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New POPLEY MATTERS

June to August 1998

Volume 3, Issue 1

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Special Features

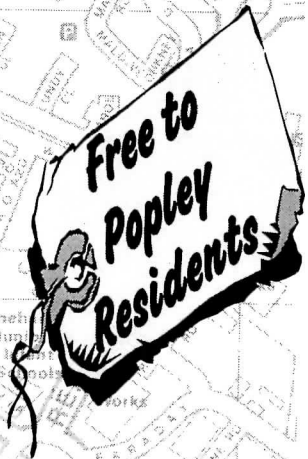
'Melrose Hall
1st Anniversary'

'Popley Festival'

POPLEY



FORUM



Price £1

Closing date to submit article adverts etc. (16-8-98)

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To pass back ideas, comments, suggestion, Articles or to offer help please write to:-

Popley Matters
Melrose Hall
Abbey Road
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG24 9ES

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GAYTHORNE NORTH WALTHAM BASINGSTOKE

Continue from page 18...

Dear Editor,

I would like to put forward a proposal, to stop cars parking at the T-junction at Abbey Rd shops near the Popinjay public house. With the cars parking adjacent to the opening and the bus stop right opposite each other, it is not only dangerous but also stupid.

There is a large car park right on site surely the car owners could park in there, with very little effort on their part.

It is hazardous trying to get into the shops especially at night time.

Concerned Abbey Rd.

Editor: I have spoken to the Police and they confirmed that it is indeed an offence to park within 10 yards of a T-junction. Perhaps the car owners now knowing this will park elsewhere.

Please send your letters to :
The Editor, Popley Matters
Melrose Hall, Abbey Rd,
Basingstoke. RG24 9ES



Melrose Hall

Abbey Rd

4th July American BBQ

From 1pm – 5pm



Crockery Smash
Ball in the Bucket
Tombola



Sponge Throwing

Tug of War (Kids Against Parents)



4:45pm Line Dancing finale (with audience participation)



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Message From the Editor

The first year of the new issue of Popley Matters has now past and it has been a really busy and interesting one. The team has met so many people and I hope we have been able to help some of you. When we started we discussed what it was we hoped to do in Popley. We all felt the same that Popley was a great place to live and bring up our families, and as we were all connected with Popley we at least didn't believe the nonsense that was often written about it. We have seen our young people help to design and build the Art in the Landscape on the old site of Melrose Hall not forgetting the many tiles made by all ages of residents that surround the new hall. At Popley Fields the young people have been on cycling trips. The "tank pull" to raise money by the youth themselves was another highlight of the year.

The Popley Forum has had some very interesting and sometimes heated meetings on all sorts of subjects and we would like to see more people come to give their views on life in Popley. The next meeting will include the subject of parking, state of the paths, lighting, and access for emergency vehicles. Come along and let the powers that be know what we think, only by getting the message over will we ever be listened to and be able to change things.

You will of course have noticed that we have a new format for the magazine this has been made possible by hard work and the advertisers belief in us. We hope to cover many more subjects and we are hoping that you will write in to our letters page. We need to know what you want to make Popley an even better place to live in. If you have stories to tell write to us and we can share them with others.

Sadly our treasurer has had to give up as he has so many other things to do, Dave we thank you for your dedication and we are glad that you aim to still be involved in Popley Forum and Matters. We do however welcome Tracey Bentley as the new treasurer. We are always glad to welcome anyone who wants to be involved in any of the committees in whatever capacity they can. Just get in touch with us at Popley Matters, Melrose Hall, Abbey Rd. Basingstoke RG24 9ES. (JANE FRANKUM)

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor

My friend and I were talking about walking our dogs, and that we both religiously pick up after them, But that we have never seen a special bin to put it in. Both the Aldermaston site and in front of Melrose walk Flats by the Merton Infants School (just to name a few) have Insufficient doggy bins in fact most places don't have any at all.

The FEW of us that do clear up after our dogs have to carry it around until we return home.

Its not the nicest of things to have to carry around especially when it gets hot as we are expected to pick up our dog mess or face a fine, we expect the council to provide adequate poop bins. That means more than one per area. I'm sure there must be other responsible dog owners that feel the same.

It would make all our lives a lot easier and pleasant smelling.

Yours Faithfully

Kylie Humphries & Ashley Facey

Editor: It was nice to hear from two obviously concerned residents, as this is a subject that comes up on a regular basis. I have asked the Council why there are not enough bins and to send a speaker to the July 9th meeting at Popley Fields from 7:30pm. They will also explain the problems of access when an new fining system. What do you think?

Dear Editor,

Could something be done about making extra parking available in Tintern Close, By cutting back on the grass verges and laying tarmac.

There are a number of residents with four and five cars per house and it doesn't leave much room for people with one car, considering there are eight houses and only ten parking spaces.

The entrance to Tintern Close is also a very bad area, it is more like a second hand car lot and workshop, especially at weekends.

On the safety side if a fire engine or ambulance tried to get in, on an emergency they would be very hard pressed to do so.

Hoping some sort of action can be taken on this ongoing issue.

Concerned Resident (Tintern Close)

Editor: There is a problem all over the estate and Tintern is one of the worst areas. Why not come to the Forum meeting where Richard Whaham will speak on the Council's

future plans for increased parking in Popley although we know there are no quick solutions. The Popley Forum also in conjunction with The Fire Service agree, saying that badly parked and dumped cars are proving a hazard and increasing their emergency occurs.

Continued on page 20...

Popley Forum meeting 20th April

The meeting was held for the first time at the Madeira Hall on Popley Islands. The title was Caring in the Community unfortunately some of the vital speakers did not arrive, however we had a good discussion by Peter Fraser on environmental issues including the slow removal of untaxed and dumped cars. The people at the meeting felt that a lot more could be done and we proposed to spend more time on the subject at another meeting. Peter is also responsible for noise and again the meeting felt that sometimes it takes too long to sort out a problem when you are being driven nearly mad by some noises.

Caroline Tiller came from Oakfern and she was asked about tenants with special needs that should be helped and supported by Social Workers, as they often seem unable to do some very basic things, like knowing when to put out their bins. Caroline said that if they refuse help then there is nothing more that can be done.

Jenny McFarlane from the Winchester based Health Promotion Unit explained about the different promotional programs that we can get details about, one subject was dog fouling and Jenny offered to supply some literature on this subject for our next Forum meeting.

The next speaker was Dave Dean from the North Hampshire Community Health Service, he told us that if we have a complaint against the service and showed us the relevant leaflet. Dave was asked about the proposal for the new health centre near Shakespeare Rd He suggested that we should let the powers that be know what we as residents want in a new centre.

Under any other business the subject of ball games was discussed. There was an apparent lack of professional people who had been invited and had not even replied. We mean to be taken seriously and are taking steps for future meetings

Note: you could help by coming along and giving your views.

**Next meeting will be July 9th
at Popley Fields (7:30pm)**

(Jane Frankum)

July 9th 7:30pm

At

Popley Fields Community Centre

Are you worried annoyed and frustrated by the lack of parking, poor lighting & uneven pavements then come to the Popley Forum and tell the council officers what you feel. Find out what they can and will do.

Speakers Jeff Irish/Roger Archer Lighting
Tony Pentith Paths Inspector
Richard Warham Future Parking Plan

The Fire and Police Service have also been invited also a speaker on dog fouling. Only by letting the powers that be know, that we on Popley want improvements, can we hope with your help to improve our Popley estate.



Popley Fields Community Centre

We are holding more of our popular Family Discos put the date in your diaries JUNE

26th and JULY 11th. There will be a bar and snacks available and all for £5 per family or £2-50 per single adult if you book in advance £6 or £3 on the night 7:30pm 11:00pm

JULY 26th is our Anniversary day celebration and we aim to have a great time there will be a fairground, displays of Martial arts, Table top sales, beer tent, assault course by the Adventure Rangers, adult and children's bouncy castles and many more attractions. Come and join in the fun from 12:00noon to 5:00pm.

Bob Douglass



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Popley Two Residents Association holds a Bingo session every Tuesday. in the meeting hall opposite the Barbican public house.

Membership is only £1 per annum.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Eyes down at 8 p.m.

There is no assurance of winning a fortune but we do guarantee a pleasant evening in a very friendly community.



20p entry (30p non members)

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NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITY BOARD AWARD

Popley Fields and Melrose Community Association are delighted that the Lottery bid has been successful.

The Charity's Board has awarded £50,389, which will enable a community development worker to be employed (See Advert On Page 5) to undertake research and implementation of identified needs and aspirations of the local community.

This is an exciting opportunity to involve the local community in decision making-that will affect their quality of life and opportunities available to them.

The community development worker will have two places of contact – Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down and Melrose Community Hall, Abbey Road.

For more information contact Popley Fields Community Centre on 414494.



PLAY AREA'S

MEETING AT POPLEY 2 MEETING HALL

The Borough Council wants to discuss with residents of the maisonettes near Madeira Close its proposed position for a play area to serve 0-4 year olds. This follows on from earlier discussions, which have taken place to find a suitable plot of land.

The meeting will take place at Popley 2 Residents Meeting Hall on 12th June at 8.00pm

Further information is available from Stephen Bryer ☎ 845607



POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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£15,759 p.a. BASINGSTOKE HANTS

The association has received funding from the National lottery, creating an exciting new opportunity for a community development worker.

The successful candidate will work closely with the community to identify and develop needs within the Popley area.

You will possess well-developed communication skills together with a proven ability in research techniques. If you have worked within the voluntary sector this would be a distinct advantage.

If you're seeking a challenge, telephone 01256 414494 for an application pack. Closing date 6th June - Interviews 22nd June 1998.

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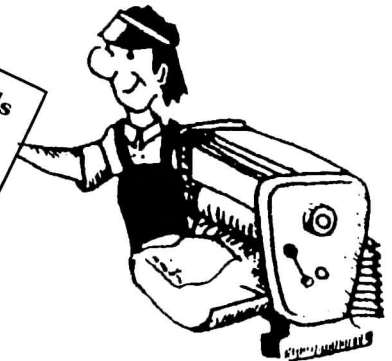
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5TH ANNUAL POPLEY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY MAY 17TH 1998.

What other ward in Basingstoke has a festival as magnificent as that held at POPLEY?

A cloudless blue sky and temperatures well into the 70's provided the perfect day for the 5th Popley Festival. From early morning the fields surrounding John Hunt of Everest Community School were a hive of industry with volunteers from various groups, clubs and societies putting together tents, stalls and side shows - and suddenly it was 11 o'clock and the first visitors were arriving.... The festival was underway...

There was so much to do and so much to see, the music from Norman Morris' barrel organ created a real festival atmosphere as did the shows of Punch and Judy. Air Product's Safely B'air gave out balloons to the children, the queue at the barbecue never appeared to grow any shorter and the craft fayre and car boot sale provided a wealth of bargains. There were dogs of all shapes and sizes competing in the fun dog show, crockery being smashed like the proverbial "Bull in a china shop" and budding Damon Hills racing round the go-kart track...

The people of Popley came in their thousands to join in this now well established major community festival. At 3pm the Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke and Deane drew in up the mayoral limousine to the welcoming, fantastic, rhythmical beat of a group of Junction 6 percussionists. The young people gave an impromptu performance of "Petrushka," the vitality and talent of the performers was certainly appreciated by the Mayor and Mayoress who were then escorted around just a part of the festival by senior pupils of the school.

The magnificent horse and carriage that was so generously provided by Peter Green was a focus of much attention as were the day long displays by a great many local groups and organisations. The singing by the pupils of Merton and Marnel schools was as popular as ever, (it was standing room only in the school hall!) with the audience clapping loudly to show their appreciation and so the festival went on...



MELROSE ART IN THE LANDSCAPE CELEBRATION BAR-B-Q

This event was not packed out and we were sorry that some of the people who actually helped design, make, lay, or plant shrubs, were unable to make this event, especially as the Gazette were there to record your great achievement. However all those that did attend saw the plaque unveiled by Charlie Carter, the artist, who worked with all you young people. You may have seen your photograph with Charlie in the paper. Charlie said that he was thrilled to be asked to do the honours as it was the first time ever that he had been given that privilege. Having got the formalities out of the way everyone then went on to enjoy the Barbie and crockery smash stall or try their luck on the Tombola stall. The plaque can be seen situated on the front of "your Hall" and indicates the garden, the old hall, and the new hall, together with those that enabled you to achieve this community project. All the time people keep making comments about what a lovely job has been made of the area - well done everyone involved. Charlie is looking forward to working with you on the follow up workshops in the centre. "Popley Matters" will also be looking forward to you young people having your say on the youth section - so go on let them know what you want and what you think. You did this project against all the doubting Thomas's and made a success of it. Remember, not only people power works, so does youth power, but it does have to be done the correct way! (Iris King)



Popley Little People

Is a parent & toddler group run by childminders on
Wednesday mornings 9:30am-11:30am
at
Melrose Community Hall Abbey Rd.



Lots for the kids to do while you have a coffee. All parents and minders welcome.



MELROSE 1st ANNIVERSARY

The first anniversary dinner dance on the 15th June proved a very enjoyable evening. The evening began with drinks in the bar and people meeting up with old friends and making new ones. Then it was onto the three-course meal that was supplied by Pierre Victoire with a waitress service. Everyone enjoyed the well cooked meal, especially the committee members, because we did not have to prepare it, but just sit back and enjoy, it was absolute heaven! Not to worry if you put on a few pounds with the dinner? No problem, because Jetsound's Disco and Kareoke were on hand to help shed the extra pounds gained! There was music to dance to and some who thought they were budding singers, (Don't give up your day jobs you people!) and even the "Full Monty" was on offer by one gentleman! However let me reassure you that it was tastefully done, in that he was assisted by his wife who was on hand with a Jacket so that no one even got to see the colour of his underwear! Congratulations to Christine Little on performing for the first time ever, who ever thinks that people in authority are stuff shirt's and don't join in should have been at this event to see otherwise. 'Big Jim' kept throwing 'Quiz Teasers' in at odd times to keep everyone alert mentally (I for one failed miserably in that quarter).

Thank you all for a smashing evening and to those who helped clear up – look forward to seeing you all next time. (Iris King)

Melrose Community Association is currently looking for volunteers to help with the following actives

Playgroup Organiser

Organiser for social afternoon i.e. snooker, whist backgammon, table tennis, etc

Organiser for afternoon Bingo session

After School Actives Organiser for Junior Youth Club Monday and Thursday 4-6pm

THANK YOU

Melrose community Association extends they're thanks to Steve and his work force at Altamise Ltd. (Freight Carriers), Daneshill, Telephone 479409 for transporting our stalls to functions over the past year

It is not possible to mention all the attractions that were available at the 5th Popley Festival but it is hoped that there was something to appeal to almost everyone.

So many people played a part in making the Popley Festival a resounding success, not least the locals community who turned out in force to support this major event which surely now has established itself as the biggest and best community festival in Basingstoke.

WELL-DONE POPLEY!

Christine Little (Exhausted but happy!)

Community Manager John Hunt of Everest.

19th May 1998 The day after the day before! !

Forthcoming attractions at John Hunt of Everest (SUMMER 1998).

F.A. Soccer School - Fun Week. 27th July-31st July inc.

Stagecoach Arts and Drama Summer School 10th August-21st August inc.

Working Carers Scheme.

23rd July-28th August inc. 8:30am-6:00pm Mon-Fri

.Monday June 1st Adult Education Classes begin

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French for holidays

Short Storywriting - A Beginners Workshop

Family History

Jewellery Making

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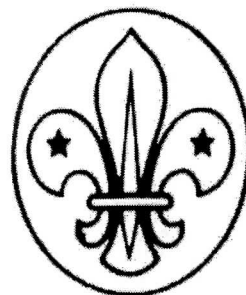


What On At

POPLEY FIELDS

Melrose Hall

MONDAY	Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Coffee Morning 9:30am-12:30pm
	Treasure Island Playgroup 12:30pm-3pm	Kick Boxing 6pm-7:15pm Jujitsu Kai 7:30pm-9pm
TUESDAY	Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	2pm - 4pm Senior Citizens
	Kick Boxing 6:30pm-8pm	Petite School of dance 3:45pm-9:30pm
	Rosemary Connely Classes 6:30pm-8pm	
	Youth Club 12-18 years 6pm-9pm	
WEDNESDAY	Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Popley Little People 9:30am-11:30am
	Parent and Toddlers group 1pm-2:30pm	Petite school of Dance 4pm-7pm
	After school Kumon Math's 3:30pm-5:30pm	Adventure Rangers 7pm-9pm
	Aikido Martial Arts Class 7:30pm-9:30pm	
THURSDAY	Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Coffee Morning 9:30am-12:30pm
	Treasure Island Playgroup 12:30pm-3pm	Kick Boxing 7pm-9pm
	Embroiders Guild 1:15pm-3:15pm	
	Youth Club 12-18 years 6:00pm-9:00pm	
FRIDAY	Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Network Drop in Club 10am-3pm
	Senior Citizens Bingo Club 2pm-4pm	Church Youth Group 6:30pm-9:30pm
	Martial Arts Classes 6:30pm-8:30pm	
SATURDAY	Kumon Math's Class 10:30am-12:30pm	Available for hire
	Family Disco once a month	
SUNDAY	New Testament Church 10:30am-12:30pm	Church 10am-1pm
	Car boot and Table Top sale once a month	Table Top sale every second Sunday of month
		Kick Boxing 4:30pm-6:30pm
For more information	☎ 414494	☎ 420676
Special event	July 26th Anniversary day celebration 12noon to 5:00pm	Saturday 4th July American BBQ family fun Afternoon



Basingstoke Air Scouts

Beavers age 6-8 Tuesday 5:30pm - 6:45pm
Cubs age 8-11 Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Scouts age 11+ Fridays 7:00pm - 9:00pm

At the Scout Headquarters Hut on Carpenters Down (behind Popley Fields Hall) Come along and join in the fun. We are also trying to raise funds for a new hall if anyone has ideas or spare items i.e. Jumble Please Contact 01256 410119

Treasure Island Playgroup

Treasure Island Playgroup are holding their Summer Fete at Popley Fields Community Centre on Saturday 13th June from 1-30 p.m. There will be a grand raffle including prizes kindly donated by several companies for family days out. Games for all ages including bouncy castle, refreshments, Tombola, Lucky dip and lots more. All the ingredients for a fun day afternoon. We look forward to seeing you.



Popley Neighbourcare

Popley Neighbourcare now has several volunteers (of various age groups) but we still need a volunteer co-ordinator that will link the volunteers with the people requiring help. The job of co-ordinator will not keep you stuck in the house. We do provide an answerphone and cover your expenses. For further details please phone 332424, you should also phone this number if you need help but have no one near by that can help you or if you would like further information about becoming a volunteer for Popley Neighbourcare. (June Wilson central co-ordinator for Basingstoke Neighbourcare).



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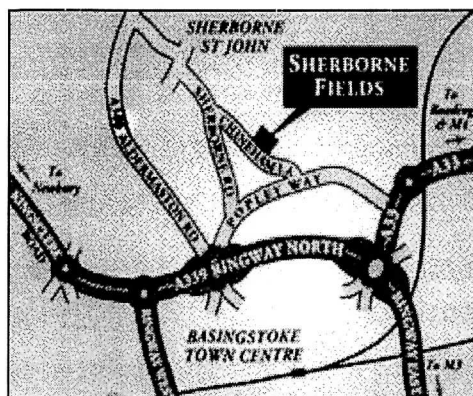
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The Boys Brigade

6th Basingstoke (Popley) coy.

Anchor Boys Aged 5½yrs-8yrs

Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:15pm
ROOM R12 Rosla Block

Junior Section Aged 8yrs-10½yrs

Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:30pm
Main School Gym

Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

Monday Night 7:30pm to 9:30pm
ROOM R12 Rosla Block

All Sections Meet at John Hunt School

Answer Phone for Information

323564

Treasure Island Play Group

At

Popley Fields

Community Centre

Mon-Fri 9:30am - 12:00pm

Mon & Thurs 12:30pm - 3:00pm

Parents & Toddler Group

Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30pm



414014

Registered Charity No. 282848



Wanted House Exchange

From a semi-detached 2 bedroom house in a quiet cul-de-sac on a new estate, behind the hospital. To a 2/3 bedroom house on Popley

Urgently required

To care for a disabled relative.

Please telephone 412016

**You could be using
this space to advertise
your company's
Services or products**

You can advertise from as little as
£10 per issue

POPLEY TWO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (1975-98)

The association has a long and proud record spanning some twenty-three years.

When we first formed in August 1975 it was then known as a tenants association. During the mid eighties it became apparent that many council tenants were buying their homes. As a result we suffered a loss of membership simply because these homeowners probably felt membership was for tenants only. Arising from this problem the constitution was amended to Residents Association, membership did pick up again but not by very much. Back in 1975-76 membership was around the 350 mark, and hovered around 200 for quite a few years. This last two years or so has seen a dramatic fall in numbers, we now have less than a 100. In my opinion there are varying reasons for this, which I will touch on later in this article.

During the associations' lifetime we have had some hard working, dedicated committees and most of them if not all of them have thoroughly enjoyed providing the services and or pleasures for respective functions. The members themselves contributed in many ways. The services/functions provided over the years ranged from playgroups, youth clubs, over 50s club and Bingo. Every year each group had a one-day summer outing, Bingo would even be played on the coach during the journey. Each group was provided with a Xmas party every year, the children receiving a small present.

Our fund raising like many other organisations was not always easy or pleasurable. With the exception of the last two years we've always had a summer fete on the dunes behind the hall with side stalls, also entertainment in the arena. We've had five a side football tournaments Xmas Bazaars, many jumble sales, raffles, draw book sales and more.

Our summer fete venue has been lost due to the fencing that now covers most of the area we used to use.

Still looking back over the years we had great fun building floats for the Basingstoke Carnival, which alas is not held now. We always selected a Popley princess and sometimes a prince at our fetes and they in turn would be entered in the junior carnival. One particular year we entered a float consisting of our past nine princesses plus the then current princess and entitled the float Popley two decade of princesses. Our successes in the carnival have been good with four 1sts in our class plus three runners up, and to crown it all our first Popley princess went on in later years to become Carnival Queen, Our scrapbook reveals all. So all in all Popley hasn't done so badly, we have done our up most to keep Popley alive, and may it continue to do so.

To touch on the point of decline in our membership, I am led to believe we are not alone with this problem. Melrose Community with its lovely new hall, also Popley Fields could do with a lot more support. As for our own hall, it's not terribly bad but it has seen better days. However I firmly believe that if families would only join their local or other community associations, to participate in their respective functions, throw out challenges to other groups/clubs, this would lead to new friendships, also a better understanding of life in the community of Popley. The Popley festival is great, always a crowd pleaser but only once a year. There must be other ideas that can be funnelled to and from a local association that can be made an annual or indeed perhaps a quartly event. Dare I suggest, what about a Popley Carnival, again this will need support from all groups within Popley. But anything like this cannot happen if the strength is not within the community centres. I know TV's and computers are some of the reasons for lack of enthusiasm, there are others of course.

Looking back over my 23 years with my own association, most as chairman and along with our present committee we've enjoyed providing pleasure to all age groups. Incidentally the fact that we are a residents association doesn't mean we cannot operate socially.

Think Popley, Positively Popley, support your local community and make Popley a great place to be proud of. (Ron Rowe)