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POPLEY MATTERS

March to June 1999

Volume 3, Issue 4

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The Power Week
Popley Profile



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

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Abbey Road
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG24 9ES

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Boys Brigade Brief

Another busy month for the Company. The Anchor Boys and the Junior Section went to the Panto at the Anvil. The Company Section has been busy helping out at the Watership Activity Centre at Old Burghclere by aiming paint at the walls. An Activities Day of canoeing and Mountain Biking will be held shortly.

The newspaper collections at St. Gabriel's Church Car Park and The Soldier's Return Car Park, raised £670 by collecting over 23 tonnes of newspapers/magazines last year.

The fortnightly Car Boot Sales at John Hunt are going well, with an average of 20 boots during the winter. Each pitch is only £3, and usually you get as much space as you want.

From the beginning of March, we hope to have Quad Bikes at the Car Boot Sales.

For more information on the Boys' Brigade, either ring the answerphone on 01256 323564, see our main advert, or find us on the net, surf us on:

[Http://www.basingstoke.org.uk/boysbrigade/6th](http://www.basingstoke.org.uk/boysbrigade/6th)

Youth Nights Return to Popley Fields

A welcome return to Youth Nights at Popley Fields Community Centre. Our all new Youth Committee are working hard to put together a whole new programme of events for the nights. We are beginning the Junior Youth Nights (for 8 – 11 year olds) in late February, and the Senior Youth Nights will be following shortly. The Youth Committee are also organising Youth Discos at Popley Fields Community Centre, and applying for Youth 2000 funding for Sailing Equipment/ Excursions.

We welcome any adult volunteers who can offer a couple of hours help. Contact us on 01256 414494.

Many thanks to Derek & Doreen Curnow for all their hard work for the youth of the area.

Message From the Editor

Firstly may I apologise for this issue being late. Our Sub Editor Paul Frankum, who does our entire layout, typesetting and all the computer work had a problem with his computer and it turned out to be a major effort to get things going again. Thank you Paul for all the extra hours and stress you had to endure on our behalf to produce this issue.

Thank you to everyone that came to the Popley Forum meeting on February 16th, it made all the hard work of the committee worthwhile. It gave Stagecoach the strongest message of what the residents and bus users felt about the atrocious way that Stagecoach run their bus service. People power really worked and there is a promise of a better service but words are cheap lets wait and see, we will be watching. The borough council officers came to hear our concerns about parking and abandoned cars. Oakfern housing and the council are putting into practice a new policy of quicker removal of these eyesores. The council is also looking at the problem of parking spaces. Popley wishes John Blairman a happy retirement also as our borough councillor. John has made lots of friends in the nine years he tirelessly served Popley and on many of the committees.

On a sad note we say goodbye to Gwen Robinson who passed away this February. Gwen was a great friend and helper for Melrose Community Association and Popley Matters. It was thanks to Gwen that the travel tokens will now be distributed from Melrose Hall saving many people a long journey to Popley Fields. It has been a particularly hard time for many of us this year and many of us lost dear ones. We send all of you our condolences and I can truly say I can understand how many of you feel with the loss of my dearest mother in January.

The team hopes to see many of you at the Popley Festival on May 16th. It is the time when we all welcome visitors to come and see what Popley is all about and it is the major fund raising event staged for our many clubs and associations.

Last but by no means least we hope you come to our next Popley Forum Meeting on June 16th. There will be an update on Stagecoach and the council will come back to report to us what they have done and will be doing to improve the problems of parking. If there is an issue that you would like us to discuss then let us know.

I would like to appeal for volunteers to help within the community there are many opportunities to contribute from delivering Popley Matters to serving on a committee and lots in between. Jane Frankum (Editor)

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor,

Thank you for giving us the chance to say what we thought about the atrocious cuts to the bus services at the Popley Forum Open Meeting.

I know that it won't be overnight but if just some of the solutions that were put forward actually happened, it would be a step in the right direction.

Local Resident.

Editor: I was very impressed with the amount of people from all over Basingstoke and the surrounding villages who came to the Forum meeting on Feb 16th at Melrose Hall and presented excellent questions and ideas.

I can assure you that the Bus Company was left in no doubt about the strength of feeling. The next Forum meeting will be on June 16th at Popley Fields Community Centre where we hope to give you some feed back.

Dear Editor,

I think that the parking problems in Popley are down to some bloody minded people being too lazy to park their cars in proper allocated parking spaces, Instead they try to park as close as possible to their front doors so they do not have to walk too far to their sitting rooms to veg out in front of the television.

Local Driver.

Editor: I believe there are a small amount of people who indeed park in

an irresponsible manor or even in an illegal way. This is not the only problem there are other issues e.g. abandoned cars, poor layout of parking areas, more cars per family also some cars are parked with security in mind due to inadequate lighting but these are being looked into by the council and we will report back as soon as there is any news.

Dear Editor;

The problem with dog fouling is getting much worse and this concerns me and many other people. We have to go through almost an assault course to miss the "blobs" just to go to the shops or for a simple walk.

When will owners learn to "poop a scoop" it causes so much anger and distress.

Local Pensioner.

Editor: This very much an on going problem and the council have employed a second dog warden. The area that they cover is vast but they tell me some people have already been prosecuted and fined in court.

I will approach their department and invite them to our next Forum meeting on June 16th where we can ask them how we all can help to clean up this offensive mess.

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.



Popley Forum meeting 16th February

The committee of the Popley Forum would like to thank all the 120 residents and visitors that attended the Forum. Stagecoach was made to take the problem of bus cuts seriously. The Forum began with Councillor Jane Frankum handing Mr Dyer Managing Director Stagecoach South a petition of over 1100 signatures. Francis Collier a local resident also handed in 150 signatures. Mr Dyer was told that the existing service does not keep to the timetable (substantiated with proof) he suggested that problems were due to rush hour traffic but he was firmly told that this occurred all day long. Numbers using the service had fallen since the scheduling of a very long and erratic route. he assured us that this would be looked into!

Mr Dyer was then asked why, when the service is a major circular route (their words not ours) it was cut without any consultation, he replied that this service lost money and he had an obligation to his shareholders. Mr Moore pointed out that businesses usually ran on a profit and loss basis where one offset the other especially when Stagecoach made a half-yearly profit of 96.1 Million. Local residents informed Mr Dyer that a public service needs to be run for the convenience of the public not the operator or shareholders. Dave Phillips asked why, when minibuses covered the route a few years back this route was successful but since Stagecoach (who sometimes used double-decker buses) the route did not pay? Mr Dyer was then asked why a vital route serving a hospital could not be subsidised, again he stated his commitment to his shareholders. County Councillor Joan Carnell said she had received neither co-operation nor communication on this service.

Both Borough and County Councillors told Stagecoach that they needed to improve their commitment to the public and consult with all concerned. Councillor Phil Heath said that all were willing to talk to Stagecoach to improve the situation, but if this failed, action might be taken at both Borough and County level and possibly in joint co-operation, run a subsidised service. Mr Dyer said that it was encouraging news to hear that the council was willing to liase to improve on Stagecoach's quality and performance. The Chair, Iris King then said to Mr Dyer that answers were still needed and that this issue would not go away as far as the General Public, the Forum, local Borough and County Councillor's were concerned. The way forward for all was for Stagecoach to work in partnership, to ensure Stagecoach served the community to the advantage of everybody. Iris King then requested confirmation by letter from Stagecoach and Hampshire County Council with

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

answers to the many questions that had been raised. Popley will be extended by up to 1400 homes in the near future and all parties were asked to take this into consideration.

PARKING: Mr R Tustain and Mr R Archer-Reeves represented the Transportation Department of the Council. A petition of 353 signatures had previously been received resulting in a meeting with Iris King and Jane Frankum who walked about some parts of Popley to show the officers the scale of the problem. They said the main problem occurred from the Radburn

layout, in which Popley was built, this left a legacy of too many cars for too few places. A survey throughout the Borough will be carried out and maybe re-designing existing areas could find more spaces. Concern was expressed on badly parked cars, causing problems of access for all emergency vehicles. A local resident asked about illegal businesses being run from garages which should house cars, Mr Archer-Reeves said measures were in place so this could be stopped if reported. Iris King then asked about the T junction at Abbey Road shops, which is an accident waiting to happen, Mr Archer-Reeves replied nothing could be done at the moment as there was no history of this being an accident black spot. Abandoned cars were another problem but shortly a policy will be in place that would deter the owners from abandoning old/broken down cars. It was agreed part of the problem is ours, for parking in lay-by's, bus stop's etc. There is also a need for safer parking, perhaps yellow lines or similar measures.

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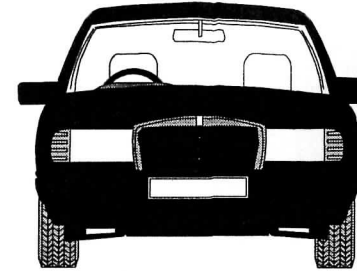
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Melrose Community Centre Art Workshops

From Friday 29th to Sunday 31st January, Melrose Hall was host to a hectic and active weekend of workshops. A group of young people and adult volunteers spent their weekend making 15 foot tall puppets, with the help of an artist from Yorkshire. The puppets will be used in a performance at this years Popley Festival. All of those who attended had a fantastic though exhausting time, and were thoroughly delighted with their achievements. Make sure you are there at the next one, Saturday 8th May 12pm-5pm, to help us work the puppets and get ready for the Festival. Any young people or adult volunteers who are interested in doing art workshops at Melrose Hall should contact Tori on 420676.

Story Telling Workshop

The first session of a story telling group for the older generation was held at Melrose Hall on Friday 12th February. The session was a pilot to see how well the project would work, but it seems these workshops could become a very regular feature at Melrose. About 15 people attended and began by chatting about the first film they saw at the cinema, they ended up story telling without even realising it! Delicious refreshments were served and a great time was had by all. The next workshop will be on Friday afternoon 23rd April and also Friday afternoon 2:30pm-4:30pm 14th May 1999 .

Times to pop in to Melrose:

Coffee Mornings: Mondays and Thursdays, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Friendship Café: Mondays, 2.30pm – 4:30pm

18 Plus Bingo: Tuesdays, 2pm – 4pm

(Come along and join us, everyone is welcome)

The Committee and friends of Melrose, would like to pass on our sincere best wishes to the family of Gwen Robinson, who sadly passed away on Saturday 6th February 1999, she will be missed by all who had the privilege to know her. Gwen worked with us at the Melrose Centre in both the old hall and our new building.

Treasure Island Play Group

At

Popley Fields

Community Centre

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

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

Parents & Toddler Group
Thursday 10 00 - 11 30am



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Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:30pm

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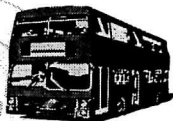
The next meeting of the Popley Forum in on Wednesday 16th June
at

Popley Fields Community Centre,

Carpenters Down,

Popley

7:30 pm



Topics under discussion are:- what has happened so far with Stagecoach, parking, law and order within Popley and how working together it can be improved upon. There will be representatives from the various agencies to ensure that your views and messages are passed on. Only you can us help to improve the area, speak up and be heard!

Millennium Project for Popley Poets

Plans have been drawn up for an exciting project in Chaucer/Dryden Close. It is hoped to turn the square into a garden. If this is successful it will be called the Millennium Square. Talks have commenced with the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and several local companies have also been approached. Sponsorship is needed to fund the project. The residents looking onto the square have formed an action committee, which is drawing up a constitution and is also applying for Lottery Funding. George Potten who has lived in Dryden Close for 27 years, designed the original concept. The square will be for everybody on the estate to use and will remain an open space, the garden will be in the shape of an octopus and the paths will be tentacles and will take the form of arms around the world. It will have lawns and flower beds with shrubs again from all around the world. This project is designed to enhance the environment for local residents and encourage community involvement. If successful, it may lead on to other projects in the area. Young or old, or even in between, any residents help, input, practical or otherwise, will be totally invaluable. If you know of any companies in the Basingstoke area that may help with sponsorship please contact Tori Gosling Community Development Worker on 420676 or 441494 or George Potten on 329186. This is your chance to be involved in the development of your neighbourhood.



Social Events at Popley Fields

On Saturday 30th January Popley Fields held its first ever Quiz Night. With cash prizes and other goodies, those who attended had a great time, despite the brain ache!!!

The next Quiz Night will be in June.

Social Events in the forthcoming months:

Sunday 4th April: Easter Family Fun Day 2:30pm-5pm
Wednesday 7th April: Tea Dance 2pm-4:30pm



Look out for details of our Race Night end of April

Monday 31st May: Family Games Afternoon & Evening
Saturday June 12th: Family Disco & BBQ
Friday 25th June: Quiz Night



Sunday 18th July

Popley Fields Fun Day

(Look in the next edition for more information)



Popley Fields Community Centre on 414494 and
Melrose Community Centre on 420676 are
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**What evening classes would you like to see at
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For more information telephone Richard Aldworth Community School on
(01256) 473698 during the school day, 6.30 – 9.30 pm weekday
Evenings or 9.00 am – 12.30 pm Saturdays

Popley-People-Power-Week Monday April 5th -Saturday April 10th 1999

If you have a spare hour or two, you could meet new people, learn new skills and give valuable help to your community.

There are lots of things going on in Popley, but there could be even more if you became involved!

We are running a week of events to show what we do and encourage you to participate. Everyone has hidden talents, and hopefully our schedule has covered a few of them. If you are interested in helping out in any way, or just finding out more, pop along to any events that take your fancy. Open to anyone from 0 to 100, this is a great opportunity to get out of the house and meet people. We can also provide training to help you improve your skills and perhaps lead on to employment. The week will end with a celebration of current volunteers in Popley, to show you volunteering can be fun!

We hope to see you in April so you can get stuck in to the activity of your choice. For more details call Tori on 414494 or 420676

Monday April 5th: 10am - 2pm at Popley Fields Community Centre:

Food, Glorious Food!

Interested in lending a hand at catering and gaining important Health & Hygiene Certificates, which may lead to employment? Come and have fun with food at Popley Fields, meet other volunteers, make a fabulous lunch, then... eat it! We always need an extra pair of hands in the kitchen; you could be just what we need.

MYSTERY STAR PRIZE: For best Sarnie made!

Tuesday 6th April: 6pm - 8pm at Popley Fields Community Centre:

Young at Heart!

If you want to gain experience of Youth work, have children at Youth nights or just have a heart of gold, pop along to meet our youngsters. You can challenge them to a game of pool, darts, or football on the field, or help out at the tuck shop.

MYSTERY STAR PRIZE: For the best pool score!

Wednesday 7th April: 10am - 1pm at Melrose Hall:

Office Angels

Can you help us for an hour or two a week with publicity and office work? We need volunteers to help us advertise events, help out with Popley Matters, and do simple office work. We can offer you excellent training and experience, which may lead on to employment, as well as giving you the opportunity to meet people and help your community.

Look around the building, design a poster and learn new skills.

MYSTERY STAR PRIZE: For best poster!

Thursday 8th April: 9.30am - 12.30pm at Melrose Hall

Fancy a Cuppa?

We need people who are sociable and fancy a natter over a cup of tea, to help out with refreshments at coffee mornings and fund raising events. If you could spare time to make teas, coffees or even home made cakes, we need your friendly face in our hall. We also need help with raffles, tombolas etc. for local fetes. Come along to meet people, have a cuppa and a chat.

MYSTERY STAR PRIZE: For the best fund raising idea!

Saturday 10th April: 12pm - 3pm at Popley Fields Community Centre:

Green Fingers!

Do you enjoy messing around in the mud and watching the fruits of your labour blossom? Pop along to Popley Fields to have a walk around the garden, meet new people, dig up a few weeds and relax on the patio. You don't need to be the next Alan Titchmarsh, we need your help.

MYSTERY STAR PRIZE: For biggest weed pulled out!

Saturday 10th April: 7pm - 11pm at Melrose Hall:

Good Old Fashioned Knees Up!

We will be having a Wine and Cheese Evening at Melrose Hall to celebrate the work of volunteers, old and new. Mingle with our current volunteers, enjoy light music and refreshments, and watch our "Alternative Award Ceremony", because your name may be there! Look out for special guests, and find out that volunteering is not all about hard work, we have fun too!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Popley Two Residents Association

The hall at Madeira Close has a new look inside. We have decorated throughout assisted by some very willing helpers. New floor tiles and carpeting, new tables making a complete new look.

The flooring tables and other items are with the courtesy of Marnel Explorers pre-school group who now operate in the hall five mornings a week. This project was due to the co-operation between Val Mills and ourselves.

The official opening took place on Wednesday 24th February. The opening was performed by Cllr Jane Frankum who was amazed at the transformation of the interior and commented on how beautiful it looked and praised everyone's hard work. There were many visitors who came too and admired the marvellous range of equipment on show. Our best wishes go to Di Mallett and her team who set up the Marnel Explorers.

Any parent interested is welcome to come along to the hall or phone 477802 to speak to Di about the group.

Line dancing is expected to start very soon, it may well have started by the time this goes to press. If you want to know more phone Helen Lunnon 842983.

BINGO sessions are held on Tuesdays, doors open at 7pm eyes down at 8pm all new members are welcome. Come and enjoy a friendly evening. We have a summer trip out to a seaside resort each year with a game of Bingo on the coach. More information including the hire of the new look hall for your party or meeting (we have very competitive rates) can be obtained from myself Ron Rowe on 417858.

The Popley Matters committee would like to send our congratulations to our printer Andy and his wife on the birth of their first child James Daniel who arrived on the 16th February.

If you have an announcement or message you would like to be included in Popley Matters just write to us or call the Editor on 819924

Popley Festival

Sunday

16th May

John Hunt School

11am-5pm

We will again be hosting this year's Popley Festival. Last year over five thousand people visited the Popley Festival. There will be numerous attractions including the mammoth Car Boot Sale, organised by Dave Phillips and the Boys Brigade, Fair, Tombolas, Raffles, Wet Sponge Throwing, Crockery Smash, Cake Stalls, Beer Tent, Pony Rides, Craft Stalls, Charity Stalls, Casualty Rescue Race, Face Painting and School Displays. The Fire Brigade will be joining us, along with the Pettite School of Dance with Line dancing and Tap displays. There will also be shows from Local Schools, Face Painting, Fifteen foot high puppets and the Boys Brigade will have a mountaineering wall.

There will be lots of entertainment, with all the old favourites and some new ones (you will have to turn up to see what these are!). Food and drink will be on sale.

There are still even more people asking if they can participate so the list could go on.

Anyone interested in putting on an event/stall at The Festival should contact Christine Little at John Hunt School on: 01256 465303

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Students need to bring a Yoga Mat or a Sleeping Bag

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For information/enrolment either contact BCOT on (01256) 306484 (BCOT will be closed Easter weekend) or contact Christine Little at John Hunt of Everest School



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Popley Profile 1998 - 1999 Public Consultation Draft

A Survey of Leisure needs in Popley

Brief summary of key findings:

During the months of October to December 1998, many of you kindly let me pick your brains about what you wanted to see going on in Popley. Here is a brief report to keep you up to date with what was discovered and how.

The survey aimed to identify recreational needs, important issues in the community and how to increase use of existing facilities. The main goal of the survey was to give local residents the opportunity to decide what leisure facilities they wanted. While a Community Development Worker was employed to carry out the profile, the project was managed and guided by local residents.

Methods of research included interviews with people working in Popley, survey research, talking to residents, observational research, and reading other reports. 274 homes were visited, and 144 questionnaires were completed (4.4 % of households in Popley).

The burning issues among the local community tended to revolve around transport (public and private), maintenance of the area, problems with health care and fears about petty crime.

Things people wanted to do socially included informal, drop in style use of community buildings for young and old. There was clear enthusiasm by many wishing to do voluntary work in the community. We recognised a need to overcome the sense of division between areas of Popley.

Most people felt recreational needs were: much more community activities for young people, more sporting facilities/activities, more art and craft activities, more community facilities in Popley Poets and more stimulating activities for older people.

Many felt the key educational needs were expansion of crowded primary schools, more community links with John Hunt Community School to raise its profile, reasonably priced adult education classes in basic office skills, and more facilities for pre school age children.

People felt community centres were not fully used at the moment because of poor publicity, difficulties getting to them, too small a range of different activities, and lack of community spirit.

Further research will be carried out on leisure among 12 -18 year olds and the 50 plus age group, leisure among residents of Popley Poets, education for adults, education for pre-school age children, and sporting needs of Popley.

Thanks to all those who made this work so enjoyable, especially those who made me cups of tea!

The full version of this Public Consultation Draft is available to the public at Popley Fields Community Centre, Melrose Hall and John Hunt School. To add your comments or make any enquiries about the profile.

Please contact:-

Tori Gosling (Community Development Worker)
on 414494 (Popley Fields Centre) or 420676 (Melrose Hall).



POPLEY MATTERS TO US, HOW MUCH DOES IT MATTER TO YOU?

POPLEY NEIGHBOUR CARE OFFERS SHORT TERM HELP TO ANYONE WHO FEELS THEY HAVE NO ONE TO TURN TO FOR ASSISTANCE AND WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY FOR PROFESSIONAL HELP.

IF YOU NEED HELP (e.g. SHOPPING; GARDENING; TIME FOR CHAT ETC.)

OR

YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER WITH POPLEY NEIGHBOUR CARE, PLEASE TELEPHONE *NEIGHBOUR CARE ON BAS. 33 24 24

Neighbourcare is a Registered Charity No. 1067729





POPLEY NEIGHBOURCARE

Popley Neighbourcare offers short-term support to people who are unable to access help for various reasons.

We are looking for more volunteers, willing to offer their help. The help required varies from having a cup of tea and a chat with a lonely person to light help in the garden. Whatever type of help you would like to offer would be welcomed.

If you are a good organiser and have some time to spare, we are looking for a volunteer co-ordinator for Popley. This job is not very time consuming but very rewarding.

Please telephone *Neighbourcare on Bas. 33 24 24 if you would like to offer your help. Thank you.

*NEIGHBOURCARE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY - NUMBER 1067729