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POPLEY MATTERS

June to September 2000

Volume 3 Issue 9

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS



Closing date to submit articles etc. (7-8-00); Adverts (14-8-00)

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

Popley Matters
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Abbey Road
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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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Planet Pledge

Planet Pledge is an imitative of "Going for Green". Planet Pledge is your chance to make a millennium resolution for our future environment. Going for Green is looking for a million people to help the next generation to enjoy our natural resources. Pupils at John Hunt School have been "taking the pledge" to make small changes to their daily lives to help protect the environment for the future.

Here is what Katherine Brown a year 7 pupil at the school had to say about Planet Pledge. *"Planet Pledge is about helping the environment. At school we help out by picking up rubbish and recycling aluminium cans. We do this voluntarily because it is not all about us, it is also about the animals in the world. Some of the dangerous stuff is those plastic things you get on cans of beer because birds get caught up in them. Balloons with helium in. when you release them they normally land in the sea and animals think they are food and they normally die from these things. When you join the Planet Pledge you get a badge and stuff as well."*



Mobile Play Unit

This is to let you know about the new Mobile Play Unit, just in case you have not heard about us already. Iris and all her friends down at Melrose Hall have shown us a great deal of support and energy over the past few weeks in our sessions on a Thursday at 1-45 to 2-30. Why don't you Mums who haven't been yet venture out to see us. We offer forty minutes of soft play with assorted tunnels and tents, balance beams and mini trampoline, to hoops, bean bags and soft balls and there is a growing selection of fun and stimulating play for the children.

Then we give the children and Mums a rest, with a fifteen minute stop for drinks and biscuits. After which we have Music and Movement, in which we encourage the group to participate in fun action songs, which are suitable for all ages.

We have found that in a very short space of time we have grown from no one turning up to seven parents and their children having a great time, so please come and see us give us a try. I know you will have a great time.



Message From the Editor

The Popley Festival was its usual great success, though much bigger and more varied. The Chinook was a great favourite and the children loved the ride in the mini fire engine. The Boot sale was the biggest so far and just about everything was on sale there. The Youth did us proud with all their displays and the craft stalls had some really beautiful items for sale. The smash the crockery stall could be heard across the sight and was a good way of letting off steam. No matter where you went the smell of the beef burgers made you hungry.

It is even more important after all the adverse publicity that we as the people of Popley get across that we are proud to live in Popley and will not be put off by a few inconsiderate or stupid people.

Another fire in Popley that could have had a tragic outcome. There is a reward of £7000 for information leading up to a prosecution and conviction which shows how seriously it was taken.

We have a thriving neighbourhood that sticks together and has a great sense of community. What do you think of Popley? Write and tell us at Popley Matters. What is good and what is bad in Popley? There are issues that need addressing like the rubbish collections, the abandoned cars, still a problem but not quite as bad as it was, they still need to be moved faster. The shopping areas are soon to be tidied up and improved. We have a youth problem that needs to be addressed; they need somewhere to go that is not going to make a life of misery for the nearby residents. I am sure you have your own thoughts I know I could go on, disabled access, a better and more frequent bus service especially the vital hospital route. How do you think we can make a difference? I would also like to get rid of the ridiculous numbering of Popley one to six we are not numbers and it is about the last estate that still uses what was invented for builders not us residents. I live in Popley Abbeys, Popley Fields is in Popley Islands and Longfellow Parade is in Popley Poets. Have your say and give us your opinions, write or contact us, come to our next **Popley Forum on Tuesday July 11th at Popley Fields** or phone myself on 819924 or Melrose Hall on 420676.

I and some other people from the community will be going up to Solihull on June 6th to see a scheme there where the residents identified the problems and solutions themselves and then worked together with residents, and other agencies like the police, Council, housing association, Community Safety Team and others. This scheme is nearly five years old and is still running well and it will bring a new emphasis to Popley. Jane Frankum (Editor)



The Boys Brigade

Well, again we have been very active, the Company Section Boys held a two-day sponsored cycle-ride and raised £500. This money was split between the R.N.L.I. and The Watership Activity Centre Development Fund. Starting from Popley, the Boys cycled a circular route to the Watership activity Centre where they spent the night, and returned the following day via a different route.

Nationally, The Boys' Brigade are aiming to raise money this year to purchase four Life Boats for the R.N.L.I. and the Boys have also been busy collecting drinks cans for re-cycling and this has raised a further £100. All this money has now been sent off.

Anchor Boys, (aged 6 to 8yrs) have continued work on their garden at John Hunt School and we are now awaiting a new fence for the area.

Junior Section Boys came 3rd in the area 6 a-side football comp recently with the Company Section (11 yrs to 18) being runners-up in their section.

At the beginning of May all the Boys travelled to Winchester for the Hampshire Boys Brigade Parade to the Cathedral. A wonderful sight as all the Boys marched through Winchester. The Salute was taken by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, who has promised to visit Popley.

Summer Camps and other exiting activities are all planned and as this is the high-light of the Boys Brigade year, all the Boys are looking forward to participating in them and as usual we will report back to you all in the next issue of Popley Matters.

A very enjoyable time was had by all at the Popley Festival, with our own Car Boot Stall raising over £125. The Cycle Assault Course was well attended.

Don't forget that Car Boots are now every Sunday at John Hunt, shared with the Air Scouts.

Please see our main advert on page 5 for ages, times etc and if you wish more information on joining us, please don't hesitate to ring. Dave Phillips on 01256 323564

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor After reading the local press with regard to the move of the children's ward at our local hospital to Frimley Park Hospital or other hospitals out of our area.

I am concerned both for the local community and myself, I have a young grandson in the area, should he need to be admitted to hospital the travel, time and expense is of great concern to me.

Please can you look into this for us, we need our hospital to cover our area. We are a growing town and need our own hospital. The Children's Ward I think is a must; children need constant family contact if you move the Children's Ward away that will put extra pressure on the families in the area. Please ask questions Angela White

Editor; Answer Below

Dear Editor I am confused as to what is happening to the Children's ward I hear so many different stories I have two sons and I am worried that if they needed to go to hospital the treatment they would need is not there and I would have to travel miles and as a single father trying my best to cope it is just one more problem and extra cost I could do without. Single father of two

Editor; Answer Below

Dear Editor What is happening at the hospital is it right that some illnesses will have to be treated elsewhere maybe even miles away, does this mean that some of the excellent services will be lost. The time we would have to travel would be distressing for the parents and children. The cost if you had to travel due to a long-term sickness would be incomprehensible. I am worried sick for my children. Mother of two Melrose Walk

Editor; To these people that have written to Popley Matters and the many others that have approached us we have contacted Dr Andrew Mitchell who has offered to come and speak to anyone at the next Forum meeting on Tuesday July 11th at 7-30 pm at Melrose Hall. We will also ask for a

representative of the area health authority, CHC to give us a chance to hear both sides.

Dear Editor I am not surprised that the amount of rubbish being recycled has dropped. Most of my friends have given up recycling for a good reason. We are wasting our time sorting, rinsing and recycling. Why do I say this? The dustbin men do not encourage us. On Wednesdays we can watch them empty our Piggy bins of plastic bottles and cans back into the nearest wheely-bin before taking it to the pick up lorry. No I don't mean a sack full tucked in the top of the wheely-bin to be picked out again I mean loose. Angry, Anglesey Close.

Editor; There is no denying that the refuse collection has been extremely bad for some months now. I myself have complained on more than one occasion. I went with the Chair of Health and Housing and spoke to Bob Brookes the officer in charge and he took on board every thing I had reported. He explained that the contractor had had trouble with broken down lorries and staffing problems. Mr Brookes confirmed that Popley had the worst problem as it was the biggest round and this is now to be addressed with extra staff. The bulk waste will take about twelve days to clear then we should be back on course. We in Popley are proud to do things for our environment but we need the cooperation of the refuse men to make it worth our while to sort, separate and dispose of the different types of rubbish

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
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Val Peacock Headmistress of Merton Infant School retires

In July, after twelve highly successful years Mrs Peacock will retire. During her time at Merton Mrs Peacock has transformed the inner courtyard into a peaceful garden retreat enjoyed by both children and staff. Mrs Peacock also converted the kitchen into "The Poppets" pre school group facility, which has been successful beyond expectation. A reflection of Mrs Peacock's contribution has been an excellent Ofsted inspection at both the school and Pre School.

Mrs Peacock endeared herself to all the parents by making herself available at all times to talk to them but also giving reassurances to any of their concerns.

Mrs Peacock leaves behind a legacy of care and dedication to the children who came through the school doors. Whoever succeeds Mrs Peacock has a hard act to follow. George Hood Chair of Governors

The board of Governors have appointed Mrs Lin Clements to succeed Mrs Peacock as one of the governors on the board as a Popley Councillor I would like to extend a warm Popley greeting to Mrs Clements. Mrs Clements impressed me with her obvious caring for children she will indeed have a hard act to follow in the excellent footsteps of Mrs Peacock. Good luck in your retirement Mrs Peacock and again welcome to Mrs Clements

NOW OPEN



Girl Guides

On reflecting over the last year, my first as District Commissioner in Popley, I am reminded of the happy times I have had within guiding over some 26 years (15 of which have been as a Leader). There were times as a

Brownie when I got a sense of achievement working for badges that I was quizzed on by a third party and then received a certificate and badge as I passed these questions. As a Guide I remember camping in rural locations, cooking in the open first - entertaining ourselves in the rain and making contraptions with what seemed at the time complicated knots! As a Guider my fulfilment comes from watching young children's faces light up and smile when they've made something they're proud of or enjoyed an outing or holiday. That is thanks in itself for all we do as voluntary guiders. There is also the enjoyment shared between guiders who have a common bond to ensure our girls enjoy their time in guiding. This year has been full of fun, laughter and hard work but we have achieved: -

- ◆ A successful Old Time Music Parents Evening
- ◆ A Rainbow trip to Paultons Park at Christmas
- ◆ Set up our own website www.netcomuk.co.uk/~gordos/index.htm
- ◆ Carried out a week's camp for Guides
- ◆ And a pack holiday for Brownies
- ◆ Along with setting up our own invaluable Friends of Guiding Group

amongst other things.

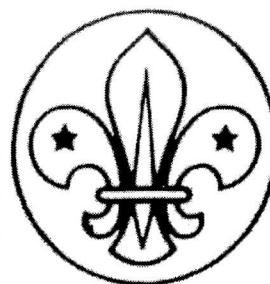
If you would like to know more about guiding in Popley whether for your daughter, grandchild etc or to join as a helper, friend of guiding or leader please call Sue Saunders - Popley District Commissioner on 07778 301948 (Girls range from 5 years old - 16).

Basingstoke Play Council



Basingstoke Play Council have two sessions booked at Popley Fields for the Open Access Play Scheme
14th to 18th August 9-30 to 12-30
21st to 25th August 9-30 to 12-30

For further details phone Sue Mason on 01256 844847



Basingstoke Air Scouts

The Air Scout Group was delighted to learn of a lottery grant of £64,000 towards the cost of replacing their dilapidated wooden hut at Carpenters Down. The grant is conditional upon the Group securing the full cost of £130,000 and starting to build by November 2000. Over £98,000 is already secured and it is hoped

that the Borough Council will now feel able to make a significant contribution to this vital re-building project. The Group is redoubling its efforts to raise extra funds through a variety of fund raising events. The bi-weekly Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest School on Sundays are well supported and other plans include a Summer Fete., a '2 for 2000 Appeal' and a Line Dance.

Most members of the Scout section having taken at least one flight in a glider plane recently the cost of which was sponsored by British Gas in association with the Basingstoke Gazette. The scouts are grateful to their leader Suzanne Fletcher Mallinson ('Spitfire') and to instructors from Shalbourne Soaring Society for making this possible. They hope to repeat the experience one day. Many of them have already completed their Junior Airman badge and are looking to greater things. Currently they are working on plans for an adventure weekend to develop their camping skills and learn the concepts of orienteering, pioneering, boating and canoeing. The 'practical' will follow! Plans are already in hand for a special Millennium Camp at Cricket Camp Site at Hedge End. The younger sections of Cub and Beaver Scouts have concentrated their efforts on developing craft skills and having fun with lots of games during the darker evenings. New members are always welcome and interested people should contact the Group Scout Leader Jan Saunders at 9 Orkney Close, Popley (01256) 410514. Beaver Scouts can join from the age of 6, Cub Scouts from 8 and Scouts from 10 1/2 years. Meetings are held in the Air Scout HQ at Carpenters Down (to the rear of Popley Fields Community Centre)

Latest up date:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have granted £25,000 towards the rebuilding project. This was a cross party decision that all the Councillors agreed was a great opportunity to help not only the residents of Popley but the whole Borough too. The building will also be available for community use. You can buy a brick to help build this new headquarters for £2 contact Jan Saunders at the above phone number.



MELROSE COMMUNITY HALL

Registered Charity Number 1044547

MELROSE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

On Monday 26th June 2000 at 7-30pm in Melrose Hall we will be holding our AGM. We would love to see some new faces or better still more members for our committee we can only keep going with your support so please come along.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

There is now more and more going on at Melrose Hall.

Monday in the afternoon from 2pm - 4pm is the Friendship Café and in the evening two new clubs. From 8pm to 10pm our new Western Line Dancing for couples

Tuesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm is the over 18 Bingo, this is followed by Petite School of Dance.

Wednesday in the morning from 9.30 - 11.30 our parent toddler group meet, again in the afternoon there is more classes from Petite and in the evening from 7pm - 9pm is the Adventure Ranger Corp

Thursday Afternoon there is another new club, from 1.15pm - 2.30pm Physical Play for the under 5's (they must be accompanied by an adult). Also in the afternoon from 4pm - 5pm is Mini Moves for ages from 5 - 13 years.

Friday in the evening from 6.30pm- 9pm is our Melrose Christian Fellowship Church youth Club.

Saturday Morning Petite School of Dance

Sunday 10am - 1.30pm Melrose Christian Fellowship Church

Please don't forget our Coffee mornings Monday and Thursdays 9.30am to 12noon pop in and have a cuppa and meet old friends and perhaps make new 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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ACTION AT HOME

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"Are you doing your bit"? to change your everyday actions to benefit both yourself and the local and global environment. If not and it is something you are interested in, then we have an easy solution to the question. Global Action Plan, a national Charity, is being supported by the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, in its "Action at Home" programme. This gives householders easy practical steps towards achieving a more sustainable lifestyle whilst at the same time saving the householder money.

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council along with other interested parties has negotiated a reduced joining fee for residents of £5 instead of £12, which also covers the cost of the packs, postage & packing.

Householders sign up to the scheme for 6 months. At the start of the scheme householders complete a questionnaire to determine their own "Green Score". The householder receives a pack on a monthly basis, each covering a different theme. The pack covers issues such as Waste, Energy, Transport, Purchasing, Water and Next Steps. Each pack consists of:-

- ◆ Tips for saving money and doing things differently.
- ◆ Games and activities for younger members of the household.
- ◆ Facts and figures.
- ◆ Campaign cards.
- ◆ Incentives from national and local businesses (worth £50)

At the end of each 6-month period, householders complete a questionnaire to see whether their actions have improved their "Green Score".

If anyone is interested in signing up to Global Action Plan's "Action at Home" then please contact Sue Tabor, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, on (01256) 845779, or Alex Barker at the Hampshire GAP Project Officer, on (01962) 844450.



POPLEY FIELDS FUN DAY SUNDAY 16TH JULY 11AM - 4PM

CAR BOOT, FUN FAIR, TOMBOLA, CROKERY SMASH, GIANT RAFFLE, PLUS LOTS OF EVENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY. GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Clubs & Activities

Monday evening	6.30pm - 8pm Baton Twirling, 8.15pm - 10-15pm Wu Shu Kwan Marshal Arts.
Tuesday evening	6.30pm-8pm Rosemary Connelly Diet & Fitness 6.30pm-8pm CMA Kick Boxing
Wednesday evening	6.30pm-7.30pm Moves 2000, 8pm - 10pm Line Dancing
Thursday evening	7pm-8.30pm CMA Kick Boxing 7pm - 8pm Moves 2000
Sunday evening	10.15am - 12.15pm New Testament Church of God

In addition Treasure Island Play Group run Monday to Friday 9.30am-12pm
Monday and Thursday afternoon 12.30pm 3pm.
Parent Toddler Group Thursday morning 10am - 11.30am.

NEW DROP IN CENTRE MONDAY - FRIDAY 12PM - 2PM ALL AGES WELCOME. (WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS)

BABY CLINIC HAS MOVED TO POPLEY FIELDS

The clinics that were previously held in the Health Centre at Longfellow Parade, Popley Poets, are now being held at the Popley Fields Centre. Wednesday's 9.30am - 11.30am Baby Clinics, Wednesday's 2pm-4pm Developmental Checks. Friday's 9.30am-11.30am Family Planning. The Speech Therapy has also been moved to the Centre, Please phone 325422 if you need more information.

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The Forum met at Dryden Hall on April 12th

The agenda was almost exclusively on the problems around the shops at Longfellow Parade. Most of the people that attended lived in or near the shopping area. The meeting started off with an apology from the police. A report on behalf of the local police given by Jane Frankum. PC Andy Oliver has transferred to cover Chineham and a new officer will be assigned in the future to replace him. There was a report that there had been two serious incidents at the White Horse Ponds and this involved getting out the emergency services both times to rescue several children. At this point Jane Frankum reported that she had requested that the pond were cleared and shrubbery cut and as a matter of safety this was done within two days. Some youths are riding around in old cars that they had been given mistakenly by people wanting to get rid of their old cars and they were asked to be careful in the disposal of their old cars. Officers had asked that the public be thanked for reporting crime and they looked forward to working with the public to reduce crime.

Tony West was the first guest to speak, Tony explained that in January the Health and Housing Committee had agreed funding to do some research into the problems in Popley. Tony wanted to move things forward and do a survey using the community, schools, residential homes and residents to gather the information. A small working party was formed with Jane Frankum, Gloria Gooch, Patricia Langley, Linda Phillips, Tony West and a resident to be decided later, this group would develop a questionnaire that was relevant to Popley. The purpose is to identify the problems and from the answers find some longer-term solutions with the help of the people who live in Popley.

Linda Phillips from Oakfern Housing told the meeting that the new lighting was installed and CCTV was now in place though it had been vandalised within a short time. Local Schools were designing murals and we were shown the excellent quality of the work done by John Hunt and Chineham Park schools.

Mr Potton started the resident's questions by saying how disappointed he was with the frequency and quality of the refuse collections, there were several other similar complaints and Blanche Miles took down the details and will attend to them by the next day.

Mr Brooke said how dissatisfied he was that the police had not come to the meeting. Dave Phillips of the Boys Brigade asked if they could take over the toilet block and find a use as a charity shop or drop in centre for young people.

The meeting closed with a reminder that the Popley Festival was on 21st May and it was hoped there would be even more visitors than the 6000 last year

The next Forum meeting is on July 11th Popley Fields at 7:30pm the subject is the Hospital with the emphasis on the children's service. (Jane Frankum)

Longfellow Parade Project

On Tuesday 16th May a public meeting led by the police and supported by Councillors, Oakfern and the local community took place at Dryden Hall. This was to inform the community of the developments taking place on Longfellow Parade.

Linda Phillips informed the meeting that the CCTV cameras were put into place the previous Friday and vandalised over the weekend. Graffiti has been removed and the next objective is to tackle the courtyard area. Planned timing for this is June to design format with completion in September.

Paul McCarty from the police apologised for their absence at the Popley Forum and explained that both officers were away at the time. He reported that the toilets were up for closure on the 31st May. There are six walls in the area to be painted by young people. A competition is currently running with local schools, and the police have allocated £5000 to fund the project. There will also be a competition to design a garden area. The police are currently working with the manager of the Pen and Parchment. Several fund raising evenings have taken place with more in the pipeline.

At the next Community Safety Forum emphasis will be placed on Popley. Concerns and issues will be put forward. It was acknowledged that there is very little for the youth to do, and the agreement is that it is now time to be constructive and give the youth a diversion. Plans are being made to create a place they can go. At the moment the playing fields at Pershore Road are being viewed as a possibility. Previous research has shown this is favourable to young people. Activities to include a teen shelter, half pipe, and football pitch, and kick wall. Ideas and suggestions from the community would be appreciated. Jane Frankum highlighted the need for the involvement of residents and to fight hard for monies to improve Pershore Road and Aldermaston Open Space as family leisure areas.

Tony West addressed the meeting on the Sway Project, an initiative to get the community working together. Representatives from Popley Councillors, community safety, police, fire, health and social services will be going to Birmingham to visit the project. Pupils from John Hunt will be involved in the conducting of surveys.

Pat Langley reported that the school now had two basketball posts installed and the aim is now to raise enough money to install six more. This would make John Hunt the only eight-goal centre in the county bringing high profile to Popley. She also reported that John Hunt School has a core of pupils working hard to improve community spirit.

Questions were then asked from the floor. The main concerns were rubbish. It was explained that the refuse contract is up next year. It will be put out to tender and the council will be taking all concerns raised seriously. Underpasses were also a concern for many residents. We were informed that part of the scheme is to cut back hedgerows and improve the underpass to Oakridge. The question of security gates at Longfellow parade was raised. This is being looked into but it is a longer-term issue.

Popley Community Development Worker Report

I have now been in post since January and I am beginning to feel at home round Popley. I have been very pleased at the welcome I have received both from individuals and groups I have met. If I haven't met you yet I apologise, but Popley is a big area.

I'm very interested in developing community spirit in Popley and if you have any idea's I would be very interested in speaking to you. I can be contacted through either Popley Fields Centre or Melrose Hall. Leave a message and I will get in touch.

Easter Day saw sixty-five children plus parents trudging through the woods on the Easter Egg Hunt. With torrential rain all through the week leading up to Easter I feared we would have to hold it in the hall. However on the day the sun shone and we braved the environment. The Mayor and Mayoress attended and judged the Easter bonnet parade and prizes were given out for the best-coloured bunny. I would like to extend my thanks to all the people who helped to make it an enjoyable day.

Over the last month I have been working with young people from John Hunt making a banner for the Popley Festival. Thanks to all the young people who gave up their Thursday evenings and may I say how much I enjoyed working with them. To the rest of the young people on the estate, I would like to hear your ideas. My aim is to form a youth committee, giving young people a voice in what goes on in their community. If you are interested please don't hesitate to contact me.

Last but not least I will be taking over the Village column in the Gazette from June. If you are a group or an individual, planning an event or you have a report on something you have done or achieved, let me know. Please send it c/o Melrose Hall. *Gloria Gooch Popley Community Development Worker*

Free Door Chain and Spy Holes

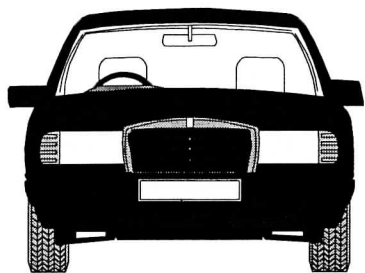
This is a joint initiative between Moat Care and Repair, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire Constabulary to install a door chain and spy hole for any vulnerable people living in the Borough.

Who is eligible? People receiving a means tested or disability benefit, People over sixty and other vulnerable people can receive it at cost

For more details contact Moat Care and Repair on 01256 845776

PASSENGER SERVICE

Male/Female
Drivers
All Airports



Local
and
Long
Distance

Travel Tokens Accepted

Gatwick from £40.00 Heathrow from £30.00



01256 878787

Workers Educational Association

The WEA is a charitable organisation. We are working in the Popley and Oakridge area offering the local community "lightweight" courses, which are usually free and have a free crèche running along side. The aim of the association is to encourage adults, who have previously missed out on education, back into the education loop. The WEA also run courses on First Aid, a Crèche Workers Course, Living and Working with the Under Eights and Where do our Nursery Rhymes Come From., and Arts and Craft for Everyone

Community Courses include Second Chance to Learn, Helping in Schools, Women's Learning Program, Access to Higher Education. Most community courses are free

Workplace Courses including Pre retirement, communication skills, deaf studies, trade union education. Many of these are organised on request for employers, trade union and voluntary groups.

General Courses, include Literature, Art, Music, Creative Writing, Science, Local history, Garden Design, Philosophy and Politics

Watch out for posters or ring Tish Mason on 01256 505842.



Popley On-line

First I created a website for St. Gabriel's Church because as I edited the weekly newsletter I had all the latest news to hand. Then I felt that the Popley Boys Brigade needed a website because of all the good youth work that was going on unreported. Eventually 'Popley-Online' just evolved from all the information and other useful items that I had gathered. News is collected and reported in

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



many ways. Online news is fast becoming a media available to a growing online public. World news, National news, Regional news, and Local news - it all has its place. Popley-Online is available to everyone, 24 hours a day, 365.25 days a year. Digital television also allows many more people to access the Internet. Many thousands of local residents will soon see news and information from this website. I am thinking of a few pages for local businesses in the future, because as the Internet grows it will be important to be seen in there. E-commerce is happening, it's live and active and available to all. There is also the 'History of Popley' written by Arthur Attwood MBE. I have taken many pictures of Popley in the last couple of years some of which can be seen in Popley-Online Gallery. Popley-Online also contains links to other people in Popley with their own websites. It's a good way of learning about other families, their interests and ideals. All three sites can be found here:

www.popley-online.org.uk

Brian Mellowship (Webmaster)

Popley Festival 2000

The day started at 6am with a really rotten weather forecast and my heart sank. By 7am we had made the decision to move the charity market and wind band to the safe cover of the sports hall. Knowing how much time volunteers spend preparing their tombolas, raffles etc it would have been disastrous to have them rained on.

At 8.30 the star of the day from RAF Odiham swept over the school buildings and took up position on the field. The decision to bring the Chinook was in the balance right to the last minute owing to the weather forecast. It was quite something to hear the roar of the engines, feel the ground tremble and the downdraft nearly blow you off your feet. There was then the reassuring rumble of heavy lorries along Popley Way indicating the arrival of Walls Fun Fair. It might just be all right after all! Luckily apart from a shower at about 10am and the threat of rain throughout the day the weather was not as bad as it could have been.

The car boot sellers arrived through the clouds and the day got underway. Hampshire Fire and Rescue brought an information caravan about fire safety in the home, 'Bernie' (a former Unigate milk float converted by Green Watch) was giving rides to local children and a huge fire engine stood in the car park ready to rush off to deal with any emergencies (which it did once or twice). There were also display caravans from Basingstoke and Deane Council, the Police and the Alzheimer's Disease Society. Around the school field local charities had a range of activities going on, not least the ever-popular sponge throwing and crockery smash run by Melrose and Popley Fields. There were go-carts, for the first time a laser maze, Caribbean workshop and beer tent. In the arena there were displays by Basingstoke Kite Flyers, Chen Wu Kuan martial art and an explosive archery display from the Grey Goose Wing featuring their armour piercing arrows. Hampshire Wildlife were helping local children discover the delights of the creatures that live in the school moat with organised pond dipping sessions.

Indoors there was a craft fayre, cake sale, grand raffle, opportunities to discover family learning opportunities in Popley with BCOT, craft demonstrations of machine knitting and embroidery, story sacks for the under fives from WEA and the celebrated charity market with many local organisations represented. John Hunt nursery had a whole range of things going on for the little ones. For the first time Shopmobility brought scooters

so that less mobile could get round the whole festival which was particularly big this year.

This brings me to my next point. I know many people were disappointed about not being able to park in the school grounds. There were so many stallholders and demonstrators that once we allowed for a few disabled parking spaces it was very tight indeed. The festival is all about Popley families and many of our visitors are about the same height as a car bonnet or smaller. With the best will in the world not all drivers are as cautious as they could be and not all parents are able to keep a close eye on their toddlers as they might like to. After discussion with Basingstoke Police it was felt safest to not have public parking on site. During the day I personally saw two or three near misses with young children nearly coming to grief despite the restrictions on parking. We will look at the issue of parking again with Basingstoke police.

If any residents have ideas of how we can resolve this tricky problem I would love to hear them I am sure none of us want anything untoward to happen to any of Popley's youngsters.

Final words must be to thank all those who helped make the day happen. Festival stalwarts Iris King, Dave Phillips, Caroline Griffiths who worked tirelessly with new girls Gloria Gooch and myself to put the day together. Without the support and help from volunteers throughout Popley and the wider community of Popley the event would not happen. Next year's is Sunday May 20th 2001 - get the date in your diary.



*Basingstoke
and Deane*

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Announcement

There will be an open public exhibition on the proposals for some traffic calming measures for Abbey Road on

June 19th at Melrose Hall from 3pm to 7pm.
All are welcome

Your Popley Councillors and council officers will be in attendance there to make your concerns and comments to.