in or near the school site. Accidents do happen but they can be avoided if people are considerate of others and keep speed to a minimum. There are still security guards at the old school and there is now definite end date for them to finish at the site. It may be that when the old school is taken down that they remain to protect the site.

It is also that time of year when folk make great big piles of burning material and explosive material is thrust into and over Popley. With care and attention to detail I am hopeful that we can avoid any incidents. We will be out in force over this period to ensure that the common sense rules and laws are followed. Not to put a dampener on all the fun but we will be issuing tickets and considering arrests for misuse of fireworks etc. We were young once but the key has to be safety first then fun!

Have a good time
 PC 20686 CARTER
 Popley West Beat Manager



This is the same as most things today Mums and Dads wrap kids up, they do not get a chance to dig in the garden a pick up worms or bugs crawling around. I feel that is why our kids of today go down with so many infections because they do not get the sorts of antibodies we did as kids, by just playing in dirt. How many of you have gone home with the backside of your shorts ripped covered in mud from head to feet. Mum taking one look at you and just dump you in the old tin bath in the garden and fill it up. Boy did we make a mess that way this was good old growing up we loved it, mind you I expect mum said a few words under her breath.

I can also remember as a kid mum had the old washing boiler in the back garden and the dreaded mangle. We would get out as soon as she started the wash, and if you were not up to speed you were on the end of it turning the handle while mum pushed the washing through, the big stuff was the worst like sheets, by the time a sheet had gone through you had wound the mangle along the back path at six or seven I had muscles like Popeye. Her Indoors would do the same sort of thing for her Mum, the only thing is she still has muscles like Popeye and a right hook can be very painful,

Now, just let us reflect on what I started to say this month, come to think of it I am sure I am related to Ronny Corbett as he always wanders off in the middle of a story. If the town were all pull together on pushing us forward in offering training ground for the Olympics in 2012 I am sure that we would well be considered, also by doing this we could be in for extra grants to improve on what we have in the town for sports, it is not just sitting back and let others get all the things that are on offer if we do not take this up we will be poorer for it at the end of the day. How proud if just one youth in Basingstoke got into the British team. Even better if we came away with a medal, I do hope the council and town sit up and listen to the voice of the majority of the town to be selected as hosts.

Ok I have gone on a bit this moth but I feel it needed to be said.

Keep well
The Old Codger



Fundraising Event,
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road, Popley
Sat 10th Nov
2-6pm

With Bouncy Castle, Raffle, Tombola, Kids Treasure Hunt, Sponsored Exercise Cycling and many more fun activities. Lots of prizes to be won. ALL proceeds donated to Children in Need.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

We have been very busy recently and the next few weeks leading up to Christmas are historically a very busy time for everyone. We have lots of events happening and hope you will join us for some of them!

'What's Happening To Your Woods' – Basing Wood, also known as Carpenter's Down Wood is going to have a facelift and all the agencies involved would like to hear your views. Please come to an informal drop in at the centre on Tuesday 6th November between 3.00pm – 8.00pm.

Family Prize Bingo Night – This is a new event to be held on 16th November from 6pm with eyes down at 7pm. There will be lots of great prizes and it is a joint venture between Popley Fields, Bermuda and Melrose Community Associations with proceeds being split between the three charities.

Princes Trust Curry Night – This is to be held at the centre on Friday 30th November. For more information and tickets call – 07918887865.

Christmas Tea Dance – The 'Out and About Partnership' are again holding the event here on Friday 7th December from 2pm to 5pm. Tickets are £4 in advance and £5 on the door and are available from the centre reception.

Magic of Christmas – Monday 10th December, 5.30pm – 8.00pm: We will again be hosting this great event for Popley. This year we will be having a procession through the local estate ending back at the centre where Santa will be popping in and all the activities and refreshments will be free. If you would like to help in any way before or during the event please contact us as we will require several marshals and stewards to help make the event a success.

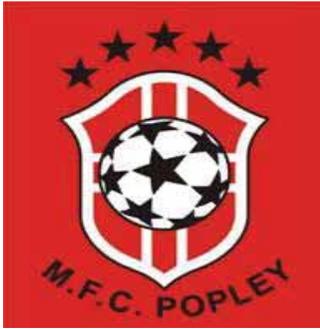
Community Courses – These have been very well attended this term but there will be new courses available in January. If you want to learn how to make better posters and how to use your digital camera with your computer, there will be a new 'Desktop Publishing with Photography' class available. We also hope to have a financial literacy course which will help you work out your finances and understand bills, interest rates and 'APR's'. Look out for more info on all the different courses available next month or call us now to register your interest.

New activities – In January we have a new opportunity for toddlers – 'Mad Academy' will be holding high-energy music and dance classes combined with learning for babies from 3 months to 5 years every Tuesday morning.

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and kids' parties at very reasonable rates.

Call us now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the centre every week!

Tel:01256 414494 or email:popleyfields@hotmail.com



Tornados and Dynamos have started the 2007/2008 season with a bang; both teams are unbeaten, so far.

TORNADO'S

Tornados have had to battle to stay at the top, but they have a game in hand over their nearest rivals. With the likes of Jacob, John, Kallum and Fyn, who we know are very good players, its players like Billy, Jack, Ellie and Nathan, who I think will surprise a lot of people. One player I have been working with a lot is Cameron Grist, what a character and so far this season (what a player). He works so hard for the team, and always helps, and if need be, shouts at them, just to let them know how important the team and game means to him, I am very proud of Cameron, because I do give him a bit of stick, but he learns very quickly from his mistakes, and with this, he will be a very, very good all-round footballer, well done. (Future captain, I think)

Dynamo's

Well, what can I say, it's their first season, they are unbeaten, they've got some cracking players and a very good and well disciplined coach. I'm not very familiar with some of the players, apart from a couple, who live round my area, and I will find out about some of the players, but one player sticks out for me, not because he's my nephew, because I've never met a kid who wants to play football 24/7. **D'andre Brown** has pestered me from the age of 3, and I was so happy when he was finally old enough to play for a team, and believe you me, I'm glad he's on our side.

The only thing is, he gets so much money per goal from his Nana, and keeps telling her that he scores a hat-trick every week, but we know different, don't we, D'andre.

But I must say he is a very good player, and hats off to Justin, who is doing a great job with the youngsters, well done.

Thanks for your support. **Lee Austen**

Tel: 07810444995 Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

THE OLD CODGER

I would like to talk this month about something out of the ordinary for The Old Codger.

We are fast coming up to our Olympics, it is a great honour for this country to get elected as the hosts in 2012. Yet, we have many people in this country that disagree with it, but that's how they feel. From my point of view it is fantastic. it will generate much needed employment in a very, run down part of our country. Going back in time to 1948, the war was over the country was rebuilding, rationing was still with us and we were needing something to get people bonding again, this came with the Olympics. It was held at Wembley stadium for athletics, the rowing at Henley on Thames. The British gymnastics team practised in Hyde Park in the open. At the opening ceremony the torch was carried 3,160km by 1531 athletes, in 2000 it travelled 51,000km and 11,000 athletes.



The oldest man to win a medal in 1948 was the British walker Tebbs Lloyd-Johnson in the 50km walk, he was 48 years old, and Fanny Blankers-Koem won four golds for her country. Now why have I said all this, well Basingstoke could play a big part in 2012 if only the people of the town embrace this, and also give as much support as they can to our own youth in trying to get them into the team. Also invite some of the other countries to do their training in our town? All of this would put us on the map we have some great facilities in the town now, thanks to the councils building them up and supporting them

We should not fight between us by saying Tory party or Labour party, or the Liberal Democrats did all this, we should be saying let us all join in to make this work, and then as "Basingstoke" take the rewards for it. So lets get our kids with talent out now, do not let them wander the streets or sit in front of a TV. Show them life is out side all of this. The 1948 Olympics became known as the Austerity Games. I feel that is very apt, don't you? Just by keeping things simple.

So what if we did get a chance to entertain the 2012 celebrations? What would we do, and could we not commemorate it as well? We in Basingstoke can give one of our warmest welcomes to any one that wants to come and show what culture we have in a great town like Basingstoke.

LETS ALL MAKE IT WORK.

My father was a great footballer before the war interrupted his career in the game; he was going on to play for his own team West Ham. When he past away he was still a strong supporter of the team and that was over 70 years. I can remember even after the war if you played against him you could never get the ball back once he had it, he had fantastic skills with a football. I wonder how many can remember the game back then their was none of this namby pamby stuff of today. You could be knocked for six with a shoulder or a accidental boot in the wrong place; you just got up and carried on with the game, nowadays if the opposite side blow on you it is a yellow card. Football has become handbags at twenty paces now days gone are the good old footballers.

Sales Woman Goes Raving MAD!

Cathy Agozzino, previously a Sales representative, has downed her filofax to take up a more thrilling challenge after being unable to contain her passion for music any longer! Cathy is the newest member of the expanding MAD Academy network, and is setting up a franchise in Basingstoke.

MAD Academy runs high-energy music and dance classes for babies and children aged 3 months to 5 years. Classes are free spirited and fun, whilst bringing to life the basics of music and dance. The specially designed baby classes are packed full of nursery rhymes and catchy songs aimed at encouraging speech development, while the carefully choreographed actions stimulate baby's physical awareness, control and coordination. Fascinating props and instruments are used to excite their natural curiosity whilst there are also activities dedicated to stimulating those all important senses. In every baby class there is even an opportunity to master signing with the help of specially written songs.

And it's not just the babies who will be getting all the fun. Children up to the age of five will also be able to get in on the action with classes bursting with energy and music! As well as singing along to some fantastic songs, children get the opportunity to learn specially choreographed dances designed to improve their physical abilities. There are always lots of musical instruments and props to experiment with and if that wasn't enough, every week there are stimulating games and activities which improve their musicality, listening skills and intellectual reasoning. Classes are always high-spirited and motivational! .

Cathy will be running classes on 3 mornings a week, from January 2008 and will be running FREE taster classes in December.

Call Cathy now on 01256 325464 to book or see the MAD Academy website (www.madacademy.com) for details of all classes.

For the ultimate girls night in with no baby sitters needed then give me a call and host your own Ann Summers Party. Great benefits and many competitions. I will organise it all. All you need to do is chose the date then invite your girlfriends and get the drinks.

Then let the fun begin

Ame Frankum
07811282206

Come and get your presents and bargains at the Melrose Hall Christmas Fayre.

Craft and hand made items for sale.

Enjoy a lovely cuppa with a cake or



mince pie

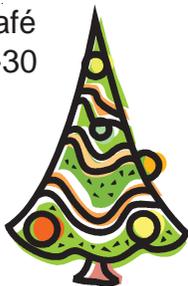
in our Friendly Café



November 22nd

at

Friendly Café
9-30 to 12-30



On October 2nd a joint initiative with Police, Community Wardens and Community Safety Team a competition was held to find a winner for a Halloween Safety Poster. The Primary school pupils were invited to design a poster to go into the Popley Matters with a £20 prize of a book token donated by Waterstones.

The judges were Councillor Paul Frankum, PCSO's Phil Rapley and Steve Smith, BDBC Community officer Debbie Mason and Community Warden David Mason.

There were hundreds of entries and it took several hours to go through them all. The standard was truly amazing and as we have so many very talented children in Popley it was a difficult choice to make. There was one entry done in felt that is worth a special mention, unfortunately we could not have been able to reproduce it in the magazine.

Finally after a long debate, the winner was picked. Well done Arla from Chineham Park School.

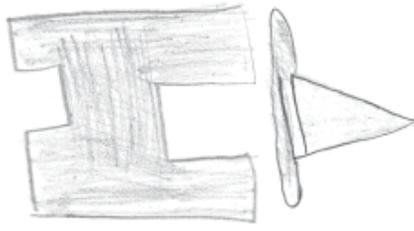
I do want to say how proud I was of the high standard of work done by all the children in the schools, well done to all of you.



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



BE



A



SURF



WEEN

AT

