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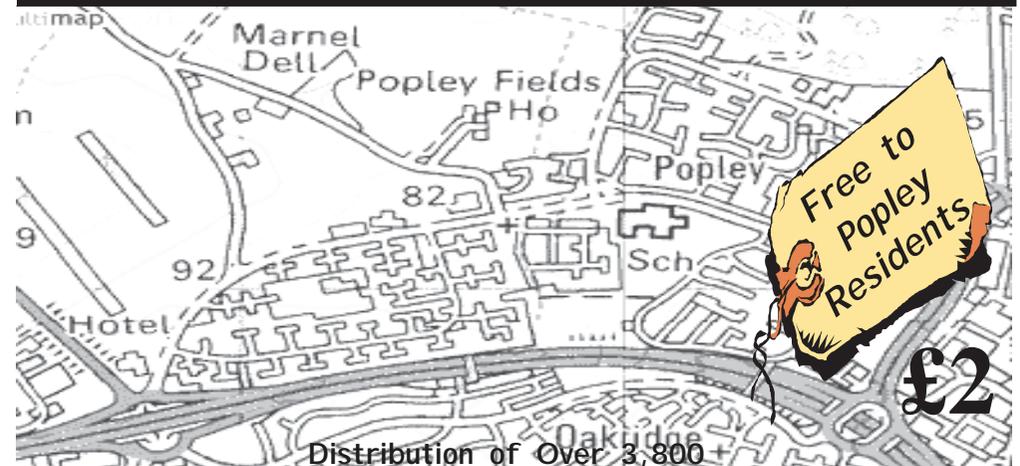
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2008

Issue 74



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Don't Forget www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20–04–08)

Message From the Editor:- April showers bring May flowers! I was thinking about “the good old days” and how you could rely on the seasons. It always snowed around Christmas, so there would be snowmen and tobogganing. The sun always shone nearly every day in the summer and you had strawberries. How times have changed. Now we never know what the weather may bring. Mother nature can be mimicked, flowers and vegetables can be bought out of season, and exotic fruits and veg are the norm. Brussel sprouts, parsnips and swede were a winter veg, tomatoes and lettuce were for the summer months. Although I will admit it is good to have the choice, does it come at too high a price with all the global warming? Talking of seasons, Julie’s gardening tips are on page 8.

I was delighted to see that all the work put in by the students and staff at Everest Community College is beginning to show with a much improved Ofsted report. Well done to all. All our other schools are doing well too, read about Chineham Park School having a good time on page 22. Our Community Halls all seem to be busy with a new over 50’s club starting on 10th April in Popley Fields; Gardening Club at Melrose Hall, and the Bingo is still popular at Bermuda Hall, details are all inside for you to read.

There is a comprehensive report from PC Dan Carter about the new Safer Neighbourhood Team on pages 16 and 17. I think together as a community we can really make a difference.

Sadly we say a Happy Retirement to Dr Anne Marie May, who used to practice in the old Popley surgery in Marlowe Close then went out on her own. She had a practice in Lychpit and many of her patients went with her. Dr May could be tough at times (well she was with my family) but she was fair, and was a tower of strength to me over some very serious illnesses in my family. My family will miss her but wish her a Happy Retirement.

Sherborne St John have not submitted an article for this month but I am sure will be back to normal for the next issue. We always welcome articles, letters and advertising. Our contact details are email editor@popleymatters.org.uk, phone Jane 819924 or Iris on 411113. You can also write to 405 Abbey Road, RG24 9EL or PO Box 6727 RG24 9GG

Finally we are always looking for volunteers to deliver Popley Matters so if you could spare one hour a month it would be much appreciated by our distribution manager Iris, Contact her on 411113.

Hits on www.popleymatters.org.uk website for month of March: 3892

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; Iris King; Colin Karlslake, Simon Leadbetter; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Judy O Connell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes Naomi Laffoley, Angus Miller; Elaine Dennis
Youth Volunteers: Joseph Doran,

More Volunteers Welcome

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Simone's Column

Hi everyone, sorry about last month, but I was so busy with school work and exams that I couldn't write an article. I would like to say thank you to Jane for what she wrote about me, because she didn't have to and I thought it was nice, so thank you Jane. Anyway I hope everyone has had a nice Easter break and I expect everyone ate lots of chocolate eggs and, went on lots of Easter Egg Hunts! I have just finished my work experience, as have all of year 10 at Everest. I spent my two weeks at Merton Infant School and I enjoyed it a lot. I learned lots of new skills, did a whole load of different jobs, and met a wide range of children and teachers. Some of the children were doing a project on castles so I helped them to build their castles out of cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, tubes and plenty more materials. I found making the castles with the children lots of fun and I think the children thoroughly enjoyed it too. Most of my friends have told me that they have had fun at their Work Experience and it has been very different and exciting for us all. I think even though not everybody got to go where they originally wanted to, everyone got the chance to learn some new skills and techniques. I also think it may have helped some of us to think about our future careers and what we would like to do when we leave the College. So overall I think it has been a great experience for us all. Also, we have been celebrating at Everest because we have just recently had our Ofsted inspection and it went really, really well. So well that Mrs Rose has arranged a trip to Thorpe Park in April for the whole school as a reward for our hard work and efforts that we put into the school. I think everyone is really looking forward to the trip as it should be quite exciting with every year in the school going, which will be very different and it will give everyone a chance to socialise a bit more before the end of term. Well that's all from me but if anyone has anything in particular that they would like me to write about, then just post it on the Popley Matters website www.popleymatters.org.uk and I will take a look. Don't forget to read next month's article! Bye! *Simone*

Doctor May Retires from East Barn Surgery



Dr Anne-Marie May has been a GP in Basingstoke for many years. Initially she worked in a Yateley practice before becoming a partner at the Marlowe House Practice in Popley

Twenty one years ago her desire to have her own practice led her to find and convert an old cowshed in Lychpit into the delightful place East Barn Surgery is today.

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Dr Lauren James and Dr Darren Pimenta will continue to maintain her high standards of care. Her staff will miss her but join everyone in wishing her much Happiness & Good Health in her retirement.



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Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor, I, too, share Mary Brian's relief at the abandonment of the proposed flats in Gresley Road. Furthermore I share her view, as expressed on page 4 of the latest 'Popley Matters': 'We have too many flats in Basingstoke.' This appears to be a general consensus of opinion of the residents of Basingstoke. I am, therefore, mystified as to why the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Planning Department entertains planning applications to convert family homes into multiple occupancy flats by the 'get rich quick and never mind the wishes of the residents' brigade. Yours sincerely, Mr Jones, Abbey Road.

Editor's reply; There is a need for more homes, but do we need so many flats? It is impossible to stop the flats that have already gone through all the planning stages. But I believe that we are just about at saturation point. It is also a worry at how many of our family homes are being converted into small flats. I was disappointed to read that the independent Planning Inspector has approved one in Popley after the BDBC planning committee voted for it to be refused. I hope this does not mean a flurry of applications by small time developers out to make large profits?

Dear Editor, I recently moved into the new Merton Rise development. I previously lived in the centre of Popley for over 10 years. I think the route for children walking to the new Everest school along Chineham Lane is being made dangerous by speeding drivers. I have been called rude names by children walking up to the school as I leave my house in my car to take my young daughter to school. We residents all take care driving in and out. The problem is the cars coming down through Sherborne St John village that drive so very fast. The children that go to Everest should realize that people that have moved into Merton Rise take care with driving around the school children. It is the traffic that comes down through SSJ village direction that are driving too fast.

I think traffic bumps should be put along Chineham Lane, from the bottom by the corner

of St Bede's School right up the hill near the school. This would mean cars have to slow down and so would make it safer for children and adults to walk along. There are to be shops built in Merton Rise and this will also increase the traffic. I feel that normal traffic calming will not work, as people do not wait they just speed through. Speed bumps (like the ones by Down Grange) are the only and safest option for the road. Surely with Merton Rise being built, shops and the school this should be done before someone gets hurt? If the bumps were put from the bottom by St Bede's right to the top of the hill, the cars would have to slow down.

This would make is safer for people who live in Merton Rise to walk with their children and it would make it safer for children walking up to the new school. I have put my thoughts to Jane Frankum and hope others in the area do as well. Remember the traffic in Popley is going to increase and this needs to be done. Rebecca, Merton Rise

Editor's Reply: The speed of the traffic is a huge concern and the Police and Highways Department have been informed. There are some traffic calming measures in the pipeline and more to come as the development grows. I will also bring up the subject with Sherborne St John Parish Council as they share the concern with drivers using the roads as a rat run. I don't think that road humps would be the answer but I do believe that there needs to be a traffic survey done and some proposals for traffic management.

Editor's 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





Our garden regeneration project was originally started because of concerns expressed about the safety of the area. The original bushes and planting system had become overgrown and unmanageable and was an ideal dumping ground for anything and everything. A few people got together and, working in conjunction with Melrose Hall, decided to enhance the environment for everyone who walked past on their way

to the shops. In the first year we have managed to clear and replant two of the tear drops outside Melrose Hall. We have managed to clear the area adjacent to the building. All this has been done with the help of the local community, students from Everest Community Collage and Melrose Hall Committee. For the next year we have, through grant funding been able to acquire bush planting and bedding plants through the Shaw Trust to replant one tear drop and the area adjacent to the building. This year Merton Juniors are actively helping us to replant some of our bushes and our garden club is solidly working away to enhance the area for the enjoyment of everyone in our community. Any volunteers are most welcomed on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Call the office for further details. Please can you spare any flower pots for our gardening scheme?

Thank you to all who attended our Easter Fun Day, I hope you all had a good time.

MONDAY: 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café 7.30pm-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistic

TUESDAY: 4.00pm-7.30pm Petite School of Dance 8.30am-3.00pm Marnel Early Years

WEDNESDAY: 10.00am-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group 10.00am-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic 12pm-2pm Oasis Lunch club 7.15pm Slimming world

THURSDAY: 9.30am-12PM Friendly Café

FRIDAY: 10am-3pm Together

6.00pm-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years 8.00pm- 9.15pm - age 11 plus.

SATURDAY: 9.00am-12.30pm Petite School of Dance

SUNDAY: MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, and Conferences. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.

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Councillors Page:

In a pilot scheme with Hampshire County Council, this being the first year which has just ended County Councillors were each given a budget of £10,000 to be able to give grants to their local community and charity groups. The scheme was advertised in the papers and on radio, and I also emailed or contacted as many groups as I could. They had to fit into a certain criteria and not be already funded by HCCI on a regular basis. I am pleased to report that all the grants that were applied for in Basingstoke North (Popley and Oakridge) were successful. I was disappointed though that so few applications were made and I am hopeful that once even more people hear about it more people will apply. However I am pleased to say that the scheme will roll over to the next budget year as it proved to be so useful for the small voluntary groups that seem to have few choices of places to apply for grants to help them.

I was able to grant £2,000 for a new scheme based in Oakridge that helps people that are homeless or in danger of being made homeless. It can be for a variety of reasons: lost their job marriage breaking up etc. The homeless can get a chance for a bath, wash their clothes and advice with help to be housed and back in work. It has been open for only a few weeks and has already been successful in helping some people back on their feet again. It is good to know that when life can turn against you, there is somewhere and some dedicated people that will be there to help. I was able to grant Melrose Hall enough to update the old and failing loop and sound system so the hard of hearing (like me for instance) can now hear. Also in Melrose Hall I was able to donate £250 towards new equipment and toys to a group of mums and children that meet there on a regular basis. The youth group in Popley Fields were able to purchase a computer, printer and camera so they can take photos and produce their own Newsletter and use the equipment for educational purposes. At Chineham Park School there are some dramatic changes with the new Pebbles Centre due to be built and ready for use in the school new year in September. The school is also developing a community garden with lots of exciting things, including an embankment slide that was over £2000, this would have been more than the school could afford, but with the help of the scheme it will soon be installed.

All of the grant money was not spent so there will be more than the £10,000 to help local groups for the next year. I have already had some enquiries and I have sent them all details of how to apply. If you think your group may qualify you can find details on www.hants.gov.uk under Members Devolved Budgets. Or you can contact me at 405 Abbey Road, Popley, RG24 9EL phone 819924 or email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Local borough elections are on May 1st this year you can phone Electoral Services on 844844 to check you are on the voting list especially if you have moved into the area since October of last year. You need to apply it is not an automatic process.

Jane Frankum County Councillor Basingstoke North

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We welcome applications for vacancies from people of pensionable age who live in the Basingstoke and Deane area or who have any connection with family here.

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www.base2000.co.uk Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 - Jan or Pete Saunders 01256 410514



The Beaver section sang a special song at the District Easter Fun Day in March and made special masks to wear. The Colony is carrying out 26 'good deeds' over the next few months to raise money for 'Children with Leukaemia' Appeal. Some have already raised more than £5 each. Two members of the Colony are to be congratulated for keeping calm recently when one of their other Beaver friends got locked in the loo. They sent for a Leader and talked to him calmly until help arrived. Well done!

The Cub pack celebrated St. Patrick's Day by making Irish potato cakes washed down with green lemonade and they played games on a saintly theme! The pack won through to the semi-finals of the District Six-a-side Football competition. Thank you to Mr Turner who coached them this year. Well done to the team! The Pack will represent the District at the County Mastermind competition in May they are working hard to 'gen up' on saints days, emblems and Scouting information.

Scouts attended winter camp at Lyons Copse and had a busy, if wet weekend. Lots to do and plenty of mud! The Section Leader (Colin Karlake) has said he would like to relinquish the role of Scout Troop Leader if a suitable person can be found to take on the responsibility. Colin intends to continue working with the Troop and the Groups but would like a variation in his role.

The Group is still looking to find a Group Scout Leader to replace Jerry. The role is largely one of management and coordination with responsibility for making sure leaders complete the required training and to oversee the Group as a whole. The District Commissioner, Andy Cullen, would be pleased to hear of anyone willing to consider the position

(01256) 422725
andy.cullen@eu'effem.com. All potential Leaders are required to complete CRB enhanced clearance before being confirmed to an appointment.

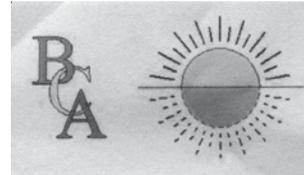
We have vacancies in all three sections and new recruits are welcome. Simply come along to Base 2000 and speak with the Section Leader or give them a ring to discuss the opportunities.



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Eve Alexander 346510

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Elaine Devenport 323453

Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9p.m.
Colin Karlake 410559



Bermuda Community Association

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40-44 Bermuda Close

basingstoke

Hants

RG24 9PE

Telephone

Office: 01256 363156

Hall: 01256 308442

Ongoing activities at the Bermuda Hall are as follows:-

Monday to Friday inclusive, 8am to 4pm a very good Pre-school group namely 'Marnel Explorers' who have a very good Ofsted report and have an excellent record spread over quite a few years. For further information contact Daphne Shearing on 01256 308442.

Hall bookings are available Monday evenings, also, Saturdays whole or part day. There is a room available for small meetings/ seminars etc; further information from booking officer Janet Ward on 01256 363156. Tuesday afternoons 1-30 to 3pm we have the 'Chattertots' (toddler group) operating in the hands of Janet Ward.

Tuesday evenings is Bingo time. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm with an interval for refreshments. The minimum age for admission is 18 years. Come and enjoy a very pleasurable atmosphere, you'll not win a fortune but an enjoyable evening is generally had by all. Wednesday evenings Cammings Martial Art group are in the hall. Info, for this event from booking officer.

Thursday evenings is occupied by an excellent Papercraft group run professionally by Mrs. I Clarke from 7pm - 9pm. Friday evenings 'Melrose Church of God' have a youth club for age group of 5-10 year olds. Contact Philip Keeble on 402351 for info. Sunday afternoon a Christian Fellowship Group are in attendance, run by Mr. Thomas George.

We are looking for volunteer committee members, not only to strengthen our present committee but hopefully to instill fresh ideas for activities throughout the year. Would you be interested in running a youth group or any other activity that would attract people from the local community? If so then please contact Secretary Les Ward on 363156.



Making Hampshire Safer



Come and join one of our family sessions!

Stay safe on the roads.

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- If you get six points within two years of passing your test, your licence will be revoked and you will need to re-sit the test.
- If the case goes to court, you could risk a maximum fine of £1,000, which rises to £2,500 for the driver of a bus, coach, or heavy goods vehicle.

Always buckle up -

- Drivers and front seat passengers in cars must wear a seat belt, unless they have a medical exemption certificate.
- Children under the age of 14, travelling in the rear of a car that has appropriate restraints, must belt up.
- Adults travelling in the rear of a car must also use seat belts. If they are fitted, it is the responsibility of the adult passenger (not the driver) to ensure that they are using the seat belt.

Useful contact points and further information:

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

Road Safety Website: www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk

Day	Place	Time
Tuesday	Melrose Hall Community Centre	Morning Session 10:00 - 12:00 Afternoon Session 12:30 – 2:30 (Baby Session 0-2yrs)
Wednesday	Popley Fields Community Centre	Morning Session 10:00 – 12:00 Afternoon Session 12:30 – 2:30
Thursday	Base 2000 Scout Hut	Morning Session 10:00 – 12:00 Afternoon Session 12:30 – 2:30

Each of our term-time sessions are carefully planned to include a range of activities for babies and children from 0- 5yrs to enjoy and share with their parents. Activities include:

- Construction toys and puzzles
- Art and craft activities
- Role Play
- Parents Time
- Circle, story and song time
- Sensory/Tactile Play
- Cooking

Each session is lead by a team of experienced and qualified staff who can provide advice and support on parenting and childcare if needed.

If you would like to join a session, give us a **call on: 01256 357028/ 07515 084011** or pop in to a session and speak to **Debbie Martin** or a member of staff.

We also offer a growing range of family learning courses such as Numeracy, Literacy and Confident Parents, Confident Kids - many of which are **FREE and have crèche places**. If you would like more information about family learning please call **Lisa-Marie Bridger on: 01256 357028**.



Gardening Tips

Don't be too quick to cut back those spring bulbs that have finished flowering. If the leaves are cut while they are still green it can encourage disease to set in and you could lose all the bulbs. If you wait until they start going brown, then fold them over in small clumps wrapping an elastic band around them, it keeps the garden tidy and the leaves intact. If you must cut them back, leave a good 4 inches above the ground. Weeds have already started to rear their heads. Keep on top of them as they are much easier to pull out while they are young than when they have set down deep roots.

Don't trudge all over a muddy lawn as you will do lots of damage to it. Throw a handful of seed over any bare patches now, and wait for a few more weeks before cutting. Remember once you start cutting the grass, you encourage it to grow, so you will ideally be cutting at least once a week until late autumn.

I have seen some very cheap fruit trees in the shops in town, starting at around £5 or less. Don't buy them unless they have leaf buds on the branches, open leaves means they have been kept indoors for some time and may well die if planted out while we still have frost. If you have a cold porch or bright unheated area to stand them, they can be potted into large pots and kept indoors until the weather improves. They will need very good light though. Also remember that some fruit trees need to have another one planted nearby for them to cross-pollinate before they will produce any fruit, so if you have room for them, buy two rather than just one.

Add a bit of the Mediterranean into your garden. I bought some small olive and fig trees a couple of years back in town. They have been quite happy in large pots in the garden, and although it is recommended they are in a sheltered position, mine have thrived despite me neglecting them and plonking the pots where I had room! You can find simple advice on how to keep them on the internet or in the library if you are unsure.

It is a good time to start planting some seeds if you have a heated greenhouse. Tomatoes can go in now for early crops, peppers and cucumbers too. I might try some aubergines this year for a change. These could all be sown in a cold frame too if it is frost free. Check the seed packets and don't be tempted to plant seeds earlier than they suggest on the packet. After all, they are the experts!

I'm planning to make the most of grow bags and pots this year. After having to replace half the glass in my greenhouse I intend to make as much use of it as I can, and grow loads from seed. You can also buy many varieties of flowers, fruit and vegetables as young plants from shops and local car boot sales, so it doesn't have to be seeds.

Strawberries, peas, tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, salad greens, baby carrots and many other vegetables can be grown in grow bags or pots. Runner beans, climbing French beans, sweetcorn, potatoes, spinach, and much more can be grown in large pots. Dot them around the garden between the flowers to get the best of both. Some vegetables have pretty flowers too you know. Let the kids see how vegetables grow, and that they don't all come in bags or plastic containers from Sainsburys! By Julie



St Gabriel's Church presents

A Concert for Popley

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**Basingstoke Male Voice Choir
The Beech Hill Concert Band
& Marnel Junior School Choir**

**Saturday 26th April
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A unique opportunity to enjoy a wonderful evening of music and entertainment of the highest quality. Book NOW to avoid disappointment!

Dear Friends

'March', they say, 'comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb!' That's certainly been the case this year what with high winds and storms – though nothing of the magnitude of '87. It's Holy Week in the church and I'm sitting here in my study preparing for the services that will take place on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day ... those nice weathermen are forecasting snow and it's freezing, in fact, cold enough to freeze the balls of a brass monkey!

Now you're probably thinking 'how vulgar is that!' but in truth that saying comes from the days of the old sailing ships of the navy where the cannon balls were stored on a brass rack called a monkey. In the severe weather conditions that they sometimes encountered at sea, it could get so cold that the metal of the rack would contract causing the cannonballs to fall off it and roll across the deck – quite a hazard for barefoot sailors!

Our language is richly peppered with many sayings of the kind that have their roots in the everyday language of the past – and I'm sure that will continue to be the case in the future! As well as language there are also signs and symbols that we use ...

Have you ever wondered why people cross their fingers for good luck? One theory goes that during the various times when Christianity was illegal, the crossing of fingers was a secret sign for Christians to recognise each other. Yet whilst the Sign of the Cross has evolved into a good luck symbol *and* retained its Christian meaning, 'fingers crossed' has lost that Christian connection. This change of emphasis may have begun during the so-called 'Hundred Years War' between France and England (1337-1457). An archer would cross his first and second fingers, pray or wish for luck, and then draw back his longbow string with those same fingers; though how that works when you cross the fingers of both hands I don't know!

The church is rich in symbols: the Cross, the water of baptism, and the bread and wine of communion to name just three. In many churches, and this includes St Gabriel's, you will often see two kinds of cross; the one depicting Jesus there (which we call a Crucifix) and the other without. The first reminds us that Jesus died for us on Good Friday but that wasn't the end; the second reminds us on Easter Day he rose to new life, again for every one of us.

So next time you cross your fingers as well as wishing for good luck I hope it reminds you of the cross on which Jesus died and why. If you'd like to know more about Christian symbols why not come along one Sunday morning and check it out for yourself. In the meantime I'll say Goodbye – from the old English God Bless Ye!

With every blessing.
Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's

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Every Thursday morning 10.30am to 12.30pm

Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down, Popley
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For more information call: Graham or Barbara on (01256) 363692

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make light now of what has happened to me, I feel I can not lock myself away as I did. I have a life the same as the rest of the people around, not so active, and by that I mean physical activity. I try and come up with ideas and ways to help others. I write as you all know children's stories, and I love this little column I do for our Popley Matters. Popley is my life I have lived here for over half of it. Basingstoke is my town and God help them that try and put the town down. Yes the town has its faults but tell me a town that does not. It is up to the people of the town to have a say, and if things need fixing then use your voice to get things done. Her Indoors and my sister in law, that I love very much, nags like mad at me to slow down but I can't. I have so much to still do with this life.

I was born into a working class family and you worked hard and played hard. I can not stop that, I still get up at four thirty to five am in the mornings. I don't need to buy a clock, inside me tells me to as I have done all my life. I still take Her Indoors a cup of tea in bed of a morning, as I have done so for nearly forty years now. Not saying she gets a full cup by the time I get to her. it can look quite funny sometimes with me and cups of tea and the tremors. I manage one way or another. Well, as you can see by this I do take it lightly in one way; I feel life is too short to stop enjoying it. I may not stand the amount of noise twenty kids are making running around the place but I can find a quiet place to sit out of the way, then the magnet starts up and the kids are all sitting round me again. Would I change all this. never. I love them all, and the way they talk and ask me things. Keep well all.

The Old Codger.

Chineham Park Primary News

On Tues 18th of March Chineham Park Primary Infant children and their families spent an exciting day up in London. Travelling by local bus and train everyone enjoyed the sightseeing in London and the guards at Buckingham Palace. On Wed 26th of March our Ks2 children and their families will be making a similar trip and plan to visit local MP Maria Miller in the Houses of Commons. Friday the 14th of March THALES and the Junior children enjoyed a fun filled morning of science investigations. Maria Miller MP along with John Howe UK director for THALES, joined us for an exciting grand finale for testing out the science experiments. 'Kids Unlimited' Chineham Park's after school club are delighted to have gained substantial support from Local Councilor Jane Frankham with funding for a new embankment slide that will greatly enhance the Infant and Pre-school outdoor learning area. Gwen Clifford, Headteacher



Just a couple of games left now, and I would like to say that I am very proud of the Tornadoes players this season. Finishing runners up in the Peter Houseman Navy League, with 13 wins, 3 losses and 2 draws. Excellent!

We played Down Grange and won convincingly 3-0, after the game the manager came across and said that the Tornadoes were the best team at our age group and said that he loves to watch our lads play football the way it should be played.

I have taken a chance on moving a player up from the Whirlwinds, and Christopher Blissett has stepped up his game since moving to the Tornadoes. Chris has definitely got all the right intentions and body language to play, but just needs a bit of fine tuning, but we'll get there. Well done. Over the last 3-4 weeks I have been watching the Whirlwinds every chance I get and am quite impressed with 2 players at the moment, with what I've seen. Harry Morris and Kieran Poynter have been with us from the start and always turn up, try their best and do what they have been taught. Confidence is probably the main ingredient they've been lacking over the last 2 seasons, but I have seen a different side to the boys and hopefully they will be coming out of their shells for the season coming. Harry (The Mouth) Morris needs to swap his daily ranting and loudness at home and bring it to the game and take his shyness and quietness, which he has on the pitch, home with him. Keiran Poynters Mum needs to start feeding him some steaks, I've seen more meat on a butchers pencil. Keiran will prove to be a valuable part of the team next season; I have been working with him, trying to build his confidence, skills and speed, and will keep persisting with him.

Over the last year, I have been going to training and working with different age groups. now, if I see a player who I think could be a very good player and could benefit with extra advice, I will always be tougher and more disciplined with those players to try and push them to greater things.

Cameron Grist has benefited from this; he plays in the U9's Tornadoes and has proved to be a very, very good player.

I must admit that Jacob gets more stick than anybody and the boy deserves a medal. As a coach he is a dream player, skills, ball control, passing, shooting, bringing his team mates into the game and a great awareness of where he is on the pitch, as a Dad, I am very proud, even if he is a cheeky little sod, I had a go at him on the pitch and he told me to keep my hair on!

I haven't got any hair!

Well done everybody and thanks for the support

Any info contact Lee on: 07810444995 or 01256332124

mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

The Vyne Community School offers a wide range of community activities:



A College of Performing Arts

Leisure Learning and Adult Education Programme - Courses commence w/c 28 April 2008 to include Life Figure, Wood Carving, Ballroom dancing, Floristry, Digital Photography and lots more.

Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities (Netball, Football, Badminton courts)

Halls & Rooms for Hire - meetings, parties, community groups

Fitness Studio - no membership fee, monthly or casual use

Dance Studio - sprung floor, mirrors.

CAR BOOT SALE

EVERY SUNDAY 09.30-1.00 pm - £5 per vehicle / Refreshments



CRAFT FAIR

(in addition to regular Car Boot sale)

SUNDAY 11th MAY

Come and browse for that special piece of hand-made jewellery, bags, body products, craft supplies and lots more.

Entrance 50p (children free). Raffle and refreshments. Free Parking.

Limited exhibitor spaces available. £15 per table.



EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB 7th - 18th APRIL

£16 to 3:30pm / £19 to 5pm / £21 to 6pm

Arts & Crafts / Fun activities / Games

Opens 8.30 am

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB to 6pm term-time



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Tel: 01256 407037 Email: community@vyne.hants.sch.uk

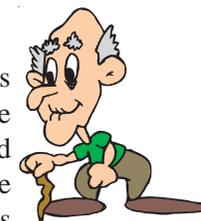
www.vynearts.com (community)

The Vyne Community School, Vyne Road, Basingstoke, RG21 5PB.



Hampshire
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Council

Diaries from the Old codger



When Her Indoors and I came to live in the town, many years ago, over the park was a small shop. Well I say shop, more of a large hut. The shop sold all fresh fruit & veg plus a few dairy products and basics. It was a great little shop. If I could put a hut in the same place I would make a fortune out of it, by giving the residents the foods from local farmers. Fresh, not from God knows what part of the world it came from, or how long it had been stored for. Veg with dirt on them, not washed and polished all looking the same size, all having the same bit of greenery left on just because it is the "in thing". You pay for that, and then you bin it before cooking. I can remember only too well how we have changed over the years. People do not want to fuss over the food nowadays. They need it "ready to cook" except for a quick rinse under the tap. How do we know what has been sprayed on the foods in order for them to look so formal as they grow. Spuds, carrots, turnips, parsnips, all funny shapes and sizes. As kids we would love to go through them and find the shapes and make sure you had that one on your plate at dinner time. Yes it was a good way of getting us kids to eat our veg and, we did, so it worked. When my grandchildren come to stay I cut different shapes and cooked them out of the veg. OK I know a lot of people never have the time to do this, and it is a shame, because it can be good fun. Incidentally on cutting out, as soon as Her Indoors sees me with the knife in my hand trying to cut things up, she closes her eyes or walks away. She can't watch because I shake so much. The knife is all over the place and she says "One day you are going to cut your hand off" I must look quite funny, with my head shaking my body shaking and my hand as well as holding a knife in it. One of our friends said he is going to open a bar in Spain and put me on a stool as the cocktail shaker, he even tells people he puts me on the back shelf of his car as a Noddy Dog.

Since my last stroke I can't control the shaking, I am embarrassed going out to dinner to a pub or restaurant. I feel every one is looking at me. A lot of the time I have to eat my food with a spoon just in case the fork misses my mouth and I have it stuck up my nose or something like that. Also trying to get peas on my fork is impossible. I tried it once and the woman on the next table had a load hit her on the back of the neck. I try and find a part where I can not be seen or I have my back to as many people as I can. We do go out to a nice pub and it has a nice garden so we can take all the grandchildren as well. We don't know what it is but I am a magnet for kids, they all tend to gather round. Kids I have never seen before, they may look at me and think what a funny man shaking like that. They do not know and should not be discouraged from asking why I do shake like I do, it is only natural for them to be inquisitive. What does get up my nose, is adults looking at me all the time and whispering to each other. If they want to know just ask, I don't mind telling them. This is my disability and there are thousands out there also with disabilities you do not see from the outside. I try and

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Popzone Youth Club Monday Nights

This is very busy with lots of local children attending on a regular basis. The 5.30pm-7.00pm session is currently full, and there is a waiting list for those waiting to join. The 7.15pm-8.45pm is just starting to pick up, but we do have spaces available. The Youth Club has had a grant awarded to them by County Councillor Jane Frankum from the Devolved Budget Scheme to purchase a laptop, digital camera and printer for them to start producing their own newsletter, as well as for educational purposes.

Free Computer Classes – New classes will be starting again the week beginning 21/4/08 at The Popley Fields Community Centre. There will be courses in Beginners Guide to Computing, Desktop Publishing with Digital Photography; Internet and email; learn how to help your children, or yourself, by revising basic grammar (in a fun way!); Spreadsheets and Introduction to Word-processing. Also trace your family history using the internet. All classes run for a 10 week period and take place on one morning or afternoon per week. For a full list of classes or to enrol, please contact Queen Mary's College on 01256 417517 or Popley Fields 414494. Classes are free to anyone who does not have 5 GCSEs grades A*- C. All classes are ideal for beginners!

Line dancing-Wednesday Evening

There is a beginners line dancing class held from 6.30pm-7.30pm in the large hall. And a more advanced class from 8.00pm-10.00pm.

Dynamics Baton Twirlers-Thursday Evening

This takes place in the large hall from 5.00pm- 7.00pm

Mad Academy– This is a new opportunity for toddlers and will run on Tuesdays 9.15am-11.15pm – ‘Mad Academy’ will be holding high-energy music and dance classes combined with learning for babies from 3 months to 5 years.

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

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Kingfisher Housing Association logo: A white kingfisher bird in flight above the text 'KINGFISHER HOUSING ASSOCIATION'.

Two small inset photos: one showing three people smiling, and another showing a modern building at night.

A map shows the location of Skyline Plaza near the railway station and Marlborough Road.

News from Everest Community College

Sports Relief Mile

On Friday 14th March, students from Years 7, 8 and 9 and members of staff ran at least a mile around the College grounds as part of the Sports Relief fund-raising event. Students had been working hard getting parents, relatives, friends and even teachers to sponsor them. Although the weather was threatening and at one point we thought that the event might have to be postponed, the rain kept away in the afternoon allowing the run to go ahead. At the time of printing, we do not have an exact figure for the amount of money raised, but it should be a substantial sum which will go towards a very good cause. Well done to all of those who took part.

Grand Cook-Off Competition

As part of our programme to encourage students to live healthily, we are holding a 'Grand Cook-Off' competition in College over the next two weeks. The aim is to get form groups, represented by tutors and one group member to compete against each other in a series of cooking competitions to be held at lunch-time. The winners from each heat go through to a Grand Final on Thursday 3rd April at 1.00pm. A specially selected judging panel will be required to sample the 'healthy meals' and then select a winner based on taste, presentation and creativity. The key ingredient as chosen by the College's very own Food Technology teacher, Mr. Karl Presser, will be chicken breast. We will let you know the results at a later date.

Basingstoke and Deane Trampolining Competition

28th January 2008

On 7th January 7 schools and 190 students took part in the District Trampolining Competition held at the College. This was the first event of this scale to be held here and really showcased our state of art facilities. The event was a fantastic success with excellent feedback from other schools.

The Year 7 girls managed to win the first sports trophy for Everest Community College, with 3 of the girls scooping first, second and third place. Lucy Murphy 1st, Casey Howard 2nd and Chloe Merryweather 3rd. Great success was achieved in the older age groups when the Year 11 girls category was won by Girls Sports Captain Hayley Brzezinski. All of the students who entered performed exceptionally well and were great ambassadors for the College.

Valedictory Fashion Fayre

A truly splendid evening was had by all who attended the Valedictory Fashion Fayre on Tuesday 12th February. Year 11 girls were stunning in the evening dresses provided by Elderberry Brides and the lads, not wanting to be outdone, really looked the part in their suits and tuxedos supplied by Slaters Menswear. Thanks also go to Crue's Hairdressers, Asfour Crystal and especially all the College staff who worked so hard to make the evening such a great success.

Past Students

Congratulations to past student Carl Ayres who achieved a triple distinction in his IT Practitioners National Diploma. Carl now has a place at the University of Nottingham to study Computer Science. Other ex-students who gained distinctions were Stephanie Dickins and Bronwin Mohammad in Childcare and Jamie Sinfield in IT.

Katie Shaw has a place at the University of Cardiff to study Ceramics and Joanne Wombwell at Canterbury for 3D design

Altogether 37 ex Everest students gained qualifications from BCOT in 2007. Congratulations to all and best of luck for the future.

'Everest has made Popley proud again,'

It has been an extremely exciting time, especially since September with the opening of the new College, and I hope everyone has been able to see our View newsletter which lets our parents know about the many and varied extra curricular activities our children are involved in.

I am extremely grateful to the Basingstoke Gazette for all the positive coverage of events at Everest and following the story of Daniel Horton. Daniel is now back at school for part of the week and is making excellent progress.

You will be aware that we had an Ofsted inspection on the 13 and 14 February. The school was successful in removing the notice to improve which the previous year had judged the school to be inadequate.

We have now been judged to be satisfactory with some aspects being good and outstanding. This is excellent news for Popley parents, who now have a school that is providing quality education and opportunities for their children. During the inspection our children were brilliant! They were very proud of their school and communicated this to the inspectors. During lesson observations the inspectors were able to see the children engaged in their learning and through their workbooks see the progress children are now making. Many of our parents returned the confidential questionnaires to the Ofsted team which helped inform their judgements of the school.

This is a very important time for the College. Year 11 students are working hard to prepare for their up and coming GCSE examinations this summer, Year 9 for their SAT's in May. We need to continue to help students make the progress they are capable of and help them manage their work load at this important stage of their education. Many are hoping to continue their education at either BCOT or Queen Mary's College in September. Learning is a life long process, and students should be proud of their achievements and have a thirst for learning as they enter adulthood.

The full Ofsted report can be obtained either in hardcopy format from the college reception desk or online on our website www.everest.hants.sch.uk along with our View newsletters.

Here are some quotes from the report:

'Numbers of students are rising and the overwhelming majority of students and local families are now proud to belong to the College'.

Most parents recognise the giant strides made in the College in the past year. 'We think Everest is a fantastic school and it has the children's respect,' wrote a parent.

'The curriculum is good with some outstanding features. A particular strength is the way in which the school recognises the changing needs of individuals and groups of students as it expands,'

'Leadership and management are good. Some aspects are outstanding such as the leadership of the Headteacher and the shared vision and common sense of purpose among senior leaders.'



Check your deposit is safe before you move out, CAB urges private tenants Private tenants whose tenancies are coming to an end should act now to ensure their deposit is returned, Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau warned this

week. The CAB is urging anyone who has given notice to their landlord, or who has been served with a notice to quit, to check whether their deposit is protected before they move out, and to take action quickly if it is not. Since new laws on tenancy deposit protection came into force in April, all private landlords are required to protect tenants' deposits in a government-approved scheme that keeps the money safe. The schemes are backed up by a free, independent dispute resolution service to settle any arguments about whether the money should be returned at the end of a tenancy. Anyone who signed a tenancy agreement on or after April 6 should be covered by the scheme, and official figures show that one in four of all tenants living in privately rented houses and flats now have their deposit safeguarded – a total of 500,000 deposits in all. Landlords not protecting a deposit taken since April 6 are committing a civil offence which could make it harder for them to evict their tenants and lead to them having to pay tenants three times the value of the deposit. But if you find your deposit has not been protected you will need to take court action against them to get your money back. CAB staff said: "For years private tenants have had little or no protection if their landlord chose to keep all or part of their deposit at the end of a tenancy and we saw many people losing hundreds of pounds as a result. With the average deposit now running at £889, it is all the more important that the new deposit protection legislation is a success." That's why we are reminding people whose assured shorthold tenancies are coming to an end to check their deposit is protected. Once you've moved out it will be too late to benefit from the new law – you need to take action as soon as you give notice or receive notice to quit. If you find your deposit is not protected, get advice straightaway on what you can do to get your money back. If your landlord is threatening you with notice to quit, check immediately that your deposit is protected. If it's not, get advice, as you may have a defence against eviction. "Tenants can find out if their deposit is being protected by asking their landlord or by contacting all three approved tenancy deposit schemes: 0870 707 1707, www.depositprotection.com; The Tenancy Deposit Scheme 0845 226 7837, www.tds.gb.com; or 0871 703 0552, www.mydeposits.co.uk

AGE HAMPSHIRE IN BASINGSTOKE
Concern



INFORMATION DAY FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Wednesday 23rd April 2008

AGE CONCERN CAFÉ

10.30 AM - 1.00 PM



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COTTAGE

Information & advice from Age Concern and many other organisations working with older people.

Get legal advice, find out about benefit entitlements, sources of support, leisure activities, keeping healthy & much more. Blood pressure testing available.

..... ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY, LAMB BROOKS SOLICITORS, PENSION SERVICE, POLICE, SHOPMOBILITY & SOUTH HAM SURGERY have confirmed so far.

Many other organisations expected. Call Tracey on 01256 423874 for the latest details or pick up a flyer at the Café.

Refreshments available from Age Concern Café.

Call 423874 for further details.



Assisted by
Basingstoke
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NB: NO PARKING AVAILABLE

Registered Charity
No. 290874

Hello Folks, I trust you are having a good year so far!

As I have explained in previous articles and posts on the Popley Matters Website the PSNT (Popley Safer Neighbourhood Team) have been working on three core tasks for the first quarter of the year. These were 1) More provisions for the youth of Popley, 2) General Anti Social Behaviour 3) Juvenile Nuisance outside Abbey Road.

I am writing this article on the 20th March 2008 and as such more work may have been achieved for the quarter when you are reading this. The PSNT would have met on the 28th March 2008 to select three core tasks that have been raised as issues by Popley community members.

The results of January to April in relation to the three core tasks are:

1) General Youth Nuisance

This will always be an issue to the public and make up a large proportion of incidents reported to police in Popley and elsewhere!

The Popley Beat Team has tackled the issue on a number of levels.

We have targeted the known areas of Nuisance and dealt with persons involved with the tools available to us. These tools include seizing alcohol, verbal warning Anti Social Behavior tickets, and setting up of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements. The most patrolled areas in Popley have been Abbey Road shops, Madeira stores, Longfellow parade and Guernsey and Jersey Close. As you can imagine youths congregate around shops and that is certainly the case in Popley. It would appear that the regular patrols of these areas are having a positive effect. It also allows our teams to get to know the youths in the area. Other agencies and PSNT members that have conducted regular patrols of these areas are the Popley Community Wardens the Accredited Community Support Officers. PSNT member Richard Owen currently completes most of the Popley ABC or ABA, which they are sometimes known (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts) curfew checks. It is essential that people on ABC's know that we may call at anytime of the evening to check that they are complying with the ABC conditions.

I have noted that compared to last year the ASB seems less but of course we are early in the year and we have experienced a lot of bad weather which keeps ASB low.

PSNT member Devdutt Vyas is the manager of the FastFare store in Abbey Road and is able to liaise with parents of youths causing trouble at his store and outside. I believe this has been helpful in the past. Devdutt has also offered to help with the data stored on the CCTV in Abbey Road if required.

In regards to the shops in Popley we have set up an operation called OP OUTCAST. This operation has been set up to issue banned persons with a banning letter which can be used at a later time to help with a civil prosecution or as evidence of bad character if needs arise. The Operation is in an early stage however we have noticed an improvement with the people who have been issued the letters.

PSNT member Terry Jones has had feedback from some youths in Popley about the Possibility of a youth shelter in the Abbey Road end of Popley. Currently there is a youth shelter in Popley East near to the Popley Fields Community Centre. From a police perspective the shelter has been used for drugs and alcohol in the past however there are also benefits in as much as we know where to locate the usual youths of concern. There has been much work in the area of Jersey and Guernsey Close to prevent ASB. The area is regularly patrolled and recently a number of suspects for the continued Anti Social Behaviour had been identified. Working with council, Sentinel Housing and the Police Acceptable Behaviour Agreements were implemented for a number of youths. PSNT Member Phil Rapley set up a PRIME (Problem Resolutions in a Multi Agency Environment) for the area to concentrate efforts on lingering issues.

PSNT member Debbie Mason has been involved in the following since our last meeting: 6 Warning letters, 2 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement Sign Ups, and she will sit a meeting shortly to discuss 3 more Acceptable Behaviour Agreements possibly coming to Popley. Debbie has also monitored over 40 101 calls in relation to ASB and other issues in Popley. Debbie has stated that the Anti Social Behaviour in Popley appears to be under control at present in comparison to the other areas of Basingstoke and Deane that she covers. There has also been a reduction in a number of persistent callers. Hopefully that would mean that they are happy with work carried out on their behalf!!

2) More activities for the youth of Popley.

PSNT Member Steven Smith was tasked to compile a list of all known youth provisions in Popley. These include three community centres which cater for youth clubs of varying ages. Popley Field's Community Centre is managed by PSNT member Derek Kirnow. The centre provides excellent services and facilities to members of the Popley Community and elsewhere. On the 18th May 2008 will see the Annual Festival called the Popley Festival. This event will be open to all ages and has an amazing reputation and turn out. On the 21st February the Popley Wardens and PSNT members David Mason and Vikky Lonie organised a football day for the youth of Popley. The day was very well attended and successful. The Beat Team were involved and PCSO Phil Rapley and PCSO Steve Smith joined in with the youths playing football and refereeing a number of matches. It is believed that activities like this break down the barriers that (some) youths have with police/authority etc.

PSNT member Richard Owen has also been getting stuck in with the Popley youth. Richard has been supervising cricket lessons at the Everest Community College sports hall. Richard has also supervised badminton lessons and is in the process of setting up a 5 a side indoor football sessions Richard will also work with the Everest Community College in the summer with their "Get With It Program which runs for 4 weeks". Other agencies including Police will take part.

In 2007 The Beat Team were involved in a number of projects with the youth of Popley in mind. For Halloween we had a Poster Completion for the local schools with prizes for the winners. The Beat Team aim to get involved in similar projects in 2008.

PSNT members Jane Frankum and Paul Frankum have proposed a poster design competition for the dangers of alcohol to youths etc. PCSO Steve Smith and Community Warden Vikky Lonie are setting this in motion. It is hoped that the winning design may be placed in shop windows and if successful the idea could be rolled out to other beat areas.

PCSO Rapley is also in the progress of organising a youth event away from Popley an undecided venue. It could be an adventure park/ or something to get the youths working in a team etc. The youth will be selected by teachers for good behaviour.

3) Anti Social behaviour around the Abbey Road Shops.

As previously mentioned the area of Abbey Road and shops is, and always will be, patrolled on a regular basis. The area seems to peak and trough in relation to ASB troubles. An example of this was when the smoking ban came in and patrons were drinking and smoking outside the Popinjay. This caused a number of issues but has since has calmed down. By the very design of the site it is a natural area for people to gather and thus more incidents will come about because of this. Often there are reports of youths gathering and this turns out to be harmless but quite often the perception of wrong-doing is far greater than the reality.

In a relatively small area you have a pub, phone box, community centre, row of shops, and walled area for sitting on, and, in places bad lighting.

The combination brings youths from further afield to gather in the area. There are also a small well known group of youths that live in the area and who make up the majority of troubles at the site. There are various initiatives to deal with these people.

PSNT member Beth Holmyard has suggested a splinter group of the PSNT with youth members. This could possibly be organised through the senior school. This would allow opinions of the Popley youth to be heard directly by the PSNT members.

PC CARTER attended a meeting on the 20th March 2008 with Cranstoun Drug Worker Alexandra Platt. Alex will shortly conduct outreach work in the community and will focus on youth who have issues with drink or drugs.

As always if you have any question/suggestions or would like advice on community issues in Popley then please contact the Team by email or phone.

Tel: 0845 045 45 45 Email: basinstoke.town.north.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Regards PC Dan Carter Popley West Beat Manager