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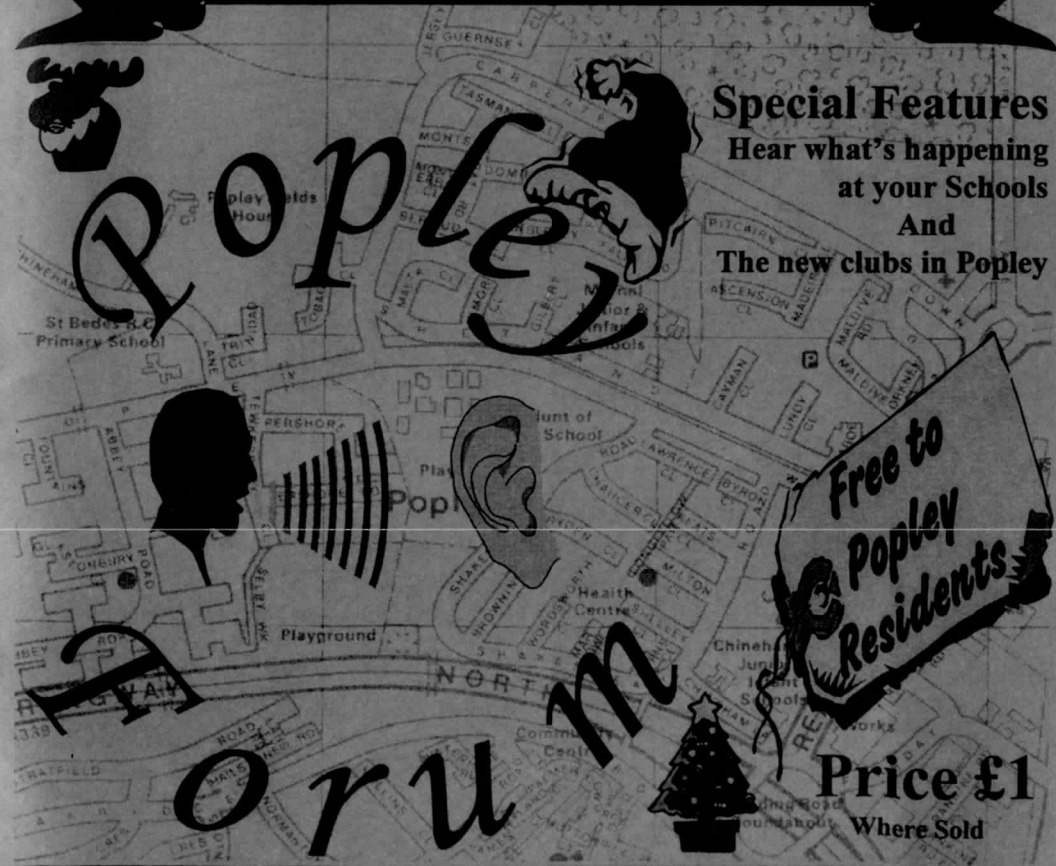
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December 1998 to February 1999

Volume 3, Issue 3

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The new clubs in Popley

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To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write or phone:

Popley Matters
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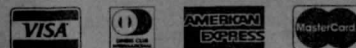


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NEW SCOUTREACH CLUBS IN POPLEY

There will be 2 new clubs starting in the new year. Scoutreach combines FUN with making new friends and learning new skills (without having to wear a uniform). They will take place at Chineham Park School Mondays & Thursdays 3.45pm to 5pm (8-12 years), Popley Fields Centre Mondays 3.45pm – 5pm (8-13 years) and Wednesdays 7.30pm – 9pm (14-18 years). There will also be weekend trips organised. Places are limited to 25 so book early, tell your parents they are welcome to come along and get involved.



The Popley 6th Boys Brigade

As usual, your Boys Brigade Company has been active, The Company Section Boys, (aged 10½ to 18yrs) have been on an activity week-end at the Watership Activity Centre at Old Burghclere, activities included, Mountain Biking, Canoeing, Team Building, Games and Sport etc.

Anchor Boys (5½yrs to 8yrs) and Junior Section (8yrs to 10½yrs) are going to the Anvil to see the Panto.

Anchor Boys, have continued their garden project at the John Hunt of Everest School.

Our recent Jumble Sale, raised £117.00p and our fortnightly car boot gets better with our takings going up, and obviously a much needed service is being catered for. Sunday 13th is our last one for this year, we restart on Sunday January 10th '99, then again, every other Sunday. We look forward to other groups and charities coming along to raise funds for their groups. Sellers from 12:30pm, and buyers from 1:15pm. Pitches are only £3.00p.

We do have some vacancies in all section, Please see our main advert on Page 9.

May I on behalf of your local Boys Brigade Company wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



Dave Phillips
Company Captain



Message From the Editor

It has been a very busy 3 months, the parking survey petition started at the Popley Forum, got 353 signatures and was handed in at full council. We have had an answer, there will be a survey by the council in time for their January Planning and Transportation meeting. It is the start of a long journey that hopefully will bring about better conditions.

There is also a petition that you can sign at Melrose hall or Popley Fields to protest at the savage cut of over 50% of the 42/43 bus service. You can HELP too by picking up a form and asking family and friends to sign the form and return it back to 405 Abbey Rd or at one of the community centres by Monday December 21st.

Abbey Court residents are still hoping to get night cover to continue after January 1st. You can help by writing in support of these needy people.

Children in need (Popley) raised £1,246.47 Well done to all the people who worked so hard to make this money and in such a fun way too.

During the last three months we have been doing a survey on what you would like in your magazine some of the ideas were: different colour covers to distinguishing between editions, more local news, information on cycling and a version on talking books for the blind. if you have any ideas please contact us at Melrose Hall, Abbey Rd ☎420676.

I would like to take this opportunity to send a special thanks to Kate Lomas and Paul Frankum for doing a vast amount of the typing, layout and production of this issue while I was away looking after my elderly father who has been in Hospital.

Finally as the cold winter months are here could you look out for your neighbours particularly the elderly and vulnerable. (Jane Frankum Editor)



Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year
From
all your Popley Matters team



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SCHOOLS REPORT

MERTON INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL Every year the school adopts a local charity for their share and care appeal. This year it was Age Concern, Tracey Peacock visited the classes and talked to the children about their work. The children supported by their parents collected 2p pieces, in addition 3 large boxes were filled with raffle prizes. On 22nd October Year 1 & 2 held a special assembly, where they were joined by parents, grandparents & friends. A raffle held after the Assembly raised £78 making an overall total of £125 for Age Concern. Melvin Byles from Age Concern will soon be returning to the school to accept everything on behalf of the Charity. They are hoping to reach a target of 1.1 million pounds towards their Age 2000 Appeal. The Junior school also joined in on the Help the Aged and took part in a sponsored workout

So far the Football team have won one, drawn one and lost one match. The tag Rugby Team drew with St Bedes.

Marnel Junior School:- Recently David Blunkett MP visited the school and opened the new IT suite, this was a great success.

Thanks to all who donated items for the Harvest Festival, this year we supported the Hampshire Youth Bureau.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Panto

Chineham Park School :- We have been very busy this term including a visit from WPC Dimmock "The Getting It Right Officer". Following the success of the last Friends Disco for years 3 - 6 the next one will be on 4/12/98. Years 5 & 6 Christmas Concert will be held in St Gabriels Church at 7pm. Year R/1 concert will be 2pm 15/12/98 and 10am 16/12/98. Year 2/3/4 concert will be at 7pm 16/12/98. Finally we will be holding our Christmas party on 17/12/98 and on the last day of term we are all off to the Panto.

Competition Result Competition Result Competition Result

The answer to the last quiz was **F**
(standing for Friday)



The winner for the adult Competition was K Wiggins of Pershore Road who won a Watermans Pen and the winner of the under sixteens was A Johnson of Keats Close who won £5-00, unfortunately due to lack of space we are not able to run a quiz this time but look out in future editions.



Some of the participants that helped raise the money for Children in Need



CHILDREN IN NEED

Well done to all those "People of Popley" who supported the Melrose centre in it's first attempt to co-ordinate all Popley in showing at this event that they do care, and we can build on community spirit. It is amazing what we can do if we all pull together and help each other. If you watched the T.V. you would have seen the cheque for **£1246.47** held by 6 young people, which was achieved by collection jars, Youth disco, Youth club donating their subs for the night, "Dillon" the 3 foot Du-Lux dog - Ruffled by Drop-in group and won by Mark of Popley Poets. With special thanks to Petite School of Dance for the vast sum raised by Kids Tapathon/Adult line dance. **Book now for 19th Nov. 1999.** Groups, schools, or individuals, we are looking for your ideas or bookings. Contact Iris on Tel: 420676/411113. Thanks go to: Petite school, Loddon Drop-in group, Church youth club, Forbuoys, Fastfare, Youngs fish bar, Popinjay pub, Marnel school, Merton school, Chineham Park school Popley Fields centre, Melrose volunteers, and last but not least

"The people who make Popley."

POPLEY HISTORY – ARTHUR ATTWOOD





There are more people living in the vast Popley area than were in the whole of Basingstoke when I was a schoolboy. Then, Basingstoke's population was a mere 12,000. As a boy chorister, I was chosen by Mrs Boustead, wife of the Vicar, Canon H W Boustead to run errands for her. At the time, I was one of the choristers who received threepence and was offered one shilling if I would help Mrs Boustead indeed I felt very Rich. What has this got to do with Popley, you might rightly ask? A lot, for one of my tasks was to deliver Mother's Union magazines for Mrs Boustead, who was Central President. One call was at Chineham House, then the home of Colonel Eastwood, who was Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, When Mrs Boustead was told I arrived by pushbike, I had a severe telling off for cycling so far, as I had a weak heart and was recovering from a serious illness. When Colonel Eastwood left Chineham House he was followed for a time by a Mr Charles, who had been put into Thornycrofts as a kind of receiver when the firm was not doing well. Within months, with rearmament and then wartime, the firm became very profitable.

Another place I cycled to was the farmhouse near Chineham House, afterwards a farm shop, to deliver Scout Badges to Mr Snook, the farmer's son. Later, I was to know his father very well. I was then to see industry spread to the area with Douglas Rowson's Engineering factory on the opposite side of the road to Chineham House.

My other memories of Popley are very personal, for it was where I spent some of my courting days with Nellie, my wife to be, a very good walker. It was a lovely walk to and from Basingstoke along the footpath, the side of which was to see the tower block of flats rise above the trees. This was originally the Basingstoke Golf Course and after the Club moved to Kempshott, the field was used as a landing ground for aircraft, including Sir Alan Cobham's airliner used for pleasure flights over Basingstoke. In the 1920's it was thought that the site could become an Airport, such ideas were squashed when Heathrow was chosen as London's Airport. Had that area between Oakridge and Popley been chosen, planes would have ascended and descended over Popley!

Next issue I will talk about Popley and it's connection with Sherborne St John and Old Basing in very early days.

ARTHUR ATTWOOD

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Letters to The Editor



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After reading about the cuts in the cost of caring for our elderly residents of Abbey Court I was fuming, do they not realise this could be their parents being cared for, or perhaps they have so little regard for others they would treat their own relatives with such disdain, I myself have an elderly parent and God forbid should I find myself looking at the possibility of them having need for further care, I really would be at a loss, for no-where else is there locally a facility such as Abbey Court, which gives them independence but at the same time gives them piece of mind (until now). We all must fight and keep on at Hampshire County Council until they reverse this abominable decision.

A concerned daughter

Editor: The fears and concerns of the senior citizens in Abbey Court were shown abundantly in The Gazette, when they printed eleven of the twenty letters sent to them. At the time of going to press there was no change. It is up to all of us to write to Hampshire County Council (Winchester) and protest at this cruel and senseless act.

Dear Editor,

How many more cuts must the Bus Company make from the vital 42/43 bus service. Do they not realise that for most of us elderly people, a bus is

our only means of transport, especially to the Hospital, (which unfortunately with age the trips get more frequent), Taxis are too expensive on a pension and there is no other way for some-one like me. Since moving onto the estate they have gone from 4 buses an hour down to one. Why, especially when we are asked to use the transport, do the Companies not communicate and ask us, the people, what we need, after all it is us paying them their salaries so that they can run their cars.

Pensioner – Popley

Editor: This mindless cut of the 42/43 bus route affects all of Basingstoke not just Popley. There are petitions going around one of which is from Popley Matters (we already have over 300 signatures). If you would like to sign there are copies in the Popley community centres, Fastfare and Youngs Fish Bar, some people have asked for copies to get there friends and neighbours to sign. Copies are available from Melrose Hall or phone 819924 If you are interested come to the Popley Forum meeting and tell the representative that has agreed to come just what your complaints about the bus service are. February 16th at Melrose Hall at 7-30

Please send your letters to :

The Editor, Popley Matters Melrose Hall,
Abbey Rd, Basingstoke. RG24 9ES
We do need your name and address but will not print them if you ask us not to.



Treasure Island Play Group

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Community Centre

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

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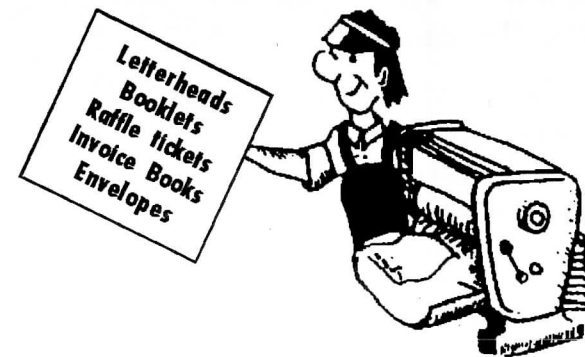
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| German 1 | Wednesday | 13/1/99 | 7pm-9.30pm | £60.00 | RYL12 |
| French 1 | Wednesday | 13/1/99 | 7pm-9.30pm | £60.00 | RYL07A |
| Dutch 1 | Wednesday | 13/1/99 | 7pm-9.30pm | £60.00 | RYL13 |

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|---------------|---------|---------|------------|--------|-------|
| Watercolour 2 | Tuesday | 12/1/99 | 7pm-9.30pm | £60.00 | RYL11 |
|---------------|---------|---------|------------|--------|-------|

General Interest

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|--------|--------|
| St John's First Aid | Thursday | 14/1/99 | 7.30-9.30pm | £46.00 | XLF209 |
| Bridge | Tuesday | 12/1/99 | 7pm-9pm | £23.00 | XLD210 |
| Flower Arranging | Wednesday | 13/1/99 | 7pm-9pm | £23.00 | XLE211 |
| Women's Health | TBA | | | | |
| Nutrition & Stress | Monday | 22/1/99 | 7pm-9pm | £23.00 | XLF212 |
| Indian Cookery | Tuesday | 12/1/99 | 7.30-9.30pm | £46.00 | XLE213 |

Saturday Workshops

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| Designer Jewellery | Saturday | 6/2/99 | 10am-4pm | £26.00 | XLE206 |
|--------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|

New sessions start as from Monday 11 January 1999; ongoing sessions start as from Monday 4th January 1999.

For information/enrolment either contact BCOT on (01256) 306484 (BCOT will be closed Thursday 24th December 1998 to Sunday 3rd January 1999 inclusive) or contact Christine Little at John Hunt of Everest School on (Paul with all other details from previous including deaf number)

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Do you like the idea of working with children We are looking for people who are available between 12noon and 1pm to supervise children during our lunch Hour. If interested please ring ☎326573

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See you there!



There are fresh new faces to Popley Fields Community Association and their Committee. At the Wine and Cheese AGM on Thursday 29th November we not only enjoyed a drop of the good stuff but we also welcomed several new committee members. We have acquired a new Chair, Derek Curnow, 4 new members of the management committee, 2 new co-opted members, and lots of new blood and fresh ideas!

Things in the pipeline for this brave mob include a new computer suite in the centre (run and funded by Richard Aldworth and QMC), a Scoutreach group to be set up in January. They also have whole host of festive celebrations for the Christmas/New Year period.

Forthcoming Events at Popley Fields:

11th December 2pm – 4pm: Senior Citizens Christmas Party,
15th December: Treasure Island Playgroup Christmas Party,
20th December 2pm – 5pm: Children's Christmas Party,
31st December: New Year's Eve Family Disco,

Plus Family Discos every month.

For further details contact centre: 414494

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

Thursday 17th December 1998 at John Hunt of Everest come and join us for our Pensioner's Christmas Lunch. All pensioner's are welcome we start at 10am with a couple of games of Bingo and at 12pm there will be a 2 course Christmas lunch (cost £1.35), afterwards there is a raffle and coffee. For further information Christine Little ☎465303



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Vocational courses: First Aid (Red Cross Certificate), Basic Food Hygiene (CIEH), SAGE Accounting, C&G IT (levels 1-3).

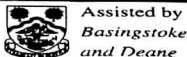
Saturday Workshops: Paint Effects, Salt Dough, Flowers & Garlands, Indian Head Massage, Reflexology, Jewellery Making, Spicy Cookery.

The classes are held at Popley Fields Community Centre, East Oakley Village Hall and Fort Hill Community School during the day and evening. Phone us for more details.

Out of School/Holiday Care: We provide a service for the children of parents who work, after school and in the holidays from 8am – 6pm.

Fun Days: During every half term, we offer a fun packed agenda for school aged children from 10am – 3pm. Trips and Outings are also organised.

For further information on any of the above call us on **01256 354311**.



MELROSE HALL REPORT

By the time this issue of the Popley Matters comes out our Children-in-Need event will be over and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped raise money, Fastfare, Youngs, Popinjay Forbuoys, local schools and anyone else who took up collections. A special vote of thanks to the Petite School of Dance for all their sponsored tap and line dancing events and to Tori Gosling for co-ordinating it. Also thanks to those who helped with our Halloween Disco especially Tori's dad for the Disco, the enthusiasm made up for the lack of numbers. The children really enjoyed dressing up as Witches, Ghosts and other Halloween characters. But let's see more of you next time.



Forthcoming dates:-

Saturday 12th December 1pm to 3pm Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 12th December 7:30pm to 11pm Christmas Disco
(tickets on sale now)

Sunday 14th February Valentines Dinner/Dance
(look for further information on the notice boards and in the paper)

Every Monday 2:30pm to 4:30pm
we hold our friendship Cafe which is open to all.
(Cuppa and cake special offer 50p)

Every Tuesday 2pm to 4pm
is the Bingo club, anyone over 18 is welcome.

Kate Lomas – Secretary Melrose Association

Collection times for travel tokens

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council will be issuing 1999 Travel tokens at the Centres listed below ONLY at the date and times shown.

Popley Fields Community Centre

Time/Date: 9am-11:45am 22nd February 1999

Melrose Community Centre

Time/Date: 12:45pm-3:30pm 22nd February 1999

After the council read the letter sent to Popley Matters from one of our readers,
We are pleased to note that Melrose Hall is included as a collection point.



Could you reduce your home energy bills?

Oakfern housing is licensed to carry out energy audits of homes to find out if they are energy efficient. We could tell you how you could improve the energy efficiency of your home and save money on energy bills. We

are registered with National Home Energy Rating (NHER) to carry out surveys to show the energy "rating" of properties and ways to make improvements.

People selling their home can find this useful as we issue a certificate to show the energy efficiency of their property.

Oakfern Housing has a strong commitment to energy saving. We plan to improve the energy efficiency of our housing properties by 28% from 1995 to 2005. So far we have already achieved a 23% improvement. This has been done by investing in various works such as cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and double glazing.

We carry out energy surveys of our own properties to find out how efficient each dwelling is at energy conservation. By improving the "rating" we cut bills for our tenants and reduce the consumption of energy so helping the environment.

Oakfern Housing Christmas & New Year Openings

The Offices will be closed from 4pm Thursday 24th December until Monday 4th January 1999

Emergency calls on (01256) 338800

Reporting repairs – if you are a tenant of Oakfern Housing call us on 338700, you should not call out a contractor yourself – you could get stuck with the bill. Remember you can now call Monday – Friday up until 8pm to report a repair.

North of Popley Development, Public Consultation Meetings

All rumours about the people of Popley being apathetic were proved wrong in September, when the community turned out in force to take part in the new development North of Popley, Approximately 130 people attended the planning consultations at John of Everest School, where they were given an opportunity to take part in expressing their ideas and concerns over the planning in the area. In fact 99% of those who attended said that they felt they had been listened to.

It seems that Local Government all over the country are beginning to realise that those who live in the area are best qualified to say how to best serve that area.

The Borough Council employed an independent Consultant (Mark Luken of Luken Beck Partnership) to liaise with local residents and plan events to research local opinions. Mark began by meeting local associations here and in Sherborne St John forging gateways into the community, and through these was able to identify some burning issues among residents. These included traffic, local transport both during construction and afterwards, layout and environmental concerns.

Thanks to all who participated you have made a valuable contribution to the future of the area.



Available Allotment Sites

Unknown to a large majority of residents, there are six different allotment sites spread over the Popley area. They are situated as follows, Abbey Road near Melrose Hall, Tintern Close, Trinidad Close, Bermuda Close, Carpenters Down and Pitcairn Close, just under 80 plots in all. They are administratively controlled by the Customer Services Department of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. They have an Allotment Officer who is responsible for the management of the Allotment Sites in Basingstoke. He is assisted by voluntary Regional and Site representatives. For further information contact Brian Saunders on 844844.



CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

St Bedes
 Sunday 20th
 Usual Services



St Gabriels 324734
 December Sunday 20th December
 3pm Christingle Service
 Tuesday 22nd December
 10.30 – 3pm Children's Workshop

Christmas Eve
 Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Eve
 6.30pm Children's Crib Service
 Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day 10.15am

Christmas Day 10.30am

Merton Infant School—Ofsted Inspection

Merton Infant School underwent an Ofsted Inspection in July, the final report highlighted many positive aspects of the school. The quality of education was judged to be good with the school being well led and financially well managed.

Standards overall were found to be in line with national averages in all subjects, except Information Technology and Music; in these 2 areas the attainment was judged to be higher than the national expectation. The provision, support, planning and assessment of special needs children was judged to be good with the children making good progress.

In relation to the wider curriculum the Inspector's praised the school for the very good provision that is made for the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They also praised the fact that pupils are encouraged to care for each other and take responsibility within the school and the ongoing involvement of the school in the wider local community.

Overall judgement on the quality of education provided and the standards achieved showed that the school provides good value for money.

The School governors were delighted to see that all the dedication and hard work put in by the staff has been recognised through such a good Ofsted report. (Mrs V. A. Peacock Head Teacher)

Popley Matters congratulate the pupils for the comments also made by the inspector on their **GOOD MANNERS** and **EXCELLENT BEHAVIOUR**.



CHRISTMAS TREES

Traditional Norway Spruce Non-Drop Nord's & Nobles
 Scots Pine 2 ft – 8 ft Potted Trees, Stands, Holly, Wreaths & Mistletoe
 175 Worthing Road Basingstoke
Tel 01256 359398

You are warmly invited to
WORSHIP WITH US

at
 Popley Fields Community
 Centre

Carpenters Down
 Popley
 Basingstoke

Sunday Morning
 10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:
 Graham and Barbara on
 (01256) 410715

New Testament Church of God

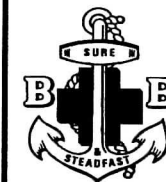


Exchange wanted

2 Bedroom Bungalow
 Sherborne St John

For 2 Bedroom Bungalow Popley 4,5,6,

For more information please contact
 Mrs Tate Tel No. 850854



The Boys' Brigade

6th Basingstoke (Popley) Coy.

Anchor Boys Aged 5½yrs-8yrs

Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:15pm
 Summit Dining Room

Junior Section Aged 8yrs-10½yrs

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

Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

Monday Night 7-30pm to 9-30pm
 Summit Dining Room

All Sections Meet at John Hunt School

Answer Phone for Information

☎ 323564

Popley Forum 8th October 1998

It was a wet and windy October night as the people of Popley settled down to another session of information, free speech and putting the world (or at least Popley) to rights.

October's Forum was held in Maderia Hall, which provided me with my first visit to the Hall and very nice it is too! Speakers were myself (Tori Gosling – Community Development Worker), Stephen Bryers (Play Area Officer for Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council) and Roger Tustain (Planning Development Officer Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council).

To ease people into the serious business ahead, I started with a few words on my role as a Community Development Worker. This included the funding, management structures and my main objectives (to research the social, educational and recreational needs of the people of Popley and meet as many needs in as much as available resources allow). Most people there had heard it before, so I quickly moved on to what I had actually done so far. In my first three months I have designed and begun conducting a door to door survey researching local opinions on community facilities. Already strong trends are emerging from the research, including grave concerns with parking problems as perhaps the most pertinent point. Alongside my research I have been giving "hands on" support to existing groups in Popley, including the excellent Popley Matters!

Following this Stephen Bryers gave the future outline plans for all the play areas in Popley, this included the only future new play area in Maldive Road. He stated that the information they were using for upgrading and demolishing existing sites, was based on a survey done in 1995. Some people felt that this information would be obsolete by the time work was carried out but as he pointed out there was a limited budget and this had to cover all of the Borough.

The third speaker was Roger Tustain who spoke on the 1000+ housing development for North of Popley. While we have no final say on whether the building will take place or not, residents of Popley and Sherborne St John were given the opportunity to contribute ideas on the development at the

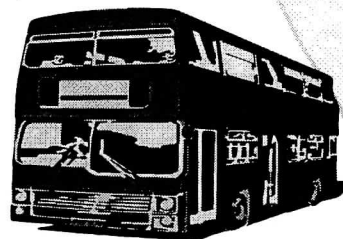
"Planning for real" meetings. Over 130 people attended (which impressed the Council no end) giving input on subjects such as traffic, transport, site design and layout, community facilities etc. Roger felt that this would be of assistance when the planning brief is put forward for the next stage, which he assured us would come back for community consultation. While the construction is unlikely to take place before 2000 all involved should congratulate themselves for taking part an issue which effects us all.

In the general discussion afterwards 2 major issues come to light i.e. Bus Services & Parking and they will be discussed at the next Forum. (Tori Gosling – Community Development Worker)

Next Forum

7.30pm Tues. 16th Feb. 1999

Melrose Hall Abbey Road



At the next Forum, we have invited someone from Stagecoach down to discuss their decision to cut the 42/43 service to one an hour (look out for the petitions that are about regarding the cut in this essential service)

Also we have invited a spokesperson from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to consult with us on the problems on parking within Popley.



If you care be there!