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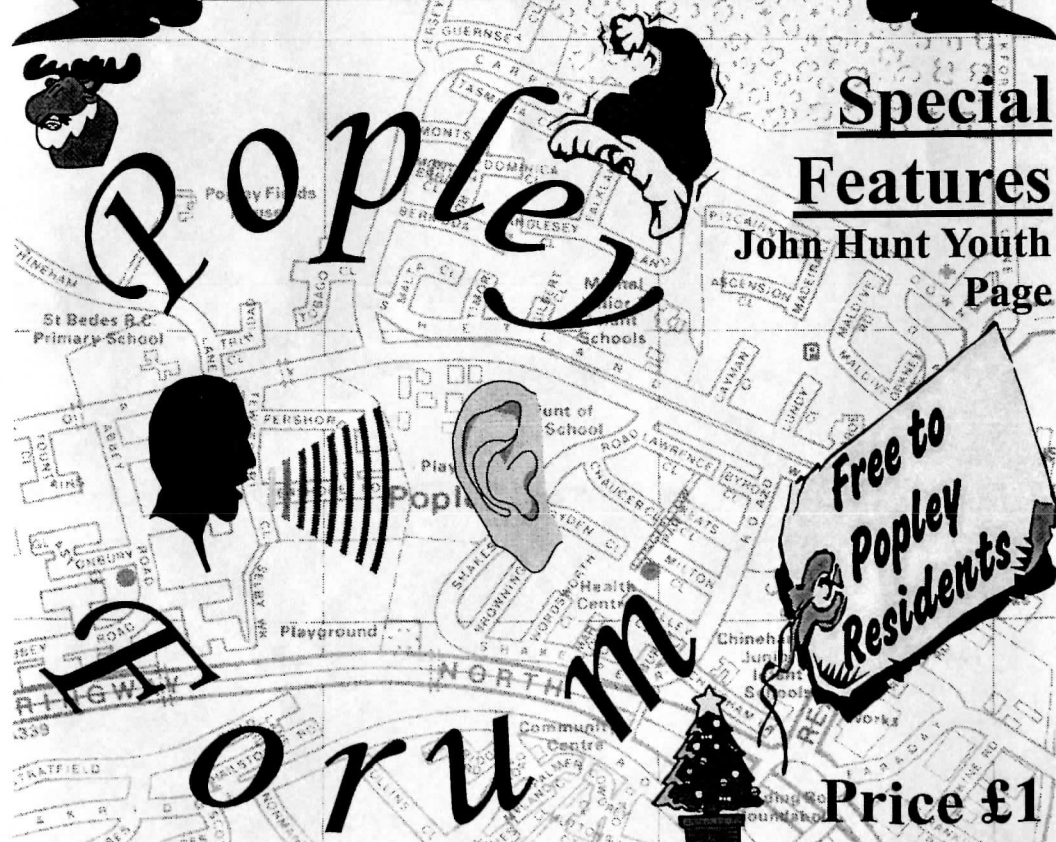


Xmas Special POPLEY MATTERS

December 1999 to February 2000

Volume 3 Issue 7

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS



**Special
Features**

**John Hunt Youth
Page**

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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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BOYS' BRIGADE NEWS

As usual, your Boys' Brigade has been very busy. The JUNIOR SECTION (8yrs to 10 1/2) held their annual fun day at the Crabtree Plantation site, the highlight being the Assault Course through the trees and woodland area. The COMPANY SECTION held an activity weekend at the Watership Activity Centre at Old Burghclere. The most enjoyable activity was the mountain biking and the team building games.

The Company Section also went to Christchurch for a Ski-bobbing evening and sessions at the Calshot Activity Centre for Climbing and Archery. CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY and ZAC PATE were awarded their GOLD ACHIEVEMENT Badges at the October Church Parade. The Gold badge is the highest award that a Junior Section Boy can obtain. Congratulations to both Boys.

The *Popley Paper Chase* has now finished, we can no longer take in waste newspaper in our skips. We thank you all who have supported this fund raising activity over the past 4 years. Now, you will need to put it out for the dustmen, but I don't know how they will deal with the extra 2 tonnes per month.

The Car Boots are going very well, and now that, with our friends the Air Scouts, who have taken the other Sunday, there is a Car Boot Sale every Sunday at John Hunt Community School. Sellers at 12.30pm and buyers from 1pm. The Boots are getting very popular with both buyers and sellers and will continue throughout the winter.

For more information regarding this very active Boys' Brigade Company, please see our main advert, or ring the Company Captain. Dave Phillips on 01256-323564.

Popley Charities Day

A Popley Charities Day was held during September at St Gabriels Parish Church, organised by Popley Boys Brigade. The event was to raise public awareness and fund raising.

The other organisations that took part were Melrose Community Association, Neighbour Care, Wessex Rangers and Watership Activity Centre.

Nearly £300 was raised by the groups and Neighbour Care were delighted with a new volunteer.

More days like this are being planned for the future.

Message From the Editor

The winter is here and I would ask you to look out for the elderly and vulnerable especially with all the excitement of the millennium, if you know of people on their own just watch out for them and say hello. Many people will have family around them and it is easy to forget that there are many others who may be on their own.

I was heartened to see what can be achieved when everyone works together, the Popley Forum meeting at Madeira Hall was well attended and residents spoke again to Katrine Sporle the Council Chief Executive about their real concerns which included the state of the estate, lighting, abandoned cars, large businesses being run from home. Stripping, selling and paint spraying of cars was another controversial subject. I am sure you will have noticed a big improvement already in some areas and other problems are being acted upon. A complete traffic and parking survey was also asked for. We also said goodbye to Mike our secretary Thanks Mike for everything.

Longfellow Parade is an issue that came to the fore at the previous meeting in Popley Fields and was followed by an extra meeting at Dryden Hall resulting in the Police, Council, Oakfern and John Hunt School getting together to see how we could go forward to improve the area. £10,000 has been raised £5000 from the Council and £5000 from Oakfern we are now looking for the best way to spend the money. We have formed a committee and we want to involve the residents and keep you informed.

The Police surgeries were ultimately very successful and over forty people took the opportunity to go and speak in confidence to our local "Bobbies". The police said they are looking into each and every case and have already acted on some.

At the AGM of Popley Fields Community Association I was surprised and disappointed to hear that at some events that were put on for the community, not one person came. This is worrying because if we don't use the centres we will lose them, if there is something you would like to come to or there is a reason why you don't use the facilities please let us know and We will look into it.

We have a new section that will be written by the youth of Popley and pupils from John Hunt have started the ball rolling on page 20.

I wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Millennium (Jane Frankum)

Longfellow Parade Rejuvenation Scheme

After many complaints and concerns were expressed at the Forum meeting at Popley Fields, the Forum committee got together with the Police, Oakfern and Councillors and arranged an emergency meeting in Dryden Hall. Residents came and said how they felt, that the area was getting more oppressive and dirty looking day by day. Oakfern housing and the local councillors did surveys of the area and agreed that there was a lot more that needed to be done. The shrubs by the shops needed to be cut down or better still removed. The Council cleared the rubbish that had piled up behind the shops and cut the shrubs down to the minimum. Jon Gates the Crime Reduction Officer also did a survey and recommended some changes including better lighting that should help to make the area safer for every one.

We all live in the real world and we realised that it would take a lot of money and help from the different agencies and residents. A committee was formed with Police, The Forum, Councillors, John Hunt School, Oakfern, Community Safety Team, Residents and the Crime reduction officer. £5000 was donated by Oakfern Housing and a £5000 grant from the Council and there have been several meetings and I am sure you will have noticed small changes starting.

Now we come to the part that you can help your own area with, we know you have told us you want CCTV and the square to be better lit and these are being looked into and costed. What are your ideas for the square in front of the shops? We hope to have a public display with some of the ideas that have already been put forward, But we want your comments and ideas, so put your thinking caps on and send your ideas to either John Hunt School, Melrose Hall, or to me at 405 Abbey Road or ring 420676 or 819924. Look out for posters at your community centres.

Countywide Travel

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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.

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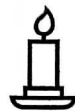


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CHURCH SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

ST GABRIELS TEWKESBURY CLOSE

Sunday 19th December 3pm Christingle



Monday 20th December 10am – 3pm Childrens Christmas Workshop

Friday 24th December 6.30pm Childrens Crib Service

Friday 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30am Christmas Communion

January 2nd 10.30am New Year Millennium Celebration Service
followed by bring and share lunch

Sunday 9th January 10.30am more New Year Celebrations with
Guest Right Reverend Bill Ind



On Saturday 4th December we are holding our Christmas Fayre
from 2pm – 4pm

ST BEDES RC & HOLY GHOST

Friday 24th December 8.30pm Vigil Mass (Church Good Shepherd)

Friday 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Both)

CHRISTMAS DAY 9am Christmas Communion (Holy Ghost)

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.15am Christmas Communion (St Bedes)

Sunday 27th December 9am Mass (Holy Ghost)

Sunday 27th December 10.15am Mass (St Bedes)

Monday 28th December 9am Mass (Holy Ghost)



Ten Tips For Better Health

The government's white paper 'Saving Lives, Our Healthier Nation' gives the following Ten Tips. They could be useful in thinking about New Year's Resolutions and changes to benefit your health, for the next year, century and millennium.

1. Don't Smoke. If you can, stop. If you can't, cut down.
2. Follow a balanced diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables.
3. Keep physically active.
4. Manage stress by, for example, talking things through and making time to relax.
5. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.
6. Cover up in the sun, and protect children from sunburn.
7. Practice safer sex.
8. Take up cancer screening opportunities.
9. Be safe on the roads: follow the Highway Code.
10. Learn the First Aid ABC - airways, breathing and circulation.

It is intended over the next few months to take each point, point by point and elaborate it, so that the impact on your health, individually and as a community becomes clearer

The North Hampshire Primary Care Group wishes everyone a happy and healthier New Year.



Police Surgeries

Over forty people came to the four surgeries held at the community Centres. There was quite a varied amount of concerns that were aired but the main ones were the break-ins to cars, motorcycles driven illegally and anti social behaviour. All were taken seriously and investigated. As a result of the ongoing investigations there have already been 15 arrests and we are still in the process of dealing with the others. The exercise has been so successful that we will be staying on after the Forum meetings to listen to any of your problems and concerns. If in the meantime you want to contact us phone the station 473111 and ask for Paul McCarty, Emma Beattie or Andy Oliver.

POPLEY HISTORY

With the millennium almost here, it is time for reflection. I am one of those who are wondering what we are about to celebrate. Scholars think that Jesus Christ was born four years before the start of Anno Domini and one thing is certain, we have to put up with the 20th Century for another year, for the next century does not start until January 1st 2001. Perhaps we are celebrating the end of one as the first figure on our dates, in favour of two. It will certainly seem strange.

Now let me get back to history. For the past one thousand years and many more, Popley has been farmland. Some under crops and other for grazing. One thing is certain, quite probably the whole area for a time was forest, for Windsor Forest spread as far west as Kingsclere and as far south as the borders of Basingstoke.

Popley, verging onto Chineham, like Sherborne, which stretched across the Basingstoke to Reading Road, almost to Old Basing. Of all the many years that has passed the greatest changes have occurred during less than the last fifty years. As a lad, when I got to know Basingstoke and it's surrounds, I could never have thought that the open fields I used to cross, to Carpenters Down, would become the homes of thousands of people, more people than there was in Basingstoke in those days – a mere 12,800.

Popley has seen many hundreds of homes built and what is needed to support them – Schools, Community Centres, Pubs, Main Roads, Old Peoples Dwellings and Industry, with some still across the way from Chineham Park, one of Popley's recreational grounds. We must also remember St Gabriels Church started as a caravan.

With some of the houses forty years old there must be many second generations of families, a nice thought to end on.

A HAPPY MILLENNIUM TO YOU ALL
ARTHUR ATTWOOD (Mr Basingstoke)



OAKFERN HOUSING ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CLOSING

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Thurs 7.30 pm The Vyne Community School
Vyne Road (behind rail station)

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Fri 4.00 pm The Vyne Community School

Classes also at

Rucstall Centre (Black Dam): Mon 7.30 pm & Weds 8.00 pm
The Barn at Viabes Craft Ctr: Tues 7.30 pm
Kempshott Village Hall: Thurs 7.00 pm

Extra classes due to start in the New Year:

Popley Fields: Weds 6.30 pm (Ring Tracy on 810804 for more info)
Tadley Comm. Ctr: Mon 7.30 pm (Ring Julie on 472362 for more info)

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF JOHN HUNT.

I woke up feeling sick. My mum was downstairs with my sister, she was ready for school. I had my uniform set, my bag ready and my shoes were clean but I had another five hours to wait. My mum walked my youngest sister to school while me and my oldest sister stayed at home. I walked to school with my friends, we were all nervous and scared but we were lucky because we didn't start school until 12:30 and it was just the year sevens. We all had to go into the canteen and have lunch with the staff. It helped a lot as we could ask questions and learn a lot more about the school. After lunch we went into the hall where Mrs Seddon told us a story about working as a team. The story was interesting. I learnt a lot. When the story ended, I went to my tutor base. In my tutor I did three golden rules and got given my planner. I think the planner is very organised and very clear but the front cover is slightly boring. During tutor time we did a lot of talking, we got told how to behave and to enjoy our time at John Hunt. At 3.30 it was home time I was glad to get home and tell my mum and dad about the day. I have enjoyed John Hunt so far, hopefully I will enjoy the rest of my years. (by Sarah Gardiner).

KIDS KINGDOM

Kids these days! They're always bored and saying they have nothing to do. I'm one of those kids, so for the last week I've been looking around the Popley area in search of entertainment. Here's some of what I found: At Popley Fields Community Centre I found out about kick-boxing. You can go along on Tuesdays at the earlier time of 6.30 pm until 8.00 pm. Or, if that's not convenient you could go on Thursdays at the later time of 7.00 pm until 8.30 pm. So why not give it a try? After all, the first lesson's free! If kickboxing's not your thing you could go along to Air Cubs from 7 pm until 8.30 pm - it's for ages 8 and over. You might by now be thinking that this is all very well but it all costs money. So here are some things to do that don't cost: A great place to go is Aldermaston Road Open Space (better known as the BMX track). It has a great track for riding bikes and a nice big field for walking the dog or family picnics. There are also numerous great parks throughout Popley. So there you have it kids - go out and have some fun! (LAUREN HEATH)

BASINGSOKE TOWN F. C

"Sponsor the Goals scheme' ~ Junior "Blues" club for all ages up to 16yrs. Membership runs from 1st August - 31st July. If your interested then call The Camrose "Blues" call line - 09066 555 828. Sponsor the goals scheme is where you predict the number of goals you think the team will score this season. Guess correctly and you could win a valuable prize. All the money raised will be going towards new disabled and toilet facilities at the Camrose as part of ongoing stadium improvements. If you would like more information Tel: Enquiries 01256 327575

Treasure Island Play Group

At

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Community Centre

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

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

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Course Name	Course Code	Start Date	Day	Wk.	Time	Fees	Min/Max No.
Dressmaking	XEE201	19/01/00	Wed	10	10.00-12.00	£40	Max 10
Dressmaking	XEE202	20/01/00	Thur	10	10.00-12.00	£40	Max 10
Paint & Stitch for fun	XEE203	17/01/00	Mon	10	12.30-2.30	£40	
Start to speak Spanish	XEB200	17/01/00	Mon	10	9.45-11.45	£40	
Soft Furnishing for Garden Furniture	XEE214	07/03/00	Tue	6	9.45-11.45	£24	Max 8
Swedish Massage	XED204	18/01/00	Tue	5	7.00-9.00	£20	Max 12
Calligraphy	XEE216	18/01/00	Tue	5	7.30-9.30	£20	
Saturday Workshops							
Garden Design—Get the planning right	XEE217	29/01/00	Sat	1	10.00-3.00	£19	
Your Garden as a nature reserve	XEE230	04/03/00	Sat	1	10.00-3.00	£19	

Courses Spring 2000 at John Hunt Centre

Course	Course Code	Start Date	Day	Wks	Time	Fees	Mat
Pottery for fun	XLE214	18/01/00	Tue	10	7.00-9.00	£40	£5
Ribbon craft for beginners	XLE230	19/01/00	Wed	5	7.00-9.00	£20	
Bridge Beginners/Improvers	XLD210	18/01/00	Tue	10	7.00-9.00	£40	
Thrown Pottery for pleasure	XLE215	20/01/00	Thur	10	7.00-9.00	£40	£10
Learn to paint and Draw	XLE216	18/01/00	Tue	10	7.00-9.00	£40	
Cake Decorating—Back to basics	XLE217	20/01/00	Thur	10	7.30-9.30	£40	
Aromatherapy & message	XLD203	18/01/00	Tue	6	7.00-9.00	£24	
Rock & Roll dancing for beginners	XLD211	18/01/00	Tue	10	7.00-8.00	£20	
Saturday Workshops							
Home Handywoman*	XLE231	11/03/00	Sat	1	10.00-3.00	£15	
American Women at the millennium*	XLC201	11/03/00	Sat	1	10.00-3.00	£15	
Creative writing for the millennium woman*	XLC202	11/03/00	Sat	1	10.00-3.00	£15	

* Special Courses to celebrate International women's week

For more information or to book a course call Jo Attridge on 306347



Letters to The Editor



and how a nucleus of residents have formed together to fight the menace which threatens to destroy what was once a very pleasant place to live. They asked me why to which I replied, "Apathy"! It is easy to blame the Council or Councillors, the Police or others. The real blame lays with not attend meetings, those who give others the ammunition but never speak out themselves. Those who look the other way I speak not of the elderly or disabled but of those who are otherwise physically fit and strong. Does this sound familiar?

An elderly gent once said to me, "The young, they've forgotten how to fight", he did not mean a punch-up. He meant standing up for decency, fair play and helping others. On the Forum I have met marvellous people and was proud to do my bit. I have served on a number of committees in the course of my life but here were the most friendly and dedicated people I have met. I was sad to leave Popley and have left many good friends. The message is, if you ever want Popley to be a decent place, then YOU must join the crusade. There are many excellent organisations fighting for a better Popley of which the Forum is the leader—and it will succeed, but only with your support. (Mike Ex-Resident of Popley)

Editor; I have lived in Popley for nearly 30 years and I am proud to be

associated with it. It is a travesty that a few uncaring unthinking people can make life so difficult for others. It is time we all stood up to these people and said we have had enough and we are not prepared to put up with their unsociable behaviour.

Dear Editor: When I was a nipper we had RAF, Army and Navy cadets why not Police Cadets. Beat officers I am sure could arrange with local councillors plus ex service men to get a routine going to keep kids off the streets as the cadets of which I was one had a great time. I was an RAF cadet and I learnt to fly etc. Summer Camps were brilliant. No one seems to know these things these days. (JG Falkland Road)

Editor: We are very lucky in Popley in that we have the only Air Scouts in Basingstoke, the headquarters of Wessex Rangers (Army) Adventure Rangers (Army) Boys Brigade and scouts. I am sure you will have read some of their reports in Popley Matters.

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.





Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor: What's the matter with the people of Popley We have a fantastic 'Community Centre' which none of you seem to want to use, why? I cannot understand why no one attends the functions that are organised. The centre is appealing with a friendly atmosphere, so why is it that at social functions that are arranged the attendance level at most times is 0, yes 0!

At the quiz night on September 24th yes you've guessed it, 0 attendance. The centre is manned by volunteers, giving up their free time, why I do not know, what a waste of time and effort, I would have given up by now, but they have more faith in 'Popley'. The amount of times the 'People of Popley' requested a 'Community Centre' to socialise in, now you have one, no one uses it. Believe me if you do not use it you might lose it. If there is something in particular that you would like to see at the Centre, then have the courage to speak up. Or pop in the Centre and talk to the volunteers, who are glad to listen, or even just drop a letter through the door.

The only time the Centre is full to capacity is yearly on New Years Eve, so why do people not use the Centre the rest of the year? Come on people of Popley use your community centre when all is said and done it was put there for you. (Sheila: Popley Resident)

Editor; Popley Fields is a magnificent building that many other areas in Basingstoke are envious of. I look forward to the readers writing back with their comments on what their ideas are for its future usage.

Dear Editor: When I first came to Popley in the seventies, I was amazed to find a council house which boasted full central heating, garage, garden and room for visitors parking.

It was great to meet such a variety of people who all got on so well together, who knocked on the door to welcome newcomers.

Children came in to meals and were off the streets at a proper time. Certainly there was mischief, but they always played fair when they were told off they accepted that they were wrong. Parents knew how to control them and as a result the children respected their parents and others. Many families grew and moved on, then others moved in and so forth and it was somewhere along the line that the trouble seemed to start.

My health was failing and I was lucky to be made an offer by Oakfern to move away to a place where the norms and values are those I remembered, where the rules of tenancy are strict and where any form of anti-social behaviour is not tolerated. Yes, they had heard of Popley – the P word is synonymous, but they had also heard of the Forum

DEVELOPMENT BRIEF FOR NORTH OF POPLEY WAY 1S APPROVED FOR CONSULTATION

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Planning and Transportation Committee approved the draft Development Brief for the Local Plan housing allocations for the North of Popley, at it's meeting on Thursday 11th November. Now that the draft brief has been approved it will be published for a six-week consultation period. This will involve talking to local groups and residents. The consultation will give people an opportunity to comment on:

Housing allocations

Design and landscaping of the area

Access roads and roads within the development

Local public transport provision

Community issues such as open spaces, the community hall and local shops.

We would actively encourage local people to make their views known.

The consultation process will help the Council to meet its corporate priority of providing 'Sustainable Living'.

There will be an information leaflet about the brief and displays at local venues and the Civic offices.

Come along to the displays and give your comments and concerns.

MELROSE HALL DECEMBER 16th 6pm to 9pm
 SHERBOURNE ST JOHN 17th DECEMBER 6pm to 9pm
 SHERBOURNE ST JOHN 15th JANUARY 1pm to 4pm
 MELROSE HALL 22nd JANUARY 1pm to 4pm

 845468 for more details

Popley Two Residents Association

Like most organisations we are looking forward to the millennium but in addition we will be celebrating 25 years of serving the local community. We will also be celebrating with our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday 21st December. It looks like a very busy start to the New Year.

The Marnel Explorers Pre School are continuing with their success and have now increased their afternoon sessions to two.

Earlier this year we made a modest application to extend our busy hall by just two metres this was rejected we will however continue to negotiate, as this is so badly needed.

On a personal note I was deeply moved at the Forum meeting when I was presented an award for services to the community. It is always nice to know that all your efforts do not go unnoticed but I did not do this all alone I have had help from my wife, the committee and many other agencies. The icing on the cake was to see my grandson Brett also win an award for being the caring face of youth in Popley.

My members and I would like to wish each and every organisation large or small a very Happy Christmas and may you all go from strength to strength and enjoy the New Millennium.

DON'T FORGET MADERIA HALL, MELROSE HALL AND POPLEY FIELDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE FOR WEDDINGS PARTIES ETC
RING 460152 FOR MADEIRA 420676 FOR MELROSE AND
414494 FOR POPLEY FIELDS

BINGO-BINGO-BINGO

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

Membership is only £1 per annum.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Eyes down at 8 p.m.



20p entry (50p for non members)

10 games books at 35p each

2 single flyers 20p & 10p each

Second chance flyer 25p each.

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

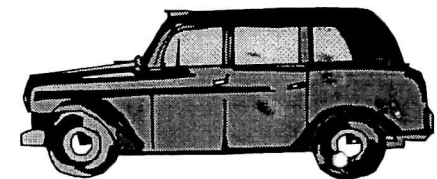
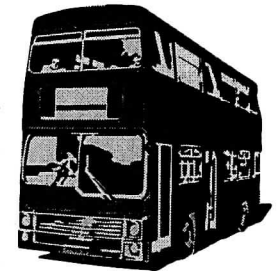
For further information phone Ron Rowe on 417858



Basingstoke
and Deane

Travel Tokens & Half Fare Bus Passes

It's nearly time again for the main issue of travel tokens and half price bus passes. For existing recipients the information leaflet and application form will be sent to you from the 14th January 2000. If you are a woman aged 60 or over, a man 65 or over, or a disabled person, who has never collected tokens before, you are welcome to come and visit any one of our issuing centres. A list will be displayed locally in your community centres. You will need to bring proof of age for example birth certificate, passport, medical card and proof of address. In the case of who may meet the medical criteria, you will need to show your orange badge or yellow disabled registration card, complete a medical form obtaining your doctors signature and surgery stamp confirming you meet one of the medical criteria. If you need further information please ring Nadine Brace on 845701

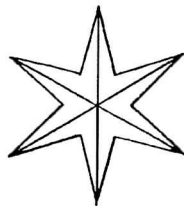


Popley Issue Date:

15th February 2000

9:00am—12noon Popley Fields Community Centre

1:00pm—3:30pm Melrose Community Hall



**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP
To Milton Keynes Shopping Centre
Saturday 4 December 1999**

**Coach leaves Richard Aldworth School at 8.00 am
Return coach leaves Milton Keynes at 4.00 pm**

**Do all your Christmas Shopping at the wonderful
indoor shopping mall at Milton Keynes**



For more information or to book please telephone the Community Office at the Richard Aldworth School on (01256) 473698.



**Basingstoke
NeighbourCare
General Information**

"Neighbours.... everybody needs good neighbours"

Basingstoke NeighbourCare was formed over 6 years ago with one simple aim to be a good neighbour. Today, the scheme is affiliated to 120 other Help groups and has the backing of Social Services, the Police and the Church. The scheme seeks to complete simple tasks for those in need using a team of volunteers. Calls for assistance are made on special Helpline numbers, and virtually the whole of Basingstoke is covered. Basingstoke NeighbourCare acts as the central control, with schemes in operation in many parts of the town and surrounds.

NeighbourCare seeks to help out with all sorts of requests from simple shopping chores to dog walking, and providing lifts to light gardening. Anyone in need can make the call! We rely totally on volunteers offering any amount of time and support they can to help with the many calls the scheme receives. We already have a great team but are always keen to hear from anyone who can help. It really is very simple and very easy. if anyone feels they can help, then please phone me on 01256 332424

Volunteers can state how much help they want to give, and when they can give it they can even claim expenses, should any be incurred, including mileage. It is very rewarding being able to actually help someone.

Help is available for all sectors of the community.... both young and old. If the genuine need is there.

If you, or anyone you know need help, simply call the NeighbourCare helpline.
01256 332424 will seek to help.



MELROSE HALL EVENTS

VIDEO CLUB

We have a brand new club at Melrose on Monday evenings at 7pm. The Video Club is for anyone from 14 to a 100+ and would like to know how to get more out of their Video cameras. Soundtracks, editing, dubbing, whether you are a beginner or would like to make your video's look more professional or maybe just improve your existing knowledge. You're never too old to learn new ideas.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Need any more information about Melrose Hall, pop in and see Debbie Dainton. Her normal office hours are Monday & Thursday 1pm - 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am-11.30am

STORY TELLING CLUB

Our story telling club has moved to Monday mornings and the next one is on the 6th December and following that the 3rd Monday Morning of each month. Come along and talk to others, share the misadventures of your youth.

COFFEE MORNINGS

We still hold our regular coffee mornings on Mondays and Thursdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Pop in for a cuppa and a chat and see the items we have on sale. Make new friends and meet old ones.

PARENTS AND TODDLERS

On Wednesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am we have a regular parent, toddlers group, come along and chat with parents and let your little ones make new friends.

CHARITY BAZAAR

The charity Bazaar raised £200 that will be shared between Imperial Cancer Research, NSPCC and MCA.

LOOK OUT FOR MINI MOVES STARTS 13TH JANUARY 4PM-5PM

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414494 FOR POPLEY FIELDS



POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

AGM

On 2nd November our AGM was held. Derek Curnow was elected Chair, Kate Lomas Vice-Chair, Michael Berwick-Gooding Treasurer and Angela Old Secretary. We would have like to have seen more people there but thank you to those who came and to the members who have agreed to be on the Committee.

SENIOR CITIZENS BINGO

On Friday's from 2pm to 4pm there is a weekly Bingo for Senior Citizens, come along and join in and make new friends.

NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

You don't have long to go, so get your tickets for our annual New Years Eve Dance. Buffet is included in the price of the ticket and if you are a member, there is also a discount on the price. A bar will be there from the Pen and Parchment. Also if you come in fancy dress (any period costume from 1900 to 1980 so make it recognisable) there is a prize for the best costume.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Early in the New-Year we should have a new Community Development Worker in place. To make their job easier they will need all the backing we as a community can give.

CLUBS & CLASSES

New club that recently joined the centre is Dance Keep Fit. In addition the Treasure Island Playgroup runs regular sessions and the computer club is going strong.

EVENTS FOR 2000

As of yet there are no firm dates for any social evenings, keep looking out for posters and also on the board outside. What would you like to see on at the centre, drop in or drop us a line, we are always open to new ideas?

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RING 460152 FOR MADEIRA 420676 FOR MELROSE AND
414494 FOR POPLEY FIELDS



DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

Christmas party?

Pub Lunch?

Let us do the driving

818181

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Aldermaston Road, Sherborne St John,
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CHEN WU KUAN CHINESE KUNG FU

John Hunt School Popley Way

Tuesday

6:30-7:30pm Ages 6 - 14 years

£2.00 per lesson

7:30-9:30pm 14 years and over

Under the instruction of:

Alex Marshall—1st Degree Black Belt



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



LEISURE TIME TIP

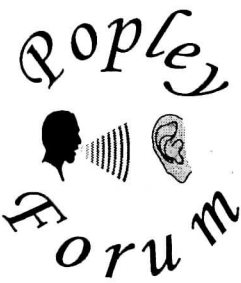


Why not do something a bit different with the family. The Ice Show this year is called The Night They Stole Christmas. This spectacular show is only £5 a ticket in the arena or £45 for a table for up to six people. It is on December 18th and 19th two shows 3pm and 7pm.



Or visit an ice hockey match the season runs from September to March and tickets are £5 for children £7 for adults and as a bonus Saturday matches include ice skating after the match in the price of the ticket for more information phone 355266





POPLEY FORUM 29th SEPTEMBER

It was thought that so many people of Popley were doing such excellent work in and for Popley that we should have an award scheme. Nominations were put forward in 3 categories, we hope they will become an annual event. The adult category went to Ron Rowe for all his work in the Community, including 22 years as Chair of Popley 2 Residents Association. The Community Group Youth award followed this; this went

to John Hunt of Everest School for Year nine pupils. Ben Higgs, Carl Storey, Lisa Whitwell, Alan Paige, Michelle Robins and Kerri Glover, for achieving first prize in the Young Business Enterprise Challenge for their inventive design for an all year round dog coat. We then had the award for the caring face of Popley Youth; this went to Brett Rowe for help to the disabled and elderly.

The meeting continued with a discussion about the proposed new Health Centre, over which there had been some controversy of the siting. A report was given stating that a good compromise had been reached between the residents and developers and that hopefully the project would go forward in the near future. We were told that in addition to doctors, there would also be facilities for physiotherapy, dentists and new state of the art equipment. We hope to have a representative to talk to us about the new facilities at the next Forum meeting and to give you the chance to ask questions.

Stagecoach – yes it is taking time, but the operations manager told the Forum that the 42/43 service would be reviewed in the near future along with others services provided by Stagecoach. They know that the Forum is continually monitoring the situation.

The Ward Boundary review was also discussed, again this is a situation the Forum will keep you updated on, especially with certain areas of Poets being in the Norden Ward, we know this causes some confusion for the residents. The new housing in the North of Popley/Popley Fields Development may also affect the way the councillors are assigned and there are other issues that will affect us.

Our Local Beat officers came along and gave us the updates on Longfellow Parade rejuvenation scheme, 1) £10,000 has been raised from the Council and Oakfern, 2) they will be keeping up the high visibility patrolling, 3) there are now more neighbourhood schemes in operation in the Poet areas, (they are needed all over Popley so if you are interested let us know) 4) closer liaison with local schools 5) Local Police Surgeries.

We at the Forum, look on Longfellow Parade as just the start of upgrading within Popley. If you have any thoughts or ideas with regard to either Longfellow Parade or any other area please let us know, C/o Melrose Hall Abbey Road.

We were fortunate to have Katrine Sporle – Chief Executive of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council who joined us at this point. She started by saying how strong a Community could be when everyone worked together, and that a community is

made up of ordinary people, like you or I. She added that she felt the press coverage with regards to Popley was far more positive of late. She went on to add that Community's needed constant investment and only by working in close conjunction with the Police, Councillors and other agencies would the effectiveness of resources be able to be used to its greatest potential.

Both before and after the Forum Katrine took the time to look over the area, and like the Forum she was concerned about the lack of suitable lighting in the vicinity of the Hall. Lighting could be used as a deterrent to discourage crime and other issues. It is something we at the Forum are also concerned about, but we also know it is a problem that applies to all of Popley, (have you any really bad lit areas near you? Let us know). Other issues raised by the public that attended were litter, overgrown shrubs, abandoned cars and businesses being run that affect our daily lives and in some cases leave the area looking like a breakers yard with noises going on into the early hours of the morning. Katrine said she would look into these and get the council officers to investigate the concerns. Jane Frankum asked again for a complete traffic and parking survey that the council had previously received a petition of 353 names.

The meeting closed with many people saying they felt that it had been constructive. If you want to put your points forward why don't you come to the next meeting on January 13th at 7-30 in Melrose Hall.

POPLEY FORUM AGM

On Wednesday 29th September the Popley Forum held it's first AGM where Iris King was elected as Chair, Ron Rowe Vice-Chair, Tracey Bentley Treasurer, Patricia Langley Secretary, Kate Lomas and Cllr Jane Frankum Liaison Officers. Also re-elected onto the Committee were Louise Tuck, Dave Phillips and Cllr Paul Frankum.

The Popley Forum is open to anyone that would like to get involved either by coming along to put your points over or joining us on the committee.

We are proud to say that by us all working together we have got agencies working together to make Popley a better place to live or visit.

THE NEXT FORUM IS ON
THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 7.30PM
MELROSE HALL ABBEY ROAD
POPLEY ABBEYS.

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