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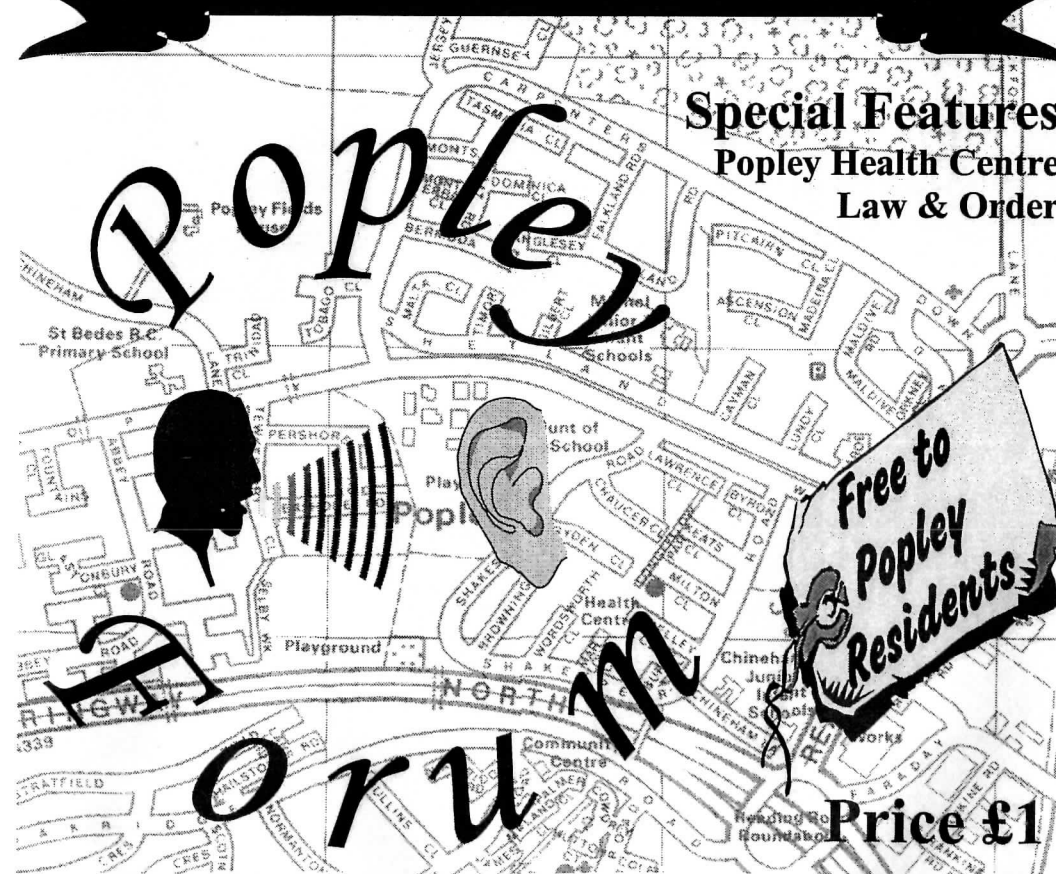
POPLLEY MATTERS

September to November 1999

Volume 3 Issue 6

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Special Features
Popley Health Centre
Law & Order



Closing date to submit articles etc. (12-11-99); Adverts (5-11-99)

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You can keep up with what is happening in Popley by looking at Popley on line at www.basingstoke.org.uk/popley

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

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Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG24 9ES

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BOYS' BRIGADE NEWS

THE BOYS HAVE ENJOYED A SUMMER, FULL OF ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND OUTINGS OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS.

The Junior section (aged 8-10 1/2) held their weekend camp at Brockenhurst, in the New Forest. They had a great time of fun fellowship, sports and activities, including a swim in the outdoor pool at Lymington.

Company section annual camp was at Pembry country Park in South Wales. A brilliant week for sun, which included mountain biking, swimming (the beach was 9 miles long), sports activities and a day visit to Oakwood theme Park, the biggest and best in Wales, also included was a toboggan run and orienteering plus lots more.

Boys Brigade meetings start in September and there are a few vacancies for 8-14yrs but there is a waiting list for other ages. See our advert for any other details Page.



Basingstoke Air Scouts News

We will be holding a late Summer Fete at the Marnel Bowling Club ground, Carpenters Down (rear of Popley Fields Community Centre) **on Sunday 18th September at 1pm**

Do Come Along and support us, all monies raised will go for the new scout HQ if you have any items we could use for Tombola prizes or any thing that you no longer want, please contact Jan Saunders 01256 410514 after 6pm for collection. (Jan Saunders Group Scout Leader)

The Princes Trust at Popley Fields 13th September

Everyone who joins takes part by joining a team of about 15 people. A trained team leader leads you in an action-packed challenging 12-week programme. You have team building activities, an outdoor residential week, work experience and team projects in the community. And YOU choose your own projects in the community.

If you are between 16-25 you can take part whether you are in work or not.

How much does it cost you, **NOTHING** because if you are unemployed the Government funds you and if you're in work your employer does after all you would both benefit.

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Phone Nick Henshaw for more information on 0765 4243347

Message From the Editor

It has been an extremely hot and busy summer with lots of different activities and issues for the whole of Popley. There have been two major issues, one that came from the last Popley Forum, a very interesting and lively meeting at Popley Fields and the other a planning issue to do with the siting of the much needed Popley/Oakridge medical centre.

The first problem was soundly brought to our attention by the residents of Popley Poets who have been getting increasingly frustrated with the increase in crime and nuisance from some unruly people, it was affecting their whole lives. Meetings were set up and there was another extra Popley Forum meeting in Dryden Hall to enable us all to get together to find a way forward. The new beat sergeant Julie Young and two of Popley's beat officers (Andy Oliver and Paul McCarty), Pat Langley from John Hunt School, Dr Lynette Moss, Linda Phillips from Oakfern, three Borough Councillors six committee members and fifty concerned residents came and were all able to discuss and come up with some excellent ideas on how we could all progress.

The police have increased their profile on the estate and are looking for people who would like to join the many residents who put their names down to become part of Neighbourhood Watch. If you are interested then please phone 473111 Basingstoke Police station and ask to speak to a Popley Beat Bobbie. If we all stick together then we can all make a difference and make Popley an even better place to live. Full report inside on page 7. The police are going to hold regular fortnightly surgeries read inside for more details.

The much needed Medical Centre was another project the people of Popley got involved in, Gillian Miller and Kim Taylor started a petition and spoke of their concerns to the Development Sub Control Committee at their meeting at the Civic Offices. Their very real concern was that the Centre was to be on the only flat playing land that the parents could watch their children. Nobody denied that the centre is long overdue and it is about time that we had a good state of the art building, to help to look after our health needs. Full report inside on page 13.

The next issue is our Christmas/Millennium and we would love to have your anecdotes of Popley.

Stop Press: The residents hope at the meeting of the Development Control on 22nd September it will be decided that the new medical centre will be built by Shakespeare Road moving it over slightly still leaving plenty of room for the children to play on. Jane Frankum (Editor)

Course Available at Four Lanes Centre this Autumn

Course Name	Course Start	Day	Weeks	Time	Fees	Exam Reg
Practical Crafts (NCFE7880)						
Patchwork/Soft Furnishing Level 1	RYE81	16/09/99 THURS	30	10:00-12:00	£68.00	18.00 R
Patchwork/Soft Furnishing Level 2	RYE82	16/09/99 THURS	30	10:00-12:00	£68.00	18.00 R
3D Decoupage Level 1	RYE83	14/09/99 TUES	30	10:00-12:00	£68.00	18.00 R
General Interest						
St John's Life Saver Baby & Child Resuscitation	XED104	06/10/99 WED	1	9:30-2:00	£16.00	
St John's Life Saver (2 Part course)	XED105	10/11/99 WED	2	9:30-2:00	£32.00	
		17/11/99 WED		9:30-2:00		
Dressmaking	XEE101	15/09/99 WED	10	10:00-12:00	£48.00	
Fresh Xmas Wreaths and Decorations	XEE102	02/11/99 TUES	5	7:00-9:00	£24.00	
Saturday Workshops						
Baby Massage (3 to 12 Months)	XED108	23/10/99 SAT	1	10:00-12:00	£5.00	
Baby Massage (3 to 12 Months)	XED109	27/11/99 SAT	1	10:00-12:00	£5.00	
How to make the best of yourself (image/Colour Analysis)	XED107	13/11/99 SAT	1	10:00-3:00	£2.00	
Tiebacks and Tassels	XEE110	13/11/99 SAT	1	10:00-3:00	£25.00	
Healing Benefits of Aloe Vera	XED106	23/10/99 SAT	1	10:00-3:00	£25.00	
Graphology (using handwriting to understand relationships)	XEC103	23/10/99 SAT	1	10:00-3:00	£25.00	

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We also operate an extensive day excursion programme to many places of interest throughout the year with local Popley pick ups. There are also a limited number of weekend breaks and all week holiday tours available.

**Full details and bookings available at the
tourist information centre, Willis museum.
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WHAT'S ON AT MELROSE HALL AND POPEY FIELDS CENTRE

Melrose Hall

Monday

9.30am – noon Coffee Morning/Jumble Sales
2.30pm – 4.30pm Friendship Café

Tuesday

2pm – 4pm Over 18 Bingo
4.30pm – 9.30pm Petite School of Dance

Wednesday

9.30am – 11.30am Popley Little People
3.45 – 7pm Petite School of Dance
7pm – 9pm Adventure Rangers

Thursday

9.30am – 12.30pm Coffee Morning/Jumble Sale
7pm – 9pm Barons Kick Boxing

Friday

9.30am – 2.30pm Loddon Alliance Network Club
Story Telling Friday afternoon once a month (Look out for posters)
6.30pm – 9pm Church Youth Club Junior & Senior

Saturday

9.30am – 11.30am Petite School of Dance

Sunday

10am – 1pm Melrose Christian Fellowship
5.30pm – 6.30pm Barons KickBoxing

Popley Fields

9.30am – noon Treasure Island Playschool

6.30pm – 8pm Zen Kyo Shin Jujitsu Aikido

9.30am noon Treasure Island Playschool

6.30pm 8pm Junior Kick Boxing

6.30pm – 8pm Rosemary Connelly Class

9.30am – noon Treasure Island Playschool

8pm – 10pm Line Dancing

9.30 – noon Treasure Island Playschool

12.30 – 3pm Treasure Island Play School

1.15pm – 3.15pm Embroiders Guild (Every 3rd Thursday of the month)

7pm – 8pm American Line Dancing

8.15pm – 9.45pm Rosemary Connelly Class

9.30am – noon Treasure Island Playschool

9.30am – 12.30pm Knitability

1st & 3rd Friday of the month

2pm – 4pm Senior Citizens Bingo Club

10.30am – 12.30pm New Testament Church of God

For more information or to hire the hall ring 420676

For more information or to hire the centre or a room ring 414494

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Influenza is a viral disease causing headache, a high temperature and aching all over. This can be all, but in people that have other illnesses like chronic chest and heart problems, secondary bacterial infections may occur. These can lead to pneumonia and bronchitis, which can kill. Vaccination is the answer.

If you have asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, chest problems, heart disease, chronic heart failure, diabetes, long standing kidney disease or poor immunity due to disease or treatment and for those who are over 75 or in long term residential care. You are recommended to be vaccinated annually. This will be available in your local surgery from early November. The virus changes yearly so you need to be vaccinated every year.

MENINGITIS

This is a bacterial infection that causes inflammation of the lining of the brain, septicaemia and sometimes even death in young people. It is usually associated with high temperature, a characteristic rash of tiny dark red spots, which do not fade away when pressure is applied using the base of a glass. You could also notice aversion to light or a stiff neck. In the early stages it is difficult to tell from the flu.

There are three types A, B and C. The most common cause of death in England is C.

A new vaccine has been developed and is due out in the Autumn it will be offered to all new babies at the same time as their triple and polio vaccines. Older children will be vaccinated as the supplies become available. College entrants will be offered immunisation in September.

Ask your local GP for information, on immunisation for type C it probably will give immunity lasting lifelong.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY CARE GROUP (NHPCG)

The Government recognises the impact of health on people due to social conditions such as unemployment, low pay and poor housing. In an attempt to address the problems, it has established Primary Care Groups across England bringing together those responsible for health and social care to plan and buy health services on behalf of their local communities.

Our local NHPCG is at Parklands Hospital and covers from Liphook and Bordon to Alton, Basingstoke, and Tadley and surrounding villages.

There are 13 committee members and they are publicly accountable for their actions. Public meetings are held on the second Friday of each month.

For further information phone Clare Gibson 376392.

POPLEY HISTORY

Popley, which has been in existence for some forty years, obviously has a limited history. Before the houses there were fields, woods and rich arable lands. It is part of our beautiful county of Hampshire with much to commend for people leaving the hustle and bustle of London and at one time the dreadful smog. When Lord Bolton was planning to develop his land North of Basingstoke and at Chineham, the estate agents prospectus praised the beauty of the landscape. Mention was made that from the high ground, where Oakridge Towers have been built, one could see Caversham Heights in Oxfordshire beyond Reading. Also the rising ground approaching Guildford known as the Hog's Back. Lord Bolton did not include what is now the Popley area in his development plans.

Those early settlers at Popley, in the Popley Poets area comprising of such places as Longfellow Parade, Dryden Close, where the first St Gabriel's Church was in a caravan, Shakespeare Road, etc, with the immediate surrounds still fields had the best of the development. In a short while other houses had sprung up to blot out the view of the countryside literally on their doorstep. What a contrast for those folk from London, who lived among buildings and sub-standard housing.

This brings me to a problem that has been highlighted, that is, vandalism in Popley. I must emphasise that this is no worse than can be found on any of our estates. By far, the many families living in Popley are lovely people and it is a shame that isolated acts of vandalism should give Popley a bad name. I have many friends in Popley who have made and are making valuable contributions to their particular areas, to make them pleasant places in which to reside.

Unfortunately, there were people living in the old town of Basingstoke who looked down with disdain on Basingstoke's new citizens. This could only be put down to ignorance for the early settlers under the Overspill scheme did much to create a community. They made the Community centres real meeting places where new friends were to be made. May the generous spirit of those first pioneers at Popley live on among the present and future population

ARTHUR ATTWOOD (Mr Basingstoke)



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Refreshments will be provided

Alternatively call Christine Vincent on 01256 306249 for further information



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MELROSE COMMUNITY HALL

Registered Charity Number 1044547

Melrose Community Association (MCA) AGM 28th June

On Monday 28th June, Iris King was elected Chair of the MCA for the Millennium year; Jenny Bailey as Vice-Chair, Sue King as Treasurer and Kate Lomas as Secretary. Thanks to all of you who turned up and also welcome to our new committee members. Thank you Iris for standing once again and for all the work you do for the community.

Melrose Hall Fund Raising

Interested in being a Melrose Mate? We are looking for people to help at Car Boot Sales. Are you a DIY enthusiast? We need gardeners, carpenters and painters. For information call us at the centre on 420676. Having a clear out? We are looking for jumble, books, jigsaws, or even small items of furniture, to sell so we can raise funds for the hall. We are self-funding so please help us to help YOU the Community.

Story Telling Club

Thanks go to Irene Winter, for taking over the running of this interesting club. The next one is on Friday 17th September 2:30pm – 4pm in the hall. Future dates are Friday 15th October and Friday 19th November 2:30pm – 4pm. Recall your younger days, reminisce on the exploits you used to get up to. The younger generation doesn't know what it was like and how much fun was had. Share with others your memories, thoughts and perhaps some escapades. (If you need transport ring Irene Winter on 415670)

18 Plus Bingo

We would like to see lots more faces along to our Tuesday Afternoon Bingo 2pm – 4pm. Have a game of Bingo, a chat and a cup of tea. If you are over 18 then you are more than welcome. Make new friends and maybe even meet some old ones.

Melrose Hall and Popley Fields Centre are available to hire for Weddings, Parties, and Christenings etc. Melrose Hall ring 420676 Popley Fields Centre ring 414494

Treasure Island Play Group

At

Popley Fields

Community Centre

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

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

Parents & Toddler Group

For More Information

Phone



 414014



Registered Charity No. 282848



The Boys' Brigade

6th Basingstoke (Popley) coy.

Anchor Boys Aged 5½yrs-8yrs

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

ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14

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COURSES AVAILABLE AT JOHN HUNT OF EVEREST THIS AUTUMN

Course Name	Course Start	Day	Weeks	Time	Fees	Mats	Exam/Reg
Practical Crafts (NCFE7880)							
Beadwork Level 1	RYL17	15/09/99 WED	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		18.00 R
Garden Design Level 1	RYL22	14/09/99 TUES	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		18.00 R
Sculpture, Life Figure Level 1	RYL23	15/09/99 WED	20	7:00-9:00	£68.00	£13.00	18.00 R
						model fee	
Sculpture, Life Figure Level 2	RYL24	15/09/99 WED	20	7:00-9:00	£68.00	£13.00	18.00 R
						model fee	
Sculpture Interpretation of the Human Figure Level 1	RYL28	16/09/99 THURS	20	7:00-9:00	£68.00	£13.00	18.00 R
						model fee	
Sculpture Interpretation of the Human Figure Level 2	RYL29	16/09/99 THURS	20	7:00-9:00	£68.00	£13.00	18.00 R
						model fee	
NCFE Professional Cake Decorating Intermediate	RYL25	15/09/99 WED	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		27.00 R
Languages							
Spanish Level 1	RYL19	16/09/99 THURS	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		13.00 R
Spanish Level 2	RYL14	14/09/99 TUES	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		13.00 R
Italian Level 1	RYL15	15/09/99 WED	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		13.00 R
French Level 1	RYL18	14/09/99 TUES	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		13.00 R
Dutch Level 1	RYL20	15/09/99 WED	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		13.00 R
Dutch Level 3	RYL21	14/09/99 TUES	30	7:00-9:00	£68.00		13.00 R
OTHER QUALIFICATIONS							
GCSE English	RYL16	16/09/99 THURS	30	7:00-9:00	FREE		17.00 E
GCSE Mathematics	RYL26	15/09/99 WED	30	7:00-9:00	FREE		17.00 E
GCSE Art	RYL27	14/09/99 TUES	30	7:00-9:00	FREE	£10.00	17.00 E
GENERAL INTEREST							
Aromatherapy & Massage	XLD103	13/09/99 MON	5	7:00-9:00	£24.00		
Rock & Roll Dancing	XLD111	15/09/99 WED	10	7:00-9:00	£24.00		
Family History	XLC107	14/09/99 TUES	10	7:00-9:00	£48.00		
Bridge for Beginners	XLD110	14/09/99 TUES	10	7:00-9:00	£48.00		
Changing Rooms	XLE110	16/09/99 THURS	5	7:00-9:00	£24.00		
Pottery for Fun	XLE112	15/09/99 WED	10	7:00-9:00	£48.00		
Flower Arranging for Fun	XLE111	15/09/99 WED	5	7:00-9:00	£24.00		
Mediterranean Cookery	XLE113	14/09/99 TUES	5	7:00-9:00	£24.00		
Creative Writing	XLC108	15/09/99 WED	10	7:00-9:00	£48.00		
10 Famous Artists	XLE109	16/09/99 THURS	10	7:00-9:00	£48.00	£5.00	



Telephone Jo Attridge 306347
For more information or to book a course



Forthcoming Events

FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER – QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER – RACE NIGHT

NOVEMBER – CHILDREN IN NEED EVENING
(LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS)

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR
NEW YEARS EVE
MILLENNIUM FANCY DRESS DANCE

(Tickets will not be available either on the night or after the end of October)

POPLEY FIELDS FUN DAY

18th July and once again the weather was good to us and it was one of the hottest days of the year, scores of people came out to support us. Luckily no one suffered too much from the heat especially if you went on the wet sponge throwing.

The fair offered many thrills and spills. The Police brought their display bus and there was face-painting, crockery smashing, BBQ and lots of games and competitions like name the bear guess the rabbit's birthday and pick a duck. Cold drinks were readily purchased, as the day got hotter.

The Deputy Mayor Marilyn Tucker drew our Prize Draw (list of prize winners available in the Centre). The whole day was long and exhausting to all the helpers but very rewarding and a big THANK YOU to all who helped, not just on the day but in the organising and build up to the successful day.

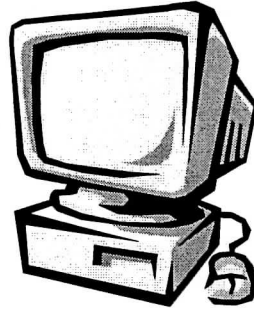
See you all next year!

NEW CLASSES AT POPLEY FIELDS

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Popley, BASINGSTOKE, RG24 9AE

COMPUTER COURSE FREE

City & Guilds Information Technology
14 Week Course, 9am-3-30 pm
Monday to Friday

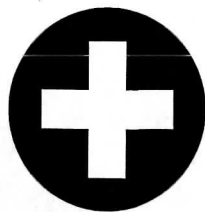


**Computers
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RSA Computer Literacy and
Information Technology
Saturday 9-30am-11-30am, 18 weeks
Tuesday 7-00pm-9pm, 18 Weeks

Computing for Terrified Beginners
Thursday 7-00pm-9-00pm, 10 Weeks

DON'T DELAY BOOK TODAY!!



FIRST AID

St Johns Ambulance First Aid Certificate
Tuesday 7-00-9-00 11 Weeks

For more information telephone Richard Aldworth Community School on
01256 473698 during the school day. 6-30-9-30pm weekday evenings
or 9-00am 12-30pm Saturdays.



POLICE SURGERIES

Your local Beat Officers are coming out to meet you and talk to you in your local Community Centres, giving you all the opportunity to talk over with them any Law and Order issues, or related concerns that you might have. Get to know them, let them know we are serious about caring for the community we live in. If you do have a problem, you will have this chance to talk to them on a one-to-one basis and in confidence. Don't wait until it is too late take the opportunity now.

Monday 20th September 1pm – 3pm Dryden Hall Popley Poets
Tuesday 5th October 1pm – 3pm Maderia Hall Popley Islands
Monday 18th October 7pm – 9pm Popley Fields Community Centre
Monday 1st November 7pm – 9pm Melrose Hall Popley Abbeys

Your Beat Officers are here to help us, so in return let us assist them in their work and make Popley the best place it can be.

The Police are holding these surgeries on a fortnightly basis, so come along and together we can ensure that we make this a successful venture for all concerned.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Do **YOU** want to make a difference and make Popley a better safer and more peaceful place to live?

Are **YOU** fed up of crime and nuisance in **YOUR** area?
Do **YOU** feel alone and unable to do anything about it?

Why not join **YOUR** neighbours and join Neighbourhood Watch?

All it takes to make the first move is to phone 473111 and ask to speak to a local Popley Beat Bobby or attend the Police Surgeries

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

Or take a look at the web site at www.mersinet.co.uk

Pat Langley The New Business Manager for John Hunt School

This is a new post and I want to develop the community use in the school. You will have read in this Popley Matters some of the activities we already do and I am always glad to hear of ideas that you have to create new activities and clubs.

We have a vast amount of educational courses and sports clubs for all ages and abilities but if the one you want is not there then let me know. I have already met lots of the people of Popley young and old alike. There is thriving senior citizens Lunch Club but we still have vacancies, if you are interested get in touch.

In conjunction with Popley Matters we are going to start a youth section so that we can keep everyone in touch with some of the excellent things that our youth do. For instance did you know that some of our pupils won a prize in a Business Challenge for the best product, a dog coat to keep dogs warm in winter and cool in summer. The pupils also put on a successful production called "Floodgates" at the Haymarket Theatre.

To contact me phone 465303 please leave a message if I am not in and I will always return your call.



Community Health Council

Community Health Councils CHC were established in 1974 to represent the public interest in the National Health Service, they are wholly independent of the NHS with both statutory rights and duties.

Our local office is in Hampstead House, Basingstoke with 22 volunteer members and 3 paid staff. The CHC speaks on our behalf and have regular monthly meetings if you are interested why not phone 463315

Community Health Councils are there to help you ,they are our voice in the National Health Service.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL CENTRE OFF SHAKESPEARE ROAD

On Thursday 8th July, many concerned Popley residents attended a meeting on recreational land, where the proposed Medical Centre is to be built. All of the residents present were unanimously in favour of a new, modern, up-to-date Health Centre, which will serve both Oakridge and Popley for many years to come and were more than sympathetic with the problems, which Dr Moss and her partners are facing. Especially with increasing pressure from the developers, whom it would appear are saying they will pull out of the deal if planning permission is not granted shortly.

The completion of the new medical centre will of course mean the closure of the old Marlowe House doctors and dentist, Bermuda Close surgery, along with the Health Centre in Longfellow parade. These, along with others, including a Pharmacy, will all be under one roof. There will be car parking for approximately 80 cars for both staff and visitors, which Dr Moss assured all residents would NOT be Pay and Display!

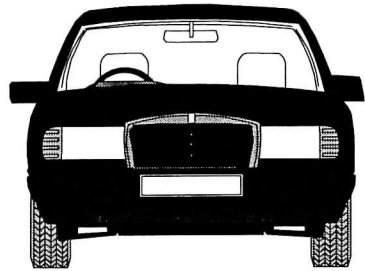
People of Popley are not against progress, in fact we as a community (although we have received much criticism in the newspaper recently) would welcome this State of the Art facility to our area but a compromise is needed. The plans at present show the building and car park on the large green playing field opposite the houses on Shakespeare Road. This would take away a vital safe play area, which is overlooked by residents. If the building were to be moved over slightly, the relatively new children's play area would remain visible, not only to the residents of Pershore Road but also those in Shakespeare and Browning Close. It would also leave a valuable and vital piece of flat green for the children to enjoy playing on in relative safety.

The decision has yet again been deferred to the next planning meeting, on the 22nd September to allow the applicant's time to look at the many alternatives available to them. We as Popley residents ARE 100% in favour of this new development, but NOT without compromise from the developers. We are not second rate citizens, we have a community to be proud of and our children's safety and happiness are now and for generations to come must and will always be uppermost.

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John Hunt School Popley Way

Tuesday

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08:00-10:00 pm 14 Years and
over

Under the instruction of:
Alex Marshall—1st Degree Black



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



Action on Law and Order

A meeting was held on 18th August people from 11 agencies, all concerned about Popley, met to find a way forward to improve our quality of life.

After frank and candid discussions on subjects including crime, drugs, noise, parking and youth on motorcycles it was decided to form a small sub committee to get things rolling. The first job was to get money and help to start on improvements in Longfellow Parade. Oakfern started the ball rolling followed by offers from the Council, Dillon's and the police. We said we wanted to get the community involved, so you will be hearing from us soon. We are already applying for grant money elsewhere as well. The possibility of CCTV, landscaping and lighting were discussed.

What GREAT news for Popley, all these agencies pledging their support to get some really meaningful solutions for us all.

Come to the Popley Forum September 29th 7-30pm at Madeira Hall near the Barbican. Hear the up to date news and have your say.



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Late night food store
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POPLEY FORUM MEETING 16TH JUNE

The issue was Law and Order at the Popley Forum meeting and it was well attended by the residents. Derek Curnow (chair of Popley Fields) chaired the meeting.

PC Watson from the Council's new Community Strategy Team along with two of Popley's beat Bobbies, WPC Emma Beattie and PC Andy Oliver also attended. PC Watson told the Forum that a local strategy plan is in place, but Popley was not in the top three areas on their agenda.

A resident from Popley Poets said that 15 youths seemed to be at the root of many problems on the estate, other residents, who said that Longfellow Parade has had many problems recently, backed this up. A report from the Millennium Square Garden project also reported these concerns, including litter, shrubs, broken glass and parking. This subject resulted in a passionate debate as the residents of the area felt that the Police response to incidents, was very poor, also they felt that even at the meeting the speakers were giving no answers to the question, "what can we do?"

Cllr George Hood spoke to the meeting and said that under the new Crime and Disorder Bill, (which was going before full Council on the 24-6-99), parents would be held responsible for their children's conduct. Once the Bill was in place, the Director of Community Services would have the power to evict, where there was proven evidence of unsociable behaviour by the tenant, whether the tenant be Housing Association or Private. He added that parents must be responsible for their children and their own conduct and behaviour. The general feeling of the meeting was that the support from the relevant agencies, was not what it might have been, if the residents had lived other than on Popley. The idea of Neighbourhood Watch was raised and PC Watson said this was only effective, if the majority of residents worked together. Once again the speakers were asked what could the residents and Forum do to solve the areas of concern, the reply appeared to put the problems back on the residents as opposed to taking it on board and helping to find solutions.

Mr Bottomley from Stagecoach had been invited to attend but was absent. A letter received from Head Office stated that they were looking into the issues raised at the last Forum. They were conducting a review of services serving the Town Centre and they would be discussing the outcome with the Council. Mr Dyer the Managing Director gave his apologies and said he would come along to a future meeting.

The Forum then welcomed and thanked Mr Archer-Reeves from B&DBC for again coming along to report on parking and abandoned vehicles. In some cases such as Dryden Close there are issues of who owned the land. The Forum was told that a quick access scheme was now in place whereby an abandoned vehicle could be removed in less than seven days! Abandoned vehicles can be removed without any cost to the owner (so long as all the criteria is met) Mr Archer-Reeves said that the number to dial at the Council, to report abandoned vehicles is 845474. The Traffic and Construction Committee would be meeting on the 29th June and would be discussing the report from Hampshire County Council, which stated that Abbey Road was 2nd in the priority list for improvement, due to accident figures. The problem of

caravan parking in residential bays was also raised. This is a long-standing issue, which seems to escalate in the summer months. Again land ownership complicated the issue. It was shown in a briefing report that more and more abandoned cars were being removed and with the owners and residents co-operation, this would continue.

Update meeting at Dryden Hall on Wednesday 14th July

The residents of Popley Poets requested an update on the previous meeting, to ensure that things were moving forward. Sixty residents along with three Councillors, Patricia Langley (John Hunt) Linda Phillips (Oakfern Housing) Julie Young (Area Beat Officer Sergeant) two local Beat Officers, PC Paul McCarty and PC Andy Oliver and also Dr Lynette Moss (Marlowe Surgery) came.

Iris King (Chair) started the meeting by giving the residents an update on what had taken place between the Forum and Jonathan Gates, (Crime Reduction Officer). A letter that had been sent to relevant agencies requesting their assistance was read out.

PC McCarty then gave the residents a 5-point plan that the Police had come up with. Hopefully this in the long run would alleviate the situation..

- 1) The improvement/updating of Longfellow Parade in conjunction with Oakfern and the Council.
- 2) More local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme's.
- 3) A full time Sports Coach based at John Hunt School.
- 4) High visibility Policing, with Local Beat Officers and Special Constables.
- 5) Closer relations with all local schools.

It was suggested to the Police that part of the communication breakdown occurs when the public phone and are put through to the control room. This point was taken on board. Many local residents were interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch schemes. A suggestion to have a late afternoon roll call was suggested as a way in which pupils truancing might be identified; the school took this on board.

The Police will hold fortnightly Surgery's in all the local Community Centres in Popley and this should start shortly. Residents were more assured that with all the right agencies getting involved, it would be a start to alleviating many of our concerns.

It was made clear; that there are no overnight or quick fix solutions it would take time and effort on everyone's part to make Popley a much better place to live.

The Next Popley Forum Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th September, 7:30pm in Maderia Hall, Popley Islands. Subject Law and Order with speakers from the Police and Basingstoke Council