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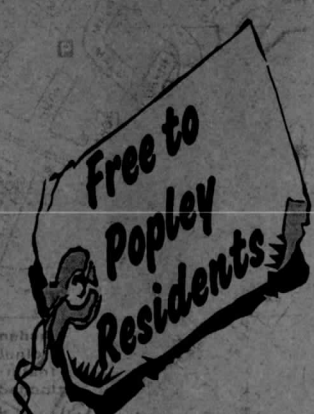
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Xmas Special POPLEY MATTERS

December 2000 to February 2001

Volume 3 Issue 11

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS



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Closing date to submit Adverts (02-02-01); articles (09-02-01)

Contents

Message from the Editor	Page 1
Age Concern in Popley?	Page 2
Arthur Attwood (Mr Basingstoke)	Page 3
Primary Care Group	Page 4
Community Development Worker Report	Page 7
Popley Bus Working Group Report	Page 8
Bus Tokens Collection Date	Page 8
Christmas Service Times	Page 9
New Group at John Hunt of Everest School	Page 9
Bus Stop Project	Page 10
Awards Committee	Page 10
Abbey Road Petition	Page 11
Popley Forum Meeting Report	Page 12
The Next Popley Forum Meeting	Page 13
Scout Hut Report	Page 15
Popley Partnerships	Page 16
Competition—For Bison Tickets	Page 16
Popley Two Residents Association	Page 19
Shopping Area Refurbishment	Page 19
Melrose Hall Report	Page 20
Popley Fields Community Centre Report	Page 21
Letters to the Editor	Page 22
Poem	Page 24
White Horse Pond	Page 24
Trinidad and Tobago Play Area	Page 24

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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Our technology she's a chef
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Sometimes she can be angry
When she's been wound up the wall
But other times she's nice to us all



Amy Anderson age 11

White Horse Pond

Thank you to all the people who took the trouble to contact me about the Popley Pond. I was pleased to know that so many people knew about the crested newts that have their habitat there and that they are a rare and protected species.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have made a start and done an excellent job of clearing away the mountain of debris and rubbish. You may have already noticed that our White Horse Ponds are a lot clearer and cleaner and we are now working with other agencies to see how the area can be improved even further. I hope it becomes a nature wild life conservancy area. I will keep you up to date as much as I can.

Message From the Editor

Congratulations go to Iris King and Dave Phillips for their awards for services to the community. Well done also the Melrose Eagles in their win against the Winklebury Destroyers they are a new youth football team that meet at Melrose Hall for details phone the Hall 420676

It does not seem possible that Christmas is here again and so soon. I hope you all have a great Christmas and as I say each year please look out for your neighbours. I have been concerned at the amount of con men getting into houses and robbing people who can least afford to lose. Ask any one that comes to your door for identification, if they have not got identification then ask for a company phone number that you can check if they are genuine. If you are not sure then DON'T let them in. Any one who is genuine will not mind you asking. There are free spy holes and door chains for the elderly and vulnerable, phone the Council offices for details.

I have been involved with the campaign to get Stagecoach to listen to its customers and a group that includes bus passengers is about to be formed. The Borough Council is looking at new ways of helping to serve the areas that Stagecoach doesn't. 2100+ signatures was a great effort and so many people from all over Basingstoke and Deane got involved well done and thank you all. Watch your local newspapers for application forms and details to get some tokens to replace the half fare concessionary bus passes that the elderly and disabled received before they knew that the changes would leave them without a bus stop mostly Pershore Road, Trinidad and Tobago Closes.

I got quite a response about Popley Ponds and I was able to pass these on to council officers and get the area cleared and cleaned up, I hope we can get a wild life nature area there with their help and Hampshire Wildlife. But the residents can help by making sure people do not dump their rubbish there.

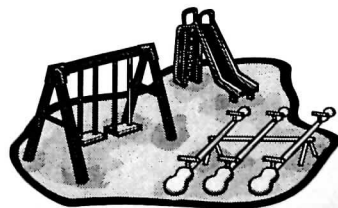
The new medical centre will start to be built very shortly contracts are signed but not exchanged yet. Also work on the shopping parades after years of campaigning will commence soon and early next year, improvements to the play area at Trinidad and Tobago will be started.

The new development of houses, shops, surgery and employment area to be built in Popley will be going out to consultation, as there are some changes, due to changes in the law there will be more houses, of the smaller type and a possible site for the new John Hunt School. On the site nearest to the Aldermaston road the proposal may be some small places for employment. All these are ideas and you will have the opportunity to participate.

Lastly let me wish you all the merriest of Christmases and a great New Year from all the Forum/Matters Team. *Jane Frankum (Editor)*

Trinidad and Tobago Play area

There was a very interesting meeting with residents, Councillors and Steve Bryer the Play area officer. At the end of a four and a half hour "drop in" session the opinion was for a safe area aimed at 0 to 4 to start with. Steve will work on a design and we hope to see it finished fairly early in the New Year. Look out for the White Horse theme. Thank you to all the residents that tuned up with some really good ideas.



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Basingstoke College's main site. Please phone for further details.

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AGE
Concern

Age Concern Day Centre in Popley?

The new trustees of Age Concern are planning to open an activities centre for older people in Popley, drawing members from Popley and Chineham. We have identified possible premises and carefully costed a scheme, which is mostly self-financing. The cost of a day out will be £5.50. However, this means that we will still rely on volunteers to run the centre and also other volunteers to either drive a mini bus from Basingstoke Community Transport, or to transport members from in their own car (for which a mileage allowance will be paid). We would be very glad to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming involved in this project, which will play an important part in the lives of members who attend. The centre will offer companionship, a hot lunch, games and other activities. Helping here will be rewarding and interesting. We hope that volunteers who come forward will enjoy working with Age Concern.

Please will interested volunteers contact Sally Bashford on 355391 or Chris Hasking on 479285

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Letters to The Editor



As Editor I am taking an unusual step and instead of answering individual letters I have grouped them together as there were many letters on two subjects.

Firstly Popley Ponds or White Horse Pond as it is known locally.

Comments were on how some people were using it as a tipping area and not caring that it is a rare and useful site for recreation. I agree and it has been tidied up once again and the council have done some preliminary work on a long-term answer. Together with interested parties and Hampshire Wildlife Trust they hope to develop it into a wild life area to safeguard the rare and protected Crested Newts, which was the other subject on White Horse Pond. Incidentally the legend is that a white horse walked into the pond and was never seen again.

The second subject was the buses and how poor the service, all complaints are being forwarded to Stagecoach and Hampshire County Council. There have been some minor improvements and the first number 9 bus leaves five minutes earlier so that people who work at the hospital can be in time for the first shift. The second I am pleased to report is on bus passes and tokens. After I put a question to the leader of the council on some concessionary half fare bus passes being useless as the buses don't go to Pershore Rd and Trinidad and Tobago (where a lot of

pensioners live) the Council have offered to compensate them with bus tokens and advertisements have been in the Gazette you can still get application forms from the council offices. Thanks go to the Council and their officers as the offer should have come from Stagecoach who did not think of the inconvenience or problems they caused to a large number of their customers.

Dear Editor: Its time again for Santa and the nine reindeer on the roof. So what do you think of Christmas and having a birthday on the same day or close to it? Do you get twice as many gifts or not? If you've got it on the same day you've got a good chance of not getting them. If your birthday is close to Christmas do you have a better chance of getting more gifts? I speak from experience. (Gareth Johnson John Hunt School)

Editor; As my husband Ken shares the same date as your birthday I can sympathise but he does do well out of the January sales now that they start in December. His fiftieth birthday party was on New Years Eve as it was a Saturday but he said it was not the same.

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.



Mr Basingstoke

“Water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink; Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink”. These words come from the Rime of the “Ancient Mariner” by Samuel Coleridge in 1798. Rime is the correct spelling. How true these words are today, especially in parts of Kent where people have been advised to boil their water, which is becoming contaminated.

Readers may well ask what this is to do with Popley being free of flooding. Apart from offering our sympathy to the many whom have been made homeless, flooding has more than a topical relevance, for Basingstoke too, has had floods in my younger days. Anyone living in Popley with connections with Worting or West Ham, familiar to them fifty or more years ago, will picture the fields of West Ham inundated. This was when the springs rose with several springs in the area. There was Spring Pond by the old footpath which led near the “Hammer & Tongs” to Winklebury, with another spring at Buckskin where Cairngorm Close stands today. This spring often rose to flood the road at Worting Bottom. I have a photograph showing the field now Cairngorm Close – a huge lake taken possession of by two swans.

The water flooded completely the West Ham Lane and the water meadows passed by people going to the outdoor swimming baths. The water flowed through the culvert under the embankment of the old Basingstoke to Alton Light Railway to flood King George's playing field, the old Waterworks Road, Lower Brook Street and rejoining the main stream at the bottom of Queens Road. To cross the road outside of my house we used to have to cross on planks. Years before, a very bad flood formed a lake at the West End of George Street.

You may well ask, why do we not experience floods in that area today? The answer is that with the population of Basingstoke rising from around 10,000 in Edwardian days to double that by the 1950's, a much deeper well had to be bored at the Waterworks to meet the needs of the growing population. This prevented the springs from rising. In the 1950's, the West Ham waterworks pumped enough water to meet the needs of the town, not so today. West ham waterworks still supplies most of the old town but to meet areas such as Popley, Chineham and Old Basing I understand that water is pumped from Wraybury on the Thames. Brighton Hill is supplied from the waterworks motorist pass on the Alton Road when nearing Alton.

If global warming is causing our inclement weather, who can tell what will happen in the near future? I cannot imagine that as an octogenarian, I shall not live to see the consequences which modern folk are creating to the ozone layer. Not a very nice thought for motorists if our problem is being created from fumes given off by cars. There is a moral in this, that nature can have its say despite all the marvellous inventions, which we all enjoy. (Arthur Attwood MBE)

TEN TIPS FOR BETTER HEALTH

3. Keep physically active.

The recommended levels of physical activity are

- 30 minutes of moderate exercise 5 times a week –

By not doing this you are at:

- twice the risk of getting coronary heart disease
- three times the risk of suffering a stroke
- increased risk of falls in the home (in the elderly)

There are many opportunities for affordable sports and leisure locally, encourage your children in particular to participate in sport at school and to join local sports clubs.

Your doctor can give you a '**prescription for exercise**' to use in the Town Centre Sports Centre, to get you going, and as an alternative to some medications. This gives a reduced entrance fee for the first ten sessions and a full choice of activities, with advice from the centre's staff tailored to your needs and condition.

The local authority has a collection of free leaflets detailing local foot and cycle paths that can be used to provide interesting circular tours of the area on foot or bicycle many off road and safe. This is being combined with the development of cycle paths to encourage us to get out of our cars and have safe areas to cycle. Children should be encouraged to walk to school where possible, and for short trips, leave the car at home and walk.

Physical activity is an important factor in preventing heart disease, building healthy bones and helping to maintain good mental health.

Remember too:

Don't give up, giving up smoking, there are new smoking cessation clinics being started locally from mid-November, contact your doctors' practice.

Five pieces of fruit or vegetable a day

Dr. Ann Marie May, N. H. Primary Care Group



APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE

Popley Fields Community Association apologises to anyone who may have turned up for our AGM, which was scheduled for the 7th November 2000. Due to circumstances totally beyond our control, the AGM had to be cancelled. We are very sorry for anybody who did not get this information in time and who arrived only to find out that it had been re-scheduled for 27th January 2001.

POPLEY FIELDS RE-SCHEDULED AGM

The re-scheduled AGM will be combined with a family evening. There will be a disco and bar and during the evening, then there will be a short break for the AGM. In saying this we would like as many members of the general public to attend the rescheduled meeting on Saturday 27th January 2001 at 7.30pm at Popley Fields Community Centre Carpenters Down.

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 meet and help elect your committee.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Popley Fields will be holding a Children's Christmas Party this year. The date of this is Saturday the 16th December from 2pm to 5pm. The cost is £3 to members and £3.50 to non-members. Pop into the centre to book your child's place.

NEW YEARS EVE DISCO

As usual Popley Fields Community Centre will be holding its New Years Eve Family Disco, everyone is welcome and there will be a bar, refreshments, and a raffle. Tickets are already on sale at the centre and as usual if you are a member, the cost of the ticket is discounted. It is a fun evening and for those of you who live very near the Centre there is no worry about drink driving, or trying to get a Taxi home on the busiest night of the year. (Ticket Prices Members Adult £5; Non Members Adult £10; Members Child £2.50; Non Members Child £3)



MELROSE HALL

Melrose held a mad crazy jumble sale, the concept was to fill a carrier bag for 50p or sack for a £1 this was an unusual but fun event and we managed to raise £67. Items for sale included glassware electrical goods and a mountain of clothing donated by the kind people of Popley. Many thanks for every body's support.

The Melrose Eagles have landed, we have currently started a five a side football team for the 12 to 16 age group. Our first game was at Winklebury Fields against the Winklebury Destroyers. We won by 5 goals to 4. The Eagles then played the older team and lost but the Eagles gave as good as they got playing an outstanding game. We were very proud of them. To join the Eagles please contact Tony Gough at Melrose Hall 420676

The Christmas bazaar was very successful and many people came out in the rain. Father Christmas was very busy and there was a variety of stalls. We raised £352-95p thank you it was a brilliant effort.

We welcome any of the youth of Popley to join the Melrose Association as part of our new Youth Forum. Membership is only £1 a year.

During the Summer Vacation, Melrose Hall held several workshops for the youth of Popley. The first of these was a Music Workshop, which proved very popular although we would have liked to have seen a few more new faces. Another workshop involved the murals at Longfellow Parade, well done to all the young people that turned up. A great time was had by all.

These workshops need the support of the young people of Popley and if you have any ideas about next Summer, leave a message at Melrose Hall for Debbie Dainton

A big thank you also to Clare Hobbs for all her help with the workshops and the people of Popley wish her well for the future.

Pop along to our Coffee mornings Monday and Thursdays 9.30am to 12.00 just pop in and have a cuppa and meet old friends and make new ones.

Monday afternoon 2pm – 4pm The Friendship Café

Tuesday afternoon 2pm - 4pm The over 18 Bingo (everyone welcome)

Wednesday Morning 9.30am–11.30am our parent toddler group meet

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Popley Two Residents Association

The association is progressing very well with membership on the increase, twelve new members enrolled in recent months. Worthy of a mention is a group of nine lovely ladies who reside at Oakfields in Lychpit. They travel by Dial-a-Ride to our Tuesday evening sessions of Bingo and thoroughly enjoy themselves, it really is a joy to see but then everyone enjoys themselves here. It is such a pity our hall is so small, we've had to decline usage by some groups because of this reason.

Now a more serious and disturbing problem we have had for many months now. Our refuse bin keeps being moved from the front end of the hall and placed up tight against the Fire Exit doors at the other end. I don't have to spell it out the very dangerous and life threatening consequences of this stupid action. Children are in the hall most days of the week as well as elderly people on other occasions. Adding to this problem, the bin is loaded with rubbish (from other sources) and still further the brakes are applied to the wheels, it goes without saying that this is a mindless act. I would ask all parents of children or teenagers who are known to frequent the Madeira shopping area to please talk to them about the seriousness of the problem.

The Bingo club had their annual day trip to Weymouth in August and were blessed with lovely weather. As usual Bingo was played on the coach and everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Marnel pre-school group are still going strong; they've had a most successful year, well done to Di Mallet and her staff.

Christmas is almost upon us again with community groups preparing for their events and festivities. From us all here at PTR A we wish them every success. In closing we also wish all our readers and their families a very happy Christmas and bright new millennium. (Ron Rowe)

Shopping Areas Refurbishment

At last after a couple of years of asking the plans have gone through to make the shopping areas look a bit better. It is hoped that the work will be done by Christmas.

Abbey Road; the canopy by the Popinjay will be removed and the path directly in front of the shops repaired and there will be some planting of shrubs. At Madeira shops; the back of the shops will be repaired and some planting to the side.

JANUARY COURSES AT POPLEY FIELDS

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Community Development Worker – Gloria Gooch

A meeting for the residents of Popley took place with the Forest Ranger at the end of September to get an update on the situation of Basing Woods. I am pleased to report that the forestry commission has made a commitment to maintaining the woods as a recreational forest. Although the budget has been set for this year, Basing Woods has been highlighted as a priority and you should see the big improvements over the next 24 months. A new gate has been installed to eliminate the problems with abandoned cars, which has resulted in them being dealt with quickly and efficiently.

During half term 31 young people between the ages of 7 and 17 took part in a motor-cross tester day. The day started at Junction 6 with a safety talk and film and in the afternoon the young people were transported to Popham. Due to the appalling weather conditions and taking safety as our first priority, bikes were substituted for quads. Once on the track the young people soon realised how difficult it was to control the vehicle and appreciated how easily an accident could happen. The day was very enjoyable and it is hoped that further days can be arranged in the Spring.

May I say a big thank you to everyone that came along to Popley Fields and supported our Halloween Event? It was horrendous weather, which meant the fairground rides and BBQ had to be cancelled. Mind you I would not have fancied the music trip with torrential rain and gusts of wind at 80mph. I cannot blame anyone for staying indoors that night, but for those of you who ventured out and faced the elements, thank you again and I hope you enjoyed yourself.

Melrose Hall is busy raising funds for Children in Need. We would like to raise as much money as possible this year. Jars are out and about in Popley for you to put your loose change or foreign coins in. Please give generously.

Popley Fields will be holding a Children's Christmas Party this year. The cost is £3 to members and £3.50 to non-members. Pop into the centre to book your child's place. (Gloria Gooch)

Gloria is leaving Popley at the end of December to take up another post in Brighton Hill. Gloria has asked that we say how much she has enjoyed her time in Popley and to say a sincere thank you to every one that has helped and supported her. We will all miss her but wish her well in her new job.

For more information telephone Richard Aldworth Community School
on (01256) 473698 during the school day,
6.30 pm-9.30 pm weekday evenings or 9.00 am-12.30 pm Saturdays.

Popley Bus Working Group Report

A bus petition was started at the meeting held at Melrose Hall in August and a sub committee of six was formed. Over twenty one hundred signatures were received. So many people signed that live in all parts of Basingstoke and Deane, people were ringing up or contacting to ask if they could sign and even asking to take pages of the petition to get signatures from friends and neighbours. Thank you to all, there are far too many to thank individually.

I spent some Saturday mornings in the railway and bus station where many passengers told me how bad it was for them. Thank you Jon Hartley for keeping me company in the pouring rain.

Most people realised it was not the fault of the drivers and that in the main the drivers were doing their best in a very difficult situation.

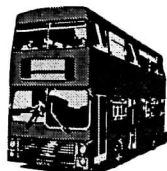
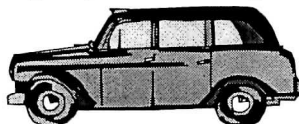
The remarks that kept coming back were complaints that Stagecoach did not seem to care and they put sheer profit before people. Stagecoach did not ask for any opinion of the very people that use the buses and therefore pay their wages and the shareholders profits. They just changed the routes and times and gave only three days notice by putting it in one of the local papers.

Some small changes have been made, the stops at Pershore Road and Trinidad and Tobago are now recognised stops. The number 9 starts five minutes earlier for hospital staff and at Brighton Hill too.

The petition called for a group to be set up that included bus users. This we are glad to say looks like it will go ahead and I will keep you posted. Other issues are still ongoing.



Don't forget to collect your Travel Tokens
Tuesday 13th February 2001
Melrose Hall 9am to 12 noon
Popley Fields 1pm to 3-30pm



VACANCY FOR A CENTRE ORGANISER AT JOHN HUNT OF EVEREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL

We are looking for a Centre Organiser at John Hunt of Everest Community School to support the Adult Education Programme. You will need to be self-motivated and conscientious, with an interest in working with people. The hours are flexible but will consist of early evenings and some Saturday mornings.

For more information please contact Glenda Walsh at Basingstoke College of Technology on Basingstoke 306347.

Adult Education in Basingstoke and Whitchurch

Spring 2001 Programme

All the old favourites and more besides

Learn a new skill

Start a new exercise programme

Indulge in something academic

Improve your IT skills

Learn some new basic language skills for your holiday or business trips

Take up a new hobby

Something for everyone

1 day Saturday workshops which could include items such as Baby Massage, Garden Planning, Home Maintenance, PC for Beginners

Classes commence week starting 22nd January 2001
(Except where otherwise stated in the programme)

**Full programme in the Basingstoke Gazette
Wednesday 3rd January 2001**

Popley Partnerships

There have been two meetings already with a working group that have representatives Cllr Jane Frankum, Cllr Paul Frankum, Gloria Gooch, WPC Emma Beattie, Oakfern Officers, Pat Langley John Hunt School, Council Officers and the Crime Prevention Officer among its members. Together we are all looking at ways to get the thoughts and ideas on the problems and some ideas for solutions.

The aim is to get a consultant to look at "planning for real" for Popley. Many problems have been identified; lack of youth facilities, rubbish, abandoned cars, poor parking, paths in poor repair, more CCTV needed, shrubs/landscaping need attention, and poor transport facilities between the estates.

If you have any comments to make or ideas please write or phone Cllr Jane Frankum 405 Abbey Road 819924.

Competition Competition Competition Competition



Win Two Tickets to a Home Bison Match

You could win two tickets to see an exiting game of Ice hockey watching our own Basingstoke Bison play at the ice rink.

All you need to do is answer this question and the winner will be drawn out on Jan 20th at 20 hundred hours don't forget to put your address and phone number so we can contact you

Question: Who is the longest serving British player that played for the Beaver/Bison Team?

A clue the answer is on the web site.

<http://www.basingstokebison.co.uk/>

Send your Answers to:

Jane Frankum
405 Abbey Road,
Popley,
Basingstoke.



CHURCH SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

ST GABRIELS TEWKESBURY CLOSE

Sunday 17th December 3pm Christingle

Christmas Week Children's Christmas Workshop
(Please phone for more information)

Christmas Eve 10am Mass

Christmas Eve 6.30pm Children's Crib Service

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30am Christmas Communion

Saturday 2nd December we are holding our Christmas Fayre
2pm - 4pm

ST BEDES & HOLY GHOST RC

Christmas Eve 9am Mass (Holy Ghost)

Christmas Eve 10.15am Mass (St Bedes)

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Both)

CHRISTMAS DAY 9am Christmas Communion (Holy Ghost)

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.15am Christmas Communion (St Bedes)

Fancy something different? Do you have a child at John Hunt School?

Come to a new group. Coffee a chat and a few laughs plus a chance to have a go at something new. So far we have been surfing (on the web) and we plan to do some fitness training, cooking and letter writing skills in the New Year. Why not come along and see for yourself what is going on? Just turn up in school reception on Tuesday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30 during term time. Unfortunately we are not able to, at this stage, offer crèche facilities.

If you want more information call Patricia Langley on 465303

BUS STOP PROJECT

An exciting and informative project took place during October half term. This involved young and not so young people, or as the senior citizens would like to be known (Recycled teenagers) in a weeklong workshop. The aim was to exchange ideas and experiences and come to an understanding of each other.

The original idea came from Clare Hobbs (Youth arts worker based at Junction 6) Clare has worked in Popley for the last five years and has done some excellent work with young people during that time. She left at the end of September to take a new post, but came back during half-term to work alongside mime artist Rowan Tolley to produce a piece of performance that will be remembered by the participants for a very long time.

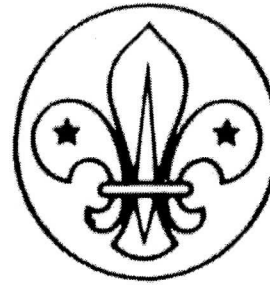
Clare liaised with Iris King and myself, which resulted in members of the Melrose coffee morning becoming involved in the project. Earlier in the year many of the senior citizens agreed to be interviewed on video. This formed the basis for the performance and ideas started flowing. During the half term the recycled teenagers chatted to the young people over coffee, sang songs, banged drums and even tried their the hands at BMX stunts. The young people learnt how to breed canaries, what life was like during the war, games children played and the art of growing produce on an allotment.

Within a week, young and old came together, showed respect for each other and came to a mutual understanding. The set was produced and a performance shown to the public on the Friday evening. The cast were excellent on the night but the real benefits happened during the week when the generations came together and enjoyed each other's company. Who said you can't bridge the generation gap? We managed it at Popley. *(Gloria Gooch)*

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Popley Forum and Popley Matters have formed a committee again this year to choose our winners of the Popley Community Award. There are three categories Adult, Youth and Group We want to encourage the great sense of community we have in Popley. You may know some one who deserves this award that have shown service to or for Popley it may be looking after some one else or helping in a group. it could be looking after the environment or giving a service to those less able.

We would like to hear your nominations contact Jane Frankum ☎819924



Base 2000 – New Scout Hut in Carpenters Down

The building contract for the new Scout, Guide and community facility at Carpenters Down has awarded to Messrs Goodall Barnard.

Beavers Scouts, Cubs and Scouts from the Group and their leaders assembled to 'dig the first sod' on Saturday 21st October. The contractors are expected to move on site by the end of October and, weather conditions in the winter months being favourable, the building will be ready for occupation next April.

The project is expected to cost in the region of £150,000 and has attracted grants from the National Lottery Charities Board (£64,000); Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (£25,000) and Hampshire County Council (£7000). The remainder has been raised by public subscription through the '£2 for 2000 Brick Appeal', fund raising events by the Air Scouts Group such as sponsored walks, BBQ's, Boot Sales and fairs, and donations from trusts and local businesses.

'Base 2000' provides two halls with kitchen and toilet facilities and is designed to be fully accessible to the disabled. Some storage may be available for regular users. Any one interested in using the building is invited to contact either Beryl Mullender on (01256) 321596 or Jan Saunders, Group Scout Leader Basingstoke Air Scouts at 9 Orkney Close, Popley (01256) 410514.

Why not join the Scout's

We have space to take more 6 to 8 year olds on a Tuesday evening from 5.30pm - 6.45pm in the Beavers

Cubs also have space in the age range 8 years to 10 1/2 years. They follow the beavers at 7.00pm till 8.30pm

Scouts meet on a Monday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and the age range is at present 10 1/2 to 15 1/2

We are also looking for a New Assistant Beaver Leader and a Cub Assistant Leader.

If anyone is interested please contact Jan Saunders, Group Scout Leader on 01256 410514 and leave a message if no reply.



DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

Christmas party?

Pub Lunch?

Let us do the driving

818181

**Passenger
Services**

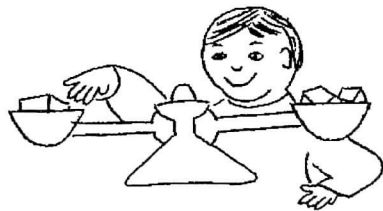


**Wish you a
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

Merton Poppits Playgroup

Merton Infant School, Romsey Close, Popley.
Leader Mrs. T. Richards Tel. 351036

OFSTED approved...stimulating, friendly environment...quality of teaching is very good an example of a playgroup and school working together (Ofsted June 1999)



**Visits to the playgroup are welcome. Please phone the
above for times of sessions.**

Abbey Road Petition

The content of the petition was "frustrating crime" on the Popley Abbeys estate. Unfortunately the petitioner was unable to attend the full council meeting due to ill health, it was however handed over by Cllr Jane Frankum on behalf of all the signatories. It was received and noted favourably by several councillors and was passed on to the Health and Housing Committee in September. At this meeting Mrs Ann Souilah spoke very convincingly and asked "Is the Community Safety Team prepared to put time, effort and finance into working alongside the residents in finding a solution to this youth problem".

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) 363692

New Testament Church of God



www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk

The committee congratulated the residents and thanked them for attending and putting the question in person. They agreed there was a problem that spanned the whole borough, finances would dictate the speed on which things can be done and many schemes were already in place in Popley such as Popley Partnership, upgrading of the play areas and shopping areas, pathways were being repaired and youth facilities are being looked at too.

We have asked for CCTV in the Abbey Road shopping area and will continue to press for this to happen.

Oakfern have repaired the fencing that youths damaged. Melrose and the Council have begun initiating activities for the youth motor cross for bike riders and a 5 a side football team to play against other teams. This shows a willingness to work together and we welcome any one that would like to join in young or old. Please contact me Iris King at Melrose Hall (I am only two years off retirement and I maybe a bit too old for motor cross and football).

Iris King Chair Popley Forum/Matters



POPLEY FORUM REPORT – 13 JULY 2000

Andrew Dyer Managing Director Stagecoach Southern Region began the meeting. He said that since the last forum he attended 18 months ago, there had been numerous changes to Basingstoke. The redevelopment of the town centre had caused problems and the new Bus Station would not be open until September 2002, he added that the work in progress had caused some buses to run late. He added that he thought that the new bus routes would suite customers better but apologised that the changeover coincided with a high turn over of staff. Many journeys had not run over the past months due to this. Stagecoach have had problems recruiting staff but added that a programme was in place, which he hoped would alleviate the situation.

Members of the residents committee currently looking into the problems caused by the changes expressed concern about the chronic lack of consultation. Mr Dyer replied that Stagecoach had consulted more widely than before, unfortunately it seemed that the consultation invitation did not goto all ward members. Cllr Paula Baker Chair of the Basingstoke Bus Working Party was not made aware of plans for it to be a general consultation. Stagecoach admitted it relied heavily on the data from its ticket machines and stated, as it was a commercial company it had to be market driven.

At this stage another Popley resident expressed concern about the use in isolation of data from ticket machines, they need to talk to the people who actually use the buses, as it was felt that the people who plan the routes are certainly not in communication with the people who have to rely on them for the purposes of getting to work, appointments, and other vital uses. Other residents expressed concern about the pensioners in Trinidad, Tobago Tewkesbury Closes, Evesham Walk and Pershore Road, as the present services no longer supply a direct route to the Doctors Surgery at Marlowe Close. The present arrangement has effectively divided Popley in two. Stagecoach said they have to run their services as economically as possible.

Cllr Jane Frankum showed Mr Dyer a map of Popley demonstrating how vulnerable people such as those in sheltered housing have been cut off and also cannot get a bus direct to the Doctors surgery. She stated that the Popley Forum had asked for consultation for over two years and still have not received anything in return, consultation had been promised again in September 1999 and the local people were still waiting. She has received over 50 letters and a 600 signature petition from Stagecoaches customers, most of these people are parents with young children, the elderly and people who relied on services to get them to work, are Stagecoach actually going to act on their customers concerns.

Did they also realise that there was no longer a night bus between the hospital and Popley, it makes it very difficult and time consuming for staff to get to and from work, the same applied to visitors to the Hospital. County Cllr Tim Sullivan said that

services should be more than just about shareholders and having made such complex changes the scheduler went off on holiday when the plan went live. He added the same consideration be given to Popley's concern about routes as have been given to similar concerns at Hatch Warren.

John Mariner Hampshire County Council Transport Officer informed that the council could review a service after changes have been made and if it was decided that there is a gap in provision they can subsidise. There is a way forward and hopefully this matter will be resolved.

It was asked why weren't people told about such drastic changes when they got their half price bus passes, tokens would have been better and could be used for taxis. Mr Dyer replied that bus passes do not reflect the true picture in ticket data.

Various concerns were then voiced, late or non arrival of buses, drivers not adhering to speed limits, rude and unhelpful behaviour from Stagecoach staff, and rescheduling meaning a lot of people now unable to get buses to and from work.

Mr Dyer replied that he expected his staff to treat customers properly and that all complaints would be thoroughly investigated. At the moment a new system is being piloted in Oxford to improve communications and enable drivers to have more up-to-date information about the status of services. He agreed that the changes to routes 3 & 4 have left a gap in the middle of Popley, but said the routes were designed to get to the town centre more quickly. As regards to the evening service most are contracted to Hampshire County Council and there would have to be liaison with them. John Mariner explained that under the 1985 Transport act two sorts of bus services exist: those that can run without a subsidy and those that require support. With the changes made on 20th August it would have been difficult to identify large gaps in provision. Mr Dyer once again promised to give a written response to the issues raised. The Forum will be watching and waiting.

Stephen Bryers Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council then gave an update on plans for Popley's plays areas. Improvements have already been made to plays areas in Ascension Close, Tintern Close Popley 5 and Maldive Road. In March this year money was allotted for Bermuda Close play area for 2002/2003 and Bewley homes have contributed to improvements for the Trinidad/Tobago Close play area which will start some time soon. Chineham Park will hopefully get a youth facility. A date will be set for a meeting for the local young people to have their say and express their views on where they would like a youth facility to be placed.

**The Next Meeting of the Popley Forum is
Thursday January 25th 7.30pm
Melrose Hall**

Community Car Scheme
 C/O Jane Frankum
 405 Abbey Road,
 Popley
 Basingstoke
 Hampshire
 RG24 9EL

Please
 Affix
 Stamp
 Here

Drivers Required

Would you be available to help with the Community Car Scheme? Yes/No
 Would you use your own car if it was with expenses? Yes/No
 Would you drive a mini bus (training will be given)? Yes/No
 How often could you volunteer? _____

Between what times in the day would you be available? _____

And/or

Would you prefer to help with the administration? Yes/No
 Between what times in the day would you be available? _____

Popley Needs You!



Major changes in the bus routes have left some of the most needy or vulnerable people without the means of getting about to appointments, dentists, doctors, shopping, visiting or socialising.

We are trying to start a Popley Community Car Scheme with the help of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the Popley Forum and we need your help.

Let us know what kind of service you need, where do you need to go, how often and how many people would need to take the journey?



Please take the time to fill in the form and return it by Christmas.

We also need people to volunteer to do the driving either in their own car (expenses paid) or in a community mini bus (training will be provided, the nationally recognised MiDas course).

Perhaps you would prefer to help us with the administration, taking bookings etc.

If you are prepared to offer your help, any thing from just a couple of hours a month, please fill in the form and return it by Christmas.

We have no bar on age, gender or type of vehicle, all volunteers will be made welcome.

You control how much you do, how far and when. You would be under no obligation to do anything beyond your own wishes.





Basingstoke
and Deane

Concessionary Fare Scheme

Are you in receipt of a Basingstoke and Deane Half Fare Bus Pass?

Have you been adversely affected by the introduction of stagecoach's new bus timetable in august 2000?

You can exchange your Half Fare Bus Pass for up to £16.00 of Travel Tokens, if you wish, providing you have answered 'yes' to both the above questions and meet the necessary criteria.

If you would like more information or an application form, please ring the helpline on (01256) 845701, Minicom (01256) 845400 or E-mail: n.brace@basingstoke.gov.uk

Or write to
Concessionary Fare Scheme
Finance Department
P.O. Box 191 London Road Basingstoke RG21 7EA

Customer Survey—Community Car Scheme

Would you use a service provided by the community? Yes/No

Where would you want to go to? (please state which Doctor, dentist etc below)

- Doctors Dentists Chemists Social Call
 Hospital Shopping other (please state)

How often would you need to use the service? _____

What time of day would you most need it? _____

Any Other Comments _____

Name. _____

Address. _____

Telephone Number. _____

No. 2,
Brighton Hill Shopping Centre,
Brighton Way,
Basingstoke.
RG22 4EH



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pizza

Any Pizza - Any size
£8.95*

**Excluding create your own. (Collection Only).*



Merry
Christmas
& a Happy
New Year to all
our customers



810330

HERBIES

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 4.00pm - 11.00pm; Thurs-Sat: 12 Noon - 11.00pm; Sun: 12 Noon - 11.00pm
No. 2, Brighton Hill Shopping Centre, Brighton Way, Basingstoke. RG22 4EH

Starters

- Garlic Bread £1.99
- Garlic Bread Cheese £2.25
- New Herbies Wedges £2.25
- New Chicken Nuggets 6 Nuggets £1.50 10 Nuggets £1.90
- Desserts**
- Chocolate Fudge Cake £1.79
- New Profiteroles (Incl. Sauce) £1.99
- American Apple Pie £1.89



herbies
p i z z a

Pizza	Herbies Veggie	Small	Med	Large
Margherita	5.50	7.50	9.50	
Vegetarian	8.50	11.50	13.75	
The Unsocialable	8.50	11.50	13.75	
Herbies Classics	Small	Med	Large	
Herbies Hot Bite	8.69	11.69	13.75	
New Yorker	8.69	11.69	13.75	
Herbies Special	8.95	12.19	14.19	
Hawaiian	6.90	9.30	11.50	
Kebab Pizza	7.99	10.49	12.75	
Mixed Grill	7.99	10.49	12.75	
Chilli Pizza	8.25	11.25	13.50	

Listed above is only a small selection. Call for more Pizza deals

01256 810330

HERBIES

Standard terms and conditions apply - Coupon must be mentioned at time of order and be presented on collection OR delivery if applicable. Expiry February 2001.

"Dear Popley Matters Pizza Eaters, Why not phone and collect your Pizza, it will be ready in 10 minutes".

COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**ANY PIZZA
ANY SIZE
ONLY
£7.95**

Phone:- 810330

COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**ANY PIZZA
ANY SIZE
ONLY
£7.95**

Phone:- 810330

HERBIES PIZZA

**Any 12" Pizza
from the menu.
1 x Garlic Bread
Hot Wings + Dip
2 x 500ml Coke
£13.99**

Phone:- 810330

DELIVERY/COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**Any 14" Pizza
from the menu.
2 x Garlic Bread
Coleslaw
1 x 2ltr bottle of Coke
£13.99**

Phone:- 810330

DELIVERY/COLLECTION ONLY

COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**FREE HAAGAN
DAZ'S (500ml) TUB
of ICE CREAM with
ANY PIZZA ORDER
over £14.50
excluding offers/
deals/coupons.**

Phone:- 810330

COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**LARGE
Margherita
with
4 toppings £8.50**

Phone:- 810330

HERBIES PIZZA

**MONDAY OFFER
Any Pizza
from the menu.
£8.95
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99p**

Phone:- 810330

DELIVERY/COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**TUESDAY OFFER
Any Pizza
from the menu.
£8.95
add Garlic Bread
99p**

Phone:- 810330

DELIVERY/COLLECTION ONLY

COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**FREE
Garlic Bread
Pizza with any
order**

Phone:- 810330

COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**FREE
Potato Wedges
with any Pizza
order**

Phone:- 810330

HERBIES PIZZA

**SAT/SUN OFFER
(12-4 delivery)
Any Pizza, Any size
£8.95
add Garlic Bread
99p**

Phone:- 810330

DELIVERY/COLLECTION ONLY

HERBIES PIZZA

**Add a Kiddies
7" Pizza thin crust +
2 toppings &
Can of drink for
£2.99
with any Pizza Ordered**

Phone:- 810330

DELIVERY/COLLECTION ONLY

Standard terms and conditions apply - Coupon must be mentioned at time of order and be presented on collection OR delivery if applicable. Expiry February 2001.