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POPLEY MATTERS

September to November 2000

Volume 3 Issue 10

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS



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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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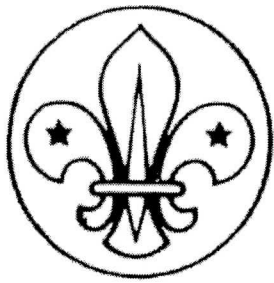
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Basingstoke Air Scouts

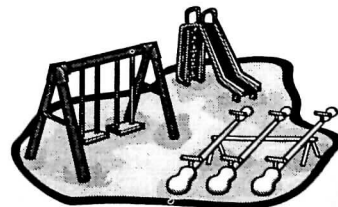
The Scout section has recently been working on their Mechanics badge and several of the girls have managed to keep abreast of the technicalities to qualify for the basic car mechanics skills badge. All members of the troop took part in an orienteering event recently. Having been taken, blindfold, to a location some miles from Popley and with only a map and compass (and a helpful leader!) they successfully managed to navigate their way back to their headquarters before darkness fell. Twelve members of the troop camped at Cricket Campsite near Eastleigh earlier in the summer and enjoyed a week of camping, hiking and other activities. They visited the submarine museum at Gosport and also had a try at abseiling. Cub scouts also camped during the weekend and had a super time with visits to Manor Farm and other places of local interest. Several cub scouts qualified for their Conservation badge.

Air Scouts also visited Saxon Wood School for their annual fete at the end of July and presented the children with a special hydraulically powered tricycle. Saxon Wood School is a special school for children aged between 2 and 11 who suffer from a range of physical disabilities. Scouts also helped out at the Kite Festival, at the Vintage Motor Show in the Memorial Park and with a horticultural show in Monk Sherborne. It is good to see that, despite having to work hard to raise funds for their new building, the Group still finds time and energy to help others and make a positive contribution to their local community.

More members are always welcome in any of the three sections which offers a structured programme of activities for children from the age of 6. Potential new recruits should contact Jan Saunders the Group Scout Leader on Basingstoke 410514 for details of meeting days and times.

Trinidad and Tobago Play area

Are to get some upgrading done for the next budget year. Any one who is interested is invited to come and give their input on type or design of equipment. The meeting will be at St Gabriels Church Hall 3:30pm October 12th



Message From the Editor

I was looking at some of the back issues and was surprised to note that it was just a year ago that we highlighted the issues around Longfellow Parade since then there are quite a few improvements CCTV the shrubs cut much lower and now the excellent mural painted with the help of some of the children from Popley together with its schools. Well done everyone it looks really colourful.

It looks like there will be many more changes in Popley over the next few years. The Borough and County Council alongside the governors of John Hunt School are looking at ways to vastly improve education at the school. They are looking at continuing to repair the now old building or the more ambitious choice of building a new state of the art school with many more facilities. Of course as is the practice of the present council administration there will be public consultation.

The play area by Trinidad and Tobago will be updated next year and there is a public meeting at St Gabriel's Church on October 12th at 3.30pm for anyone who is interested in putting their ideas forward.

It is hoped that they will soon start on building the new medical centre at Shakespeare Rd, contracts are about to be signed.

I am pleased to report that a group of people the "Popley Initiative Group" have joined together to look at how we can further improve Popley: Councillors, Oakfern, Community Safety, Crime Prevention, and the Community will meet the public and get your ideas on how to improve our quality of life and feel safer in our homes. Watch the notice boards at the community centres and shops.

Now the not so good news, by now many of you will have noticed the new bus routes and the way it has hit some areas quite badly. It is impossible to get from one end of Popley to the other by public transport unless you change buses. Despite requests to Stagecoach they have said they will make NO changes to the three Popley bus routes. They state they are a commercial company that has its first duty to the shareholders. Well Stagecoach, you would have no company therefore no shares if it wasn't for the public using the buses. In many cases there is no choice but to use Public transport and your service should do just that serve your customers. How do you expect to expand as a service if you do not cater to the needs of your customers? If buses don't run or run at inconvenient times or don't go to the places where customers want to go at a reasonable cost then people wont use them. Stagecoach have agreed to come to the next Popley Forum at Madeira Hall September 13th at 7.30pm. I hope lots of people come and show Stagecoach that we would use the buses more if they went to the places we want to go like the Doctors surgeries or Community Halls for socialising.

Finally we say goodbye to PC Paul McCarty who is leaving the force he has been our beat officer for nearly two years and he attended many of the Forums and was the instigator in getting things done for Longfellow Parade. It is a pity that he will not be here to see his completed project through. Good luck Paul and Thank you. Welcome to PC Ian Dawson who will replace Paul. *Jane Frankum (Editor)*

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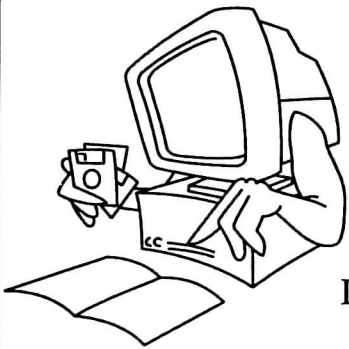
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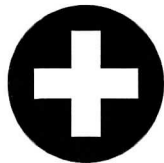
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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor: This is an excellent magazine. Why not put a copy in the library. Popley residents must complain more about problems. Why not publish a list of Council departments. Popley and Norden Councillors and Andrew Hunter MP. This is the only way to obtain results. I have tried it with great success. The Oakridge underpass was cleared of leaves at my request.

At the next meeting it should be noted that this estate is being more cut off. The clinic has gone and there is no bus from any of community centres. There is no bus to the hospital or the nearest chemists. The central path to the shops has no street lamps.

I do not attend meetings, as I am 85 and deaf.

Popley looks lovely now and many gardens deserve prizes. *(Poets resident)*

Editor; Thank-you for your excellent letter and kind remarks about the Matters. We have taken up your ideas and the useful numbers will be in the next issue, any ideas. The new bus routes is the subject of the next Forum meeting and I will make sure your views are aired. I will also take up the concerns of the lack of street lighting. I look forward to more letters like this one it shows that we do care about where we live.

Dear Editor: I get my copy of Popley Matters every quarter but my friend who lives in Pershore Road doesn't get a copy. It is such a useful magazine and I wondered why only

some people get it, *(Melrose Walk resident)*

Editor; I am sorry if your friend has not had a copy of Popley Matters recently. We rely on volunteers to deliver them, in fact the whole of the Matters team do it purely voluntarily. We are always asking for more people and would welcome any help of any kind that is offered. This does however give me the chance to thank all the wonderful people that help.

Dear Editor: Who works out the new routes and times at Stagecoach? Do they even live in Basingstoke let alone ride one of their buses. I think they just sit in an office and doodle and if it looks like a mess then they choose that one to plan the routes. Do they not realise that we the paying public pay their wages and the dividends for their shareholders. Wake up Stagecoach and provide a service that is at least usable *(Regular bus user (from 20th an ex one))*

Editor; I too use the bus to get around to work and shop so I sympathise wholeheartedly I hope you come to the Forum meeting on September 13th 7-30 at Madeira Hall where Stagecoach are invited to speak to us.

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.



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Update from your Area Beat Officers

Popley now has two Area Beat Officers WPC Emma Beattie and PC Ian Dawson. PC Paul McCarty has now left Basingstoke.

The Longfellow Parade Project is reaching its conclusion, so far achieved:-

1. Monthly visits to all Popley Schools by the local Beat Officers. This has proved to be a great success, for both schools and the Police and will be continued throughout the new term.
2. Increased lighting in Longfellow Parade area.
3. The introduction of CCTV in the courtyard of Longfellow Parade. A few teething problems initially but crime has dramatically decreased since the installation, retailers and the public have noticed the difference.
4. Regular inter-agency meetings discussing and highlighting Popley issues and providing solutions.
5. The Longfellow Parade Mural project. Pupils from John Hunt and Chineham Park Schools were invited to take part in the project and around fifty designs were submitted. Five winning designs were chosen. The winners each received a fifteen-pound gift voucher. Extracts of all designs are as I write being painted on the walls within Longfellow Parade. All of the prize money and the funding for the project came from Basingstoke Police.
6. The toilets within Longfellow Parade have now been closed.
7. The final part of the project is the revamping of the inner courtyard. Oakfern Housing are to submit plans in the near future.

This project has been a great success. It has increased Popley's profile and for the first time many agencies and groups are working together for the good of Popley. This scheme is just the tip of the iceberg, there are already further plans in the pipeline, such as Youth diversion schemes. There is much more to do but hopefully we are moving in the right direction.

Popley Matters/Forum would like to thank PC Paul McCarty and WPC Emma Beattie for all of their commitment and hard work and would like to say that we will miss PC Paul McCarty when he leaves, we wish him well for the future. We also welcome PC Ian Dawson and look forward to working together with him and Emma to continue the work that is still left to be done.

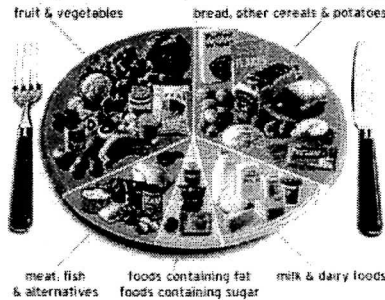
Healthy Eating at a Glance

“You are what you eat” has been a familiar saying to many people for many years. And it really does sum up an important way to stay healthy. What we eat can influence how likely we are to get a cold in winter, how well we can fit into our swimming costumes for our summer holidays or just how fit we feel to be able to get through the tasks for the day.

Thanks to many eye-catching headlines in newspapers, you could be forgiven for thinking that what’s healthy changes like the weather. But in fact, messages that describe healthy eating have really changed very little over the past quarter of a century. The headline grabbing research (the spin that journalists place on it aside) has in fact confirmed that we are on the right track to good health through good nutrition if we follow the following advice:

- Enjoy your food**
- Eat a variety of different foods**
- Eat plenty of foods rich in starch and fibre**
- Eat plenty of fruits and veg**
- Do not eat foods that contain lots of fat**
- Don’t have sugary foods too often**
- If you drink alcohol, drink sensibly**
- Eat the right amount to be a healthy weight**

You may also of seen this advice given as a picture known as “The Balance of good health”. It is shown below and it describes the different groups of food that make up a healthy way of eating when eaten in the right proportions.



So this means that if you eat about one third of your foods as fruit and veg and another third from the bread, other cereals and potatoes food group, with the remaining third coming from milk and dairy foods group, the meat fish and alternatives group and least of all the fatty and sugary foods, you’ll be well on the way to good health through nutrition

For further advice on healthy eating, contact the North and Mid Hants Health Promotion Service on 01256 376488 *Dr Anne-Marie May North Hampshire Primary Care group*



Come along to our Fun Day
Saturday 16TH September

noon till 5pm

Walls Fun Fair from 14th to 17th

THERE WILL BE LOTS TO DO

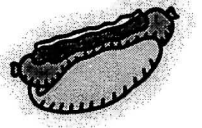
CAR BOOT SALE,

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CHARITY STALLS, TOMBOLA,

RAFFLE, REFRESHMENTS

plus lots more



HOPEFULLY WE WILL ALSO HAVE BIRDS OF PREY & SAINSBURYS TRAIN.

Popley Fields AGM will be held on

Tuesday 7th November 8pm

Free Wine and Nibbles.

Everyone is welcome, this is your community centre and it is only with your support and help that we can continue to provide a vital service for the local community. Please take the time and come along and help to elect your committee.



MELROSE HALL

Thanks to all that came along to the MCA AGM. A big thanks goes to Iris King who resigned as Chair of Melrose (although she remains on the Committee) for all her hard work especially over the last year and good luck to Tony Gough who takes over as Chair. Jenny Bailey is Vice-Chair, Kate Lomas Secretary and Sue King Treasurer. Committee Members are Iris King, Louise Tuck, Phillip & Eve Keeble, Doris Saitch, Amal Sarkar, Archie Martin, Ann Souilah, Iris Fogg and Bert Bishop.

Don't forget if you need rehearsal room for bands, dancing or plays etc. Melrose Hall is available for hire. ☎420676

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Mondays 2pm – 4pm The Friendship Café. In the evening from 8pm to 10pm Western Line Dancing for couples

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

Wednesdays 9.30am–11.30am our parent toddler group meet. In the afternoon more classes from Petite. In the evening 7pm – 9pm Adventure Ranger Corp

Thursday 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 Mini Moves for ages from 5 – 13 years.

Friday 9.30am-2.30pm Loddon Alliance (Network Club).

In the evening 6.30pm–9pm the Melrose Christian Fellowship Church Youth Club.

Saturday Morning Petite School of Dance

Sunday 11am – 1pm Melrose Christian Fellowship Church

Please don't forget our Coffee mornings Monday and Thursdays 9.30am to 12.00 pop in and have a cuppa and meet old friends and perhaps make new ones.

Message from Tony Gough new Chair of Melrose. On 26th June 2000 I was elected Chairman of the Melrose Community Association, this was with the support of many people in the Popley Area. I believe that I will continue the good work set by my predecessor Iris King.

Since my short time in office:- my 1st event was the Winklebury Carnival, which was a huge success and I would like to point out that Melrose took 1st prize in the best float entry in the Carnival. This was only achieved with the superb and brilliant team of Committee Members of the MCA we pride ourselves on being dedicated to serving the Community in which we live. We will always-welcome new members and I am looking forward to a challenging time as the Chairman of MCA

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
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Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

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ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14

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FOUR LANES AUTUMN 2000

Course Name	Course Start	Day	Weeks	Time	Fees	Reg
LANGUAGES (NCFE)						
German Level 1	RYE70	20/9/00	Wed	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £22
French Level 1	RYE66	18/9/00	Mon	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £22
PRACTICAL CRAFT (NCFE 7880)						
Needlecraft Stage 1	RYE50	18/9/00	Mon	30	12-2pm	£73 £22
Dressmaking	XEE101	20/9/00	Wed	10	10am-12	£43
Dressmaking	XEE112	21/9/00	Thur	10	10am-12	£43
GENERAL INTEREST						
Fresh Xmas Wreaths & Decorations	XEE102	2/11/00	Thur	5	7pm-9pm	£22
Gardening for Pleasure	XEE105	1/11/00	Wed	5	7pm-9pm	£22
Facial Massage & Make-up Techniques	XED110	14/10/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21
Autumn Splendour Gardening Workshop	XEE106	14/10/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21

JOHN HUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL AUTUMN 2000

Enrolment session John Hunt School Thursday 7th September 7pm-9pm

Course Name	Course Start	Day	Weeks	Time	Fees	Reg
LANGUAGES (NCFE0)						
Dutch Level 2	RYL30	20/9/00	Wed	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £22
Spanish Level 2	RYL14	21/9/00	Thur	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £22
French Level 1	RYL18	20/9/00	Wed	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £22
Italian Level 1	RYL20	20/9/00	Wed	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £22
PRACTICAL CRAFTS (NCFE7880)						
Drawing & Painting Stage 1	RYL01	18/9/00	Mon	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £20
Cake Decorating Stage 1	RYL25	19/9/00	Tues	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £20
Cake decorating Stage 2	RYL32	19/9/00	Tues	30	7pm-9pm	£73 £20
OTHER QUALIFICATION COURSES						
GCSE Mathematics	RYL2620/9/00	Wed	30	6.30-9.30pm	FREE	
GCSE English	RYL1621/9/00	Thur	30	7pm-9pm	FREE	

Both the above courses have a £22.60 Examination entrance fee

GENERAL INTEREST

Bridge Advanced	XLD104	19/9/00	Tues	10	7pm-9pm	£43
Aromatherapy & Massage	XLD103	21/9/00	Thur	10	7pm-9pm	£43
Basic Home Maintenance	XLE120	26/9/00	Fri	5	7pm-9pm	£22
Dried Flowers for your Home	XLE121	21/9/00	Thur	5	7pm-9pm	£22
Introduction to Modern Art	XLE130	19/9/00	Tues	10	7pm-9pm	£43
Decorate your Xmas Cake	XLE122	16/11/00	Thur	5	7.30-9.30pm	£22
Feng Shui	XLC100	18/11/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21

How to make the best of yourself

(Image/colour analysis)	XLC102	14/10/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21
Advanced Indian Cookery	XLE103	14/10/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21
Advanced Indian Cookery	XLE101	18/11/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21

Traditional Craft

Lampshade Making	XLE115	14/10/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21
Principals of Chair Caning	XLE116	18/11/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21
Basic Holiday Spanish	XLB103	18/11/00	Sat	1	10am-3pm	£21

Emergency Meeting on New Bus Routes

With only very few days before Stagecoach brought in completely new bus routes, times and numbers a meeting was called. Jon Hartley parliamentary spokesperson for Basingstoke Labour Party came as a guest speaker to give his advice. Jon is a Councillor for Reading who run their own bus service. Jane Frankum chaired the meeting and about 40 people came with some very disturbing stories on how badly it was going to affect them. Hospital workers who cant get to work for their shifts, people who live in Popley Abbeys that cant get to their doctors or dentists, school children with walks through wooded areas to get to the nearest bus stop. Pensioners who would have longer walks to the bus stops or be forced to make journeys out of Popley into town to come back out again to get to another part of Popley. The remark by a representative of Stagecoach to one of our senior citizens that it was "just a leisurely stroll to the bus stop" caused concern.

Concerns were raised that the first the public had heard about the changes was in advertising in the Gazette, the usual practice of getting out proper timetable booklets was ignored. The first time the routes were published was on Wednesday and the changes started on Sunday. Reginald Bryant was concerned that he had a half price pass and would now not be able to use it and had he known he would have got tokens instead. Reginald also was worried that tax payers money was being used for the passes and lots of people would not be able to use them now.

It was unanimously decided to form a small group of six people who would take on board the complaints and present the questions to Stagecoach at the Popley Forum meeting on September 13th at Madeira Hall at 7-30. The committee is Jon Hartley, Jane Frankum, Reginald Bryant, Alma Scott, Peter Moore and Anita Nelson.

If you are affected by the buses you can send your comments to Iris King at Melrose Hall or post them in the halls post-box Or contact Jane Frankum on 819924 or at 405 Abbey Road

Popley Ponds Safety Risk

I have been approached with my hat as a Popley Councillor with serious concerns on the safety around Popley Ponds and it reminded me of the five children who had to be rescued and taken to the hospital in February and March of this year. The site is a mess and is used to dump all sorts of rubbish. A suggestion has been made that the pond be filled in and newly landscaped. If you have any comments or ideas contact me on 819924 Jane Frankum.

Time to enrol...



ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE

ADVICE & ENROLMENT SESSIONS

Wednesday 6 September 4.00pm - 8.00pm

Saturday 9 September 10.00am - 1.00pm

Monday 11 September 4.00pm - 8.00pm

Lower Concourse, North Site, Worting Road

OR CALL 01256 306484

between 10.00am - 4.00pm

Monday - Friday

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FOR A COURSE DIRECTORY

BCOT Worting Road Basingstoke Hampshire RG21 8TN

"BCOT is a charity providing educational opportunities for the community"

Community Development Worker – Gloria Gooch

Longfellow Parade

Superintendent Alison Queen has judged the Art Competition running in Chineham Park and John Hunt Schools. The five winners were Jenna Macnair, James Hood, Kirsty Jones, Tanya Stokes and Claire Dwyer. All the winners received a £15 gift voucher. By the end of the summer holidays these images will be on the walls at Longfellow Parade. Further funding is being sought to continue the project and the aim is to involve the community as a whole in workshops, which will happen over the next 12 months.

Melrose Hall

Members of the community of all ages took part in the Winklebury Carnival. Ann Souilah dressed as the Queen of Hearts led Alice, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, with many others dressed as playing cards around the arena. A big thank you to Doris Saitch who put in so much time and effort into making the costumes. The participants came home with big grins carrying the cup for the Best Entrant.

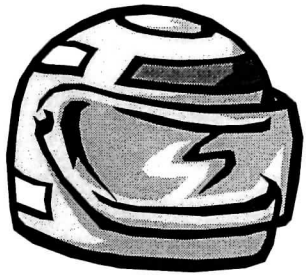
Workshops have been running during the summer holidays to involve young people 11-18 in Music, Photography and Drama. These were run in partnership with Clare the art worker from Junction 6. It gave many young people who would have otherwise been bored in the summer holidays a diversion.

A day out to the Hawk Conservancy proved to be popular with the senior citizens. Although the weather was not too kind the day was enjoyable and it is hoped another trip will be organised in the Autumn.

Popley Fields Community Centre

Popley Fields has had many Play schemes on offer this summer. The Play Council for two weeks. The YMCA offering day camps for ages ranging from 8-16. Activities with the Forest Ranger exploring and learning more about the wonderful woods we have situated behind us. Activities with the Boys Brigade and an evening of activities involving such groups such as the Air Scouts, Adventure Rangers and many volunteers.

At the end of July a group of young people from Alencon in France enjoyed a social evening hosted at Popley Fields. This included Football, Basketball and a Barbecue. The evening was a success with the young people enjoying the company of both old and new friends from Basingstoke. The French Youth Workers would like to extend their thanks to the committee of Popley Fields for their hospitality. The young people enjoyed a further evening with English young people participating in a percussion workshop at Junction 6.



Safe off-road cycling for Popley Youths

There is an exciting possibility for some of the youths of Popley; a trader from Tadley has said he would give some of our Popley youths the chance to learn safe handling for "off road" motorcycles also how to look after bikes. He has been given permission by Basingstoke and Deane Council to manage a motorcycle track at Popham Airfield for a set number of days per year. He has kindly offered to even to pick them up take them to the site and even provide some equipment and supervision at Popham. It is hoped that it will go through the Health and Housing Committee and start late this autumn. It is easy to complain but we should at least give our children and the project a trial. For more information contact Gloria Gooch Community Development worker at Popley Fields



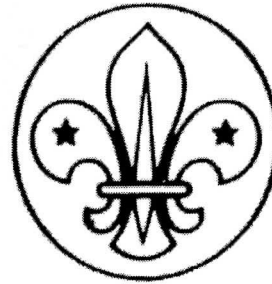
John Hunt School Pupils Triumph

Eighteen pupils (three teams of six) from John Hunt Community School took part in the Sainsbury "Year 9 Business Challenge" at Queen Mary College on 4th July.

Their task was to design a board game based around environmental issues, draw up a business plan and obtain finances from the bank manager.

All teams worked very hard and designed some excellent games. The team made up of Laura Leary, Laura Knight, Cerise Curtis, Melynda Armstrong, Samantha Vernon and Carleen

Donaldson won the "Best Use of IT" shield.



Scouts Building Project Carpenters Down

Excitement is growing in the Basingstoke Air Scout Group as they eagerly await the arrival of the bulldozers to start work on their new headquarters in Carpenters Down. After three years of constant fund-raising culminating in a symbolic 'Brick' Appeal earlier this year which raised over £1700; and with the help of grants from the National Lottery Charities Board, Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, they have now amassed sufficient funds to replace the old wooden hut at Carpenters Down with a permanent brick building. The total cost of the project (including the demolition of the old hut) is close to £150,000 and it is a tremendous credit to the Group that they persisted with an ambitious project that many felt would never happen. It is hoped to sign the building contract in September and building work should be complete within six months.

The new building will be called Base 2000 and a special logo has been designed to reflect the Air Scout Group's intention to make the building available to other members of the local community either on a regular or casual hire basis. Enquiries from potential users can be made to either Jan Saunders, Group Scout Leader Basingstoke Air Scouts at 9 Orkney Close, Popley or to Beryl Mullender, the building project secretary on Basingstoke (01256) 321596.

Base 2000 offers two halls (one slightly smaller than the other), with a fully equipped kitchen, central heating, toilet facilities and storage space. It has been designed to be fully accessible to the disabled. Some of the Popley Guide, Brownie and Rainbow units intend to transfer their meetings to the new building once it's commissioned and other members of the community are welcome to join them. Basingstoke East District Scouts intend to establish a resource and training centre at Base 2000

POPLEY FORUM REPORT – 13 JULY 2000

Many thanks to all of you who attended the Forum. It began with Superintendent Alison Queen, who reported on the installation of CCTV at Longfellow Parade, this has started to have a deterrent effect. She also reported that crime on the whole was down. Nuisance and anti-social behaviour requires co-operation from members of the public. Current plans include a youth diversion scheme. The Forum was shown the winning designs for the mural competition by the children of Popley.

Linda Phillips, Oakfern Housing said long-term plans for Longfellow Parade are being developed and suggestions from residents would be welcomed.

The Forum then welcomed Dr Simon Tanner – Director of Public Health, Ms Mary Edwards – Director of Nursing (representing Mr Mark Davies Director NHH Trust) Dr Andy Mitchell – Consultant Paediatrician Children's floor and Dr May – North Hampshire Primary Health Care Group.

Dr Tanner informed the Forum that the Health Authority were currently following a consultation called "Meeting the Challenge" which is about bringing the Authority into financial balance. Although the Government is putting more money into the NHS the Health Authority still needs to balance the books. Copies of the consultation document were available.

Ms Mary Edwards said that NHH were working together with other providers in the area. Key changes will be: closer working with Frimley Park Hospital, working with the Primary Care Group and Social Services to reduce beds in hospitals by caring for people in the Community, reduced waiting lists, to be more efficient across all services and save money by working with partners to make savings in support services.

Dr May NHPC covers all GP's in Basingstoke, Alton and Borden. Its role is to improve health, reduce inequalities and develop primary care (GP's, Health Visitors & District Nurses). Working closely with Social Services.

Dr Andy Mitchell consultant for Loddon Trust Children's Services asked "how are we best going to care for Children with these changes?" Many of the Staff oppose the proposal that the services transfer back to the NHH trust. Children have many types of requirements not all of which require admission to Hospital. The focus of Children's care is not necessarily on hospital beds, children with long term illnesses need a flexible service. Acute services do well but chronic services could do better. There has been a rise in children with mental health problems. He added that he felt the services offered could be put back by at a decade if the proposal went ahead. The Health Authority should come up with a better plan. The concern is that the proposed changes are for management convenience rather than clinical priorities.

Questions were then asked by the people who attended the Forum. Firstly was "if services do go to NHH trust what changes would there be?" Dr Tanner replied that the Health Authority were not talking about changing the level of service, or that money would be cut. Management and staffing would remain the same. Dr Mitchell

replied that the changes would mean more money being spent on acute services and this was not an appropriate way forward. Dr May PCG stated they had no intention of allowing this to happen.

Another question asked was about the public consultations and as to whether decisions had been made before the meeting took place. The Forum was told that consultation in the NHS is not about paying lip service. Dr May reiterated that there was no intention amongst GP's to see cuts in community services.

There was great concern about some services being transferred to Frimley Park Hospital and all of the ensuing problems that this in itself would cause. The Forum was told that children's services would remain at North Hampshire Hospital although there were plans to share expertise. ENT are the first services NHH are developing with Frimley Park. The majority of people would still receive treatment near to where they live. The idea being that there would be out patient and day services locally but it would be necessary to travel for specialist services.

The panel was then asked if the talk of transferring beds was a technicality for cutting services to save money. Ms Edwards replied that any plans would include consultations with paramedic and ambulance services. Closing medical beds rather than surgical beds would save money and with the local health authority economy in deficit, ways of saving money had to be looked into.

Concerns were raised about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Dr Tanner replied that they were aware a problem existed and that the aim was to sort out problems in the next few weeks. Services needed to be developed with Frimley Park and the Royal Surrey Hospital Guildford. Dr Mitchell said that the strength was that our services were integrated and under the proposals he feared they would not be.

Dr Tanner was then asked as to why the meetings did not take place months ago. He replied that there were many reasons as to why but gave his reassurance that everything possible would be done. Dr Mitchell added that the changes were being made in the absence of any forward planning and this was the great sadness.

Care for the elderly was then brought into question, Dr May gave her reassurance that the Primary Health Care Group would ensure that the health and social services worked together to mobilise resources to ensure the best services.

Dr Tanner was then asked about and opposition to the plans, one petition already has over 350 signatures on it. He replied that copies were kept and every written response would be handed to the Secretary of State by 21st July 2000.

The Chair (Mr Stan Parry) then thanked the panel for attending the meeting and asked why in the light of all of the overspends no one is sacked. Cllr Jane Frankum thanked the panel for candid replies and assured them that the public would be watching developments very, very closely. The Chair also extended his thanks to the Popley Forum for organising such a vital meeting,

**The Next Meeting of the Popley Forum is
Wednesday September 13th 7.30pm**