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POPLEY MATTERS

June to August 1999

Volume 3 Issue 5

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Special Features
Popley Festival Report
Unused cars!



Closing date to submit articles, adverts etc. (14-08-99)

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

Popley Matters
Melrose Hall
Abbey Road
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG24 9ES

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

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Fortnightly Car Boot Sales are held on Sundays.

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Proceeds to Popley Boys Brigade

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NEWS FROM THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

Since the last Popley Matters, the main event that we have been involved with, is our part in the Popley Festival. We supply the marquee for the Friends of John Hunt's Beer Tent. We have to start getting that up at 8.30am.

We not only had our own marquee to erect, but also set our stall up for the Car Boot, which we also organise. Flag poles, bunting needed putting up as well as getting all the stalls and side shows to get into their position.

Overall, after expenses, we made a profit of £571.95p over the day, and will use part of this to subsidise Junior and Company Camps, and to sponsor the Anchor Boys Fun Day.

Over the next few weeks, we will be into our Summer programme, with many out door games and activities, as well as weekend and full weeks camps.

For more information about your local, active Boys' Brigade Company, please see our main advert, as well as our one about our regular Car Boot Sales. David R Phillips. Company Captain.

AIR SCOUTS

Popley has the only Air Scouts in Basingstoke. They have three sections.

Beaver Scouts (for boys and girls aged 6 to 7) Tuesdays from 5-30 to 6-45
Cub Scouts (for boys and girls aged 8 to 10 ½) Tuesdays from 7-00 to 8-30
(They all meet at Air Scouts HQ at Carpenters Down behind Popley Fields Community Centre)

Scouts meet with 1st Popley Scouts Group
on Fridays from 7 to 9 at St Gabriels Church Hall Tewkesbury Close.
(for boys and girls aged over 10 ½)

New members are always welcome phone Jan Saunders 410514

The Scouts are fund raising so they can build a new custom-built permanent building. They have already applied to the Lottery Charities Board for major help with the building costs. Although the first application was not successful they are preparing another application and are hopeful that this one will be more successful. They have raised £22,000 from donations and fund raising efforts. A wonderful effort but of course they need much more, it is hoped they will be up to £30,000 by the end of this year. They are working together with Basingstoke East District, Basingstoke Scouting Supplies and Popley Guide Association.

Message From the Editor

It has been yet another busy time with lots going on in Popley, there is a report on The Popley Festival. I had a stall myself where I raised money in aid of the blind in memory of my dear Mother. The next stall to me sold delicious cakes and were sold out in about one and a half-hours! There were quite a few more visitors this year as well as more people contributing, report on page 10/11.

The ladies got started with their knitting for Kosovo and are still busy making blankets, they meet at the Friendship Café Melrose Hall on Mondays. If you have time to spare come and join in. You can still help by giving any spare wool you have.

The Air Scouts have been busy fund raising a report is on page 20.

The Community centres have had some good social events they have even been building 15ft high puppets at Melrose Hall, however we are always looking for more ideas. If you have an idea of something different or that you would have an interest in that the centres could put on I know they are always happy to hear them.

John Blairman (just recently retired as a Popley Borough councillor) has been unwell with a stroke and is making progress with a lot of support from Ann, we wish them both well and I know your good wishes go out to them.

Peter (Pixie) Johnson passed away and he will be missed especially on Mondays when he used to come to the Friendship Café.

Brenda Williams the treasurer of the Popley Two Residents Association sadly passed away after an illness so patiently borne, our sympathies go to George and the family.

I wonder if there are any volunteers to help deliver the Popley Matters even to deliver a few is a help as we are all unpaid amateurs and volunteers there is always a need for help of any kind. Maybe you would like to write an article for one of the editions.

If you have any Christmas events (I wonder if I am the first to mention it for this year) that you would like to promote please let us know and we will do our best to advertise it for you at a most reasonable cost. This magazine is entirely funded by its advertisements so if you know of anyone that would like to advertise then ask them to phone us.

I hope we all have a good, warm and happy Summer and you all enjoy your holidays. Jane Frankum (Editor)

Your Popley Matters Team are always looking for ideas/ comments or concerns of you the people of Popley. We need the help of Popley people to keep us *fully* informed. Fill in the box below and we will get back to you.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

Ideas/Comments _____

Return to: **Editor, Popley Matters,**
Melrose Hall, Abbey Rd. ☎ 420676.

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor: Why do people seem earth they can concentrate or hear not to care and just dump all sorts the other traffic.

of rubbish, from beds to washing machines, furniture and all manor of things? I just call the Council and they remove it free of charge.

Editor; The number to ring is 845474 and all rubbish except garden waste will be taken away. If you do require to have garden waste removed you can buy a bag at 85p from the Council and put it by your normal bin and they will take it away.

Editor; This is in the same category as the previous letter and is just as annoying and potentially dangerous. I would treat in the same way as the letter before.

Dear Editor: Why in the last election was there no information from all the political parties. They say that they want people to use their vote but how can we when we don't have enough information to make our choice.

Editor, There were several letters on this subject. I cannot speak for all parties but I do agree that we should use the hard fought for democratic vote and vote in all elections. On your behalf I have asked our secretary to write to the political parties and if we get answers we will print them in the next issue of Popley Matters.

Dear Editor: Can you tell me what use a car alarm is other than to annoy and keep you awake at night. The alarms seem to come to life at night and blasts out for hours at a time waking everyone except the owner. It is impossible to leave your bedroom window open at night.

Editor; I can sympathise with you we all seem to suffer and I can only advise you to call the police or if it persists then phone the noise officer at the Council on 845474

Dear Editor: Here we go again as soon as the warm weather comes some car drivers wind down their windows and put the volume of music (if you can call it that) up to its maximum. The constant thud of the beat startles humans and animals alike. I also wonder how on

Editors Note We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we can not accept letters that are sent anonymously.

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

July 16th 7-30pm at Popley Fields (Carpenters Down)

Are you fed up with all the crime, nuisance, vandalism, harassment and abuse in Popley? Do you want to know what you can do to stop it? Come to the Popley Forum and discuss it with the Community Safety Officer PC Paul Watson

Is parking becoming a chore in Popley? All the unused cars, caravans and wrecks driving you to despair. Come to the Popley Forum and talk it over with the Council Officer.

Stagecoach have been invited back, will they send a representative to Popley? Are they going to do anything about the 42/43 bus route? What about the poor service especially as we have yet another fare increase starting this month!

Come to the Popley Forum and see what their answers are.

We have a new "local" Bobby as PC Page has left come and meet the new Bobby at the Popley Forum.

Date Thursday 16th June

Time 7:30pm

Place Popley Fields

Only if we speak out we will be heard.

If you have difficulty in getting there then phone 819924 and we will endeavour to get you there.

POPLEY HISTORY

When I am asked what history there is attached to Popley, I have to think very deep. For those who moved into the area in the early days of development in the 1960's and with children, who have grown up and possibly married, those early beginnings have already become history. What do we know about the area going back over 1500 years?

Before there was such a place as Popley, the area was adjoining the manor of Chineham, which was the fort of Hugh de Port, after the time of King Edward the Confessor. The manor was in existence until the 18th century, eventually being purchased in the last century by Lord Bolton. The trees which line the green along Carpenters Down Road are part of the Chineham estate and at one time were part of Windsor Forest, which stretched as far west as Kingsclere.

The early people of Chineham would have known the pastures of Popley, so would Lord St John who held the manor of Old Basing and gave his name to Sherborne St John. People are surprised that Sherborne Church is dedicated to Andrew and not St John, the latter not referring to an apostle but to the Lord of the manor of Old Basing, which included Sherborne St John.

Those who worshipped at Pamber Priory would have most certainly known what is today, Popley. It is most certain also that the Roman Warriors from Silchester would have wandered over Popley Fields. The area must have also seen something of the Civil War with Royal reinforcements having trundled along the Reading Road by Chineham Park. The area would have also seen something of Oliver Cromwell's Calvary moving up to add support to the onslaught the great house suffered. For these were held in readiness at Rooksdown, which is mentioned in early history. They would have galloped across open country. Some of the skirmishes during the siege reached as far as Popley. One of the roads on the Daneshill Industrial Estate, not far from Carpenters Down, is named after Onslow, who had his own regiment in Cromwell's army, which attacked Basing House.

Perhaps one day there may be an archaeological dig at Popley what that would reveal is anyone's guess!

Arthur Attwood

TREASURE ISLAND PLAYGROUP

If you are looking for a playgroup with more than 20 years experience and well known reputation in the Popley area for your child, Treasure Island Playgroup is ideal for you. We are situated in Popley Fields Community Centre and we have places available in September. Carol and her qualified team would like to invite all parents and children to come along to have a look around at any time. Come and see how we have earned our excellent reputation whilst encouraging your child's development in a safe and fun environment.

We are open Monday to Friday mornings 9.30 until 12.00 and Monday and Thursday afternoons 12.30 until 3.00 during term time, or parents can give us a call to find out any further information call Carol or Tracey on telephone number 414014.

Children must be 2 years and 9 months of age to begin at Playgroup but should they be younger we can add them to our waiting list.



In the meantime you may like to bring your child along to our Parent and Toddler Group. You and your child will make new friends. Parents/Carers and children meet each Thursday mornings in term time between 10.00 and 11.30 ALL are welcome. We look forward to seeing you all.



Registered Charity Number 282848

Urgently required
Committee Members/Helpers for Popley Matters
Help required from delivery to design and reporting
Please Contact the Editor: Jane Frankum 405 Abbey Road,
or Telephone 819924



MELROSE COMMUNITY HALL

Coffee Mornings & Table Top Sales

In with our normal Monday and Thursday Coffee Mornings, we have been doing second hand sales. This is to raise money for the centre, so please come along have a tea and chat and see if there is anything you need and don't forget Ann is still looking for knitters for Kosovo (wool supplied). If you have any spare wool we would be very grateful. Maybe you can't make the coffee mornings but would still like to knit please phone the Melrose Hall on 420676

Story Telling Club

This is proving very popular, why don't you come along and have a listen or a chat with others and recall your youth and younger years. The next one is on Friday 18th June 2.30pm – 4pm and again on Friday 16th July 2.30pm – 4pm Everyone is welcome have a cuppa and a chat?

Tuesday Bingo

Our Tuesday afternoon Bingo is for all ages over 18 is still going strong, new members are always welcome to come along to our friendly game with tea and biscuits.

Monday Friendship Café

Just want a chat with a friendly face, then come along to our Friendship Café on Mondays at 2.30pm. Again there's no age limit.

On Monday 28th June at 7.30pm in the Melrose Hall we are holding our AGM, everyone is welcome members and non-members alike. We need your help and backing. This hall is for you, your family and your children please join and give your support. Perhaps you have ideas for events or functions that we could put on.

Registered Charity Number 1044547

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



☎ 414014



Registered Charity No. 282848



The Boys Brigade

6th Basingstoke (Popley) coy.

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Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:15pm
ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14

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
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Popley Two Residents Association (Madeira Hall)

Sadly we have lost a valuable member of our community, Brenda Williams who was our treasurer for a number of years. Brenda passed away on April 26th. Brenda joined us in 1984 when she took up the leadership of our playgroup. Brenda willingly turned her hand to anything that was asked of her from organising Fetes, Bazaars, day trips, selling tickets and helping with the Bingo. Brenda will be sorely missed, her kind will not be easily replaced. Our deepest sympathy has been extended to her husband George and family.

We have had no response to our appeal for youth club leaders or assistants so if there is anyone out there interested please contact me Ron Rowe on 417858

The Marnel Explorers is continuing to progress nicely. The children are having a great time and learning many skills at the same time.

The Bingo sessions are still thriving but it would be nice to see a few more of the Popley community coming along for an evening of "great excitement" at the prospect of winning a little cash and more importantly winning new friends. Don't let the title Popley Two Residents put you off the Bingo and hall is for everyone. Why not come along on Tuesdays, doors open at 7pm and the game starts at 8pm. Put a tape in the video and record your favourite "soap", come and enjoy a night out.

Madeira Hall is available for hire for all kinds of functions and has just recently been refurbished and decorated for more information ring me Ron Rowe on 417858



POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Saturday 12 th June	Family B B Q & Disco
Friday 25 th June	Quiz Night 8pm
Sunday 22 nd August	Family B B Q & Disco
Monday 30 th August Bank Holiday	Youth disco

LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS ON ALL THE ABOVE

POPLEY FIELDS FUN DAY SUNDAY 18TH JULY

There will be a Fun Fair, Face Painting, Fire Engine, Police Bus, Crockery Smash, Bouncy Castle, Sponge Throwing, Tombola, Giant Raffle with lots of super prizes and lots more. Refreshments will be on sale. There will be something there for old and young alike.

NEW YEARS EVE MILLENNIUM FAMILY DISCO

Tickets will go on sale on the 1st July for our Millennium New Years Eve Family Disco, the price will include buffet. The tickets will only be available from the centre and the number of tickets available are limited, due to the building's capacity. First come first served and regrettably we will be unable to sell tickets on the night. Don't miss what will be a great night. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment

Don't forget both Popley Fields and Melrose Centre are available for hire for Weddings, Parties, Children's parties and other occasions for Popley Fields Phone 441494 for Melrose Hall phone 420676

LEISURE TIME

THURSDAY 29TH JULY 2PM – 5PM
TEA DANCE AT THE ANVIL £2.00
TRANSPORT AVAILABLE COST £1.50
RING JULIE BAS 473698



FRIDAY 30TH JULY COACH TRIP TO THE
ISLE OF WIGHT £7.00 NOT INCL OF
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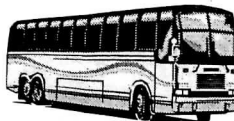
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FRIDAY 13TH AUGUST COACH TRIP TO
WEYMOUTH £7.00 RING JULIE 473698
OR 441494



THE ABOVE COACH TRIPS LEAVE FROM
POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE
CARPENTERS DOWN POPLEY
TEL NUMBER 441494



UNUSED VEHICLES

The amount of disused and unused vehicles that are left parked on the whole of the Popley area is an eyesore and worse than that, a danger, particularly to our children. Many of the cars are smashed in or just left stripped out as some inconsiderate people just want parts and don't care what happens to the dangerous shell that is left.

Luckily not everyone is so thoughtless. The cost for removal can be for £20 or even FREE. If you own and can prove ownership of the vehicle and you receive a seven-day notice just call the Council within those seven days and then you can give the Council permission to arrange for free removal.

If you buy a car just to take the parts you need why not call a scrap dealer who makes a modest charge of about £20 to take the remains away. Is a child's life not worth more than just £20. After all you must have saved many times that amount in salvaged parts. Children play in the wrecks would you like it on your conscience that a child was badly hurt because you had just dumped a car and not cared what happened.



Parking spaces are very short is it right or fair that these useless wrecks are taking up precious space? Can you honestly say that you really are "working" on it? If you want any more details phone the Council on 844844 or myself Jane Frankum on 819924

ANN & JOHN BLAIRMAN RETIRE

Ann and John have been associated with Popley for more than 12 years, firstly Ann was and still is a governor of John Hunt School and Marnel Infants. Ann became a Popley Councillor 11 years ago followed the next year by John. John is also governor at Marnel and Merton Schools.

There have been many changes in Popley since they became Councillors from the Paddling pool in Chineham Park to the play areas by Marnel School, Pershore Rd and Tintern Close, The new Popley Fields Centre and Melrose Hall and some traffic calming. Ann was in at the very beginning with the Popley Festival and John was in at the forefront of the beginning of Popley Matters when it first got started in 1991.

It is well known how much they love and support animal causes and especially their four rescue Spaniels.

Although they have both retired they hope to keep their involvement in Popley and stay in contact with the many good friends they have made over the years. I know you join me in thanking them for all their efforts and wish them well for the future.

The Millennium Garden Project

The Millennium Garden Project in Popley Poets is moving slowly but surely and George has raised the first £200 together with the promise of £800 from the Council towards plants and shrubs it makes the first thousand of course much more is needed for this brilliant idea. There will be a time capsule with items and a video to show what life was like in 2000 will be buried in amongst the shrubs and plants.

The application for Charity status is well advanced and it looks a certainty to be granted. With the help of Charity status a form for Lottery funding is being processed. AWE have promised to send some apprentices to design and make the centrepiece once the style has been chosen by the committee.

The biggest disappointment is with the apathy shown by the companies of Basingstoke who have shown no interest or offers of donations, so if you know anyone who would be willing to help in this worthwhile project then please phone George Potton on 329186.

Road Safety and Parking

The council are looking into the issues brought up at the Popley Forum meeting on February 16th at Melrose Hall and in light of the 353 signature petition that was presented to the full Council meeting. At the next Traffic and Construction meeting proposals to improve the safety in Abbey Road will be presented. The plan includes the moving of the bus stop and narrowing of the road to the side of the shops in Abbey Road. On close examination of this proposal Iris King, Councillor Paul Frankum and myself Councillor Jane Frankum felt that it did not really address the issue that we had explained and we have asked the officer Roger Archer Reeves to look again at the problem. I hope you come to the Popley Forum meeting on 16th June where Roger will come and talk to us about our problems in the Popley area

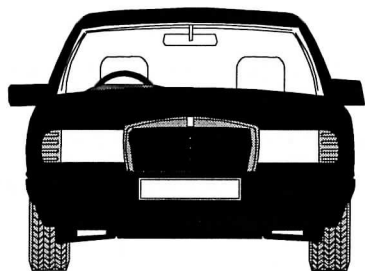
We are still trying to get double yellow lines at the T-junction as you leave the shops. We have been monitoring other areas in Popley and other areas where there are double yellow lines and we have noted that the lines are observed. There will be a fuller report at the Popley Forum Meeting on June 16 where Roger Archer Reeves the traffic officer of the Council will come and give us an update and explain the issues and hopefully a way forward for future parking. Popley.

Talking News for the Partially Sighted

Are you partially sighted or registered blind and would like to hear Popley Matters on tape. You don't have to be registered blind just a signature from an optician or doctor to say you have difficulty to see to read and we can arrange for a free tape to be sent to you. We can even arrange for the Basingstoke Gazette and local news to be put on tape for you. All you need is to get in touch with me at 405 Abbey Road, Popley RG24 9EL or phone me on 819924

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Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

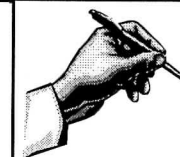
Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone:

Graham and Barbara on
(01256) 410715

New Testament Church of God



Ron Gains who is an accomplished local writer and has had his works published is starting a writer's circle for people of all abilities. Do you just enjoy writing or would you like to see your stories, articles or poetry published and in print then why not join the circle.

The circle is for all ages.

Ron's previous circle won competitions and some well known writers came to help them.

For more information ring Ron on 325922



POPLEY FESTIVAL

Once again what a wonderful day for the sixth Popley Festival despite a few small hiccup's (we hope you didn't even notice). The weather was a bit cooler than we have been used to but never the less it was warm and dry. Again well over 6000 visitors came to the now well known Popley Festival on the site of John Hunt of Everest School.

There was so much going on that it was nearly impossible to see it all. Many stalls were sold out very early and all the charities and fund raising groups reported another successful year for their stalls.

In the arena were displays from Shopmobility and local Martial Arts teams, Earlier there was a Disco from the pupils of John Hunt School and Axis a local band also performed.

The Walls fun fair attracted a lot of people but I was not one of the riders brave enough to have a go on the thrilling white-knuckle rides. The many boot sale stalls sold every thing you could think of and there were some lovely plants for the garden too. I didn't realise we had so many talented people till I saw the "craft stalls".

The varied weather didn't put people off the wet sponge throwing and many people managed to get soaked. The smashing of crockery was heard for some distance away and there was very little crockery left by the end of the day. 15-foot high puppets were paraded around, these were made by the youth of Popley at Melrose Hall. We hope to see them again, it was obvious that a lot of work had gone into their creation. The Guides had their Popcorn machine busy all day. The go-kart's were well used. A chance to shoot at a goal was there for the football fanatics. The

wild birds of prey were just beautiful and many people were able to hold them including a gorgeous owl. Again the barbecue stalls sold out quite early despite going for more supplies.

There were many trade stalls including the Police, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, the Fire Service, Scouts, Boys Brigade and so many more. Kestrel Radio came too and handed out their car stickers.

The Mayor Derek Mirfin accompanied by the Mayoress were very impressed with the Popley Festival and the resilience, talent and generosity of the Popley people and the Mayor spent some time walking around the festival and talking to the people and visitors who came.

The beer tent was busy. It was so pleasant to hear everyone say that they had really enjoyed themselves and importantly lots of funds were raised for the charities in and around Basingstoke. I don't know how we will top it next year but work will begin almost immediately. If you have any ideas or would like to help just let us know and we will gladly put your name forward.

Members of the committee welcomed other organisations who were so impressed that they are talking of organising similar events in their own areas. Popley Festival set out to increase the awareness of Popley and to make a fun event that all could enjoy for free I am sure you would agree that this has been well achieved by all. (Reporters Jane Frankum, Dave Phillips and Kate Lomas)

We hope to see you all next year.