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# POPLEY MATTERS

June to August 2001

Volume 3 Issue 13

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS



Closing date to submit articles etc. (03-08-01); Adverts (10-08-01)

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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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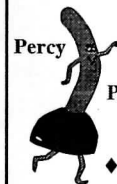
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## News from the Boys Brigade

Popley Festival - What a wonderful event, sunny, warm, loads of people, lots to do and see, all in all a memorable day. The Boys Brigade were pleased to be a part of the organising team.

Our main effort on the day was the car boot sale and what a success that turned out to be. Over 30 car boots had to be turned away, as there was no room left for them. A small number of people said that the car boot was too big, but it does help to pull in the crowds and these do filter through the site to the other events.

Our other activity, was fete type games, along with a recruiting and PR stand. The boys worked hard to get the display caravan up to scratch in just a week ready for the event.

The second bank holiday weekend in May saw some of our older members going to Feldon Lodge, the HQ of the Boys Brigade for a massive activity and Christian weekend. The site was dominated by a multi coloured Big-Top and the boys camped around it. They all had a wonderful weekend.

Plans are well in hand for the junior section, (8yrs to 10 ½ yrs) weekend camp in Dorset in July. The company section (10 ½ to 18 yrs) Annual Summer Camp in August. The Anchor boys, (5yrs to 8yrs) have a number of special events planned too.

Congratulations to Dave Seabrook, one of our company section members who received the "Youth of Popley" award at the last Popley Forum meeting.

Lots of things are always happening, lots of events planned for all the boys. For more information, please see our main advert for meeting times etc. or ring Dave Phillips on 323564.

## Junction 6

During the summer holidays Junction 6 will hopefully be open 3 evenings a week and some day times. The activities may vary from music workshops, dance ropes courses and arts and crafts. For more details don't hesitate to call me Bianca on 359596.

### **Some special Summer events are;**

**29th June to 1st July** Young Carers Festival. This is a massive event for young carers across the country. It is a chance to take part in new and exciting activities and meet new people.

**Thursday 5th July** County Youth Conference 7-9-30

If you have something to say or things you would like changed about your area or any other issues affecting your life and would like to take part in the youth conference contact Bianca who can arrange to go with you and provide transport.

**Friday 6th July Active Expo 6-9 pm** This is a fun event for young people who can find out about facilities and activities that they can take part in in the Basingstoke area. The event is in Tadley. Contact Bianca for details and transport.

**20th July-23rd July** A group of young people will be visiting St Ives in Cornwall. We hope to visit the galleries particular the Tata, try our hand at surfing and visit the Eden project.

## Message From the Editor

The Popley Festival on 19th May was a huge success with about 7000 people visiting us. The weather was good to us and we all had a great time from ferret racing to a real live fire (quickly attended to by the firemen on site).

It was great to see so many families at the opening of the new Air Scout building. It will be a big asset and is also available for hire. The report is on page 14. Paige got her special buggy and she was delighted, also there was enough money raised to enable a donation to Lymmington House caravan refurbishment that is used for children and their families to have a welcome break.

Popley Forum gave its annual awards to people who have contributed to making Popley a better place to live. Read all about it on pages 10/11.

The community car scheme is now being run by Neighbourcare and their article and advertisement are on page 16.

There have been some very disturbing reports of con men gaining entry to elderly peoples places and robbing them. I can not say enough to every one, ask to see the credentials of any person on your doorstep, if they are genuine they wont mind. Do not open the door until you have checked through your spy hole, then only open the door as far as your door chain will let you. If you are elderly or disabled this can be fitted free just call moat repair service on 845776

The traffic calming in Abbey Road seems to be working well, except for a few drivers who will insist on parking in the wrong place, this is being monitored by the police. Abbey Road was the second highest road for accidents and people being hurt (especially children) in the whole of Basingstoke and Deane not a statistic that any one likes to see.

As I write this election day is getting very near and I hope it turns out to be a nice day. You will have noted that the magazine is a couple of weeks late this was on the advice of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough solicitor as I was standing as a candidate in the County Council elections it was felt better to leave this edition till after the election. It worked out well as we were able to include the report of the Popley Festival shortly after rather than three months later.

I hope you all have a safe and great summer and it turns out to be the best summer yet. *Jane Frankum (Editor)*

## Popley Festival 20<sup>th</sup> May 11am – 4pm.

The Popley Festival was a day of great fun for all the family. The weather was particularly kind, bringing out the crowds. Estimated attendance was 7000 which is really amazing.

The major attractions were the ever-popular Walls Fun Fair and for the first time Ferret Racing with the Hants and Berks Ferret Club it was a real success and we hope that they will become a regular attraction. In addition to the fun and games of the racing itself the club brought useful information about keeping ferrets as pets, which was appreciated by many people.

For the younger children there were go-carts and for the more intrepid an exciting spin in the Gyro ball, definitely not for the faint hearted. The car boot was huge with the Boys Brigade having to turn custom away. Unfortunately owing to the sheer size of the car boot sale the Mediaeval Archery was squeezed into a corner and did not get as many visitors as we would have liked. Also located on the field and proving very popular with the youth of Popley was the music workshop and face painting run by Basingstoke Caribbean Association.

In the school gym it was possible to have a go at judo with the Summit Judo Club. This was very popular with adults and children alike and the club have got some new members as a result. Storm dance group gave a short show in the school hall which was very well received. On the tennis courts the RAOB Buffaloes land train was offering rides and lollipops to the younger children.

The dining room was transformed into an Aladdin's cave of treasures with the craft fayre which had some wonderful things for sale. Twenty local charities were kept busy in the charity market raising money for their worthy causes. Everything from medical charities to animal rescue was there, Amongst the bustle and excitement the John Hunt Food Court proved to be an oasis. People sat in the shade with food and drink and were serenaded by the newly formed Popley Community Steel Band, only the second of its kind in Hampshire, and the school's resident rock band.

Hampshire Youth Service ran a variety of activities for the teenagers including an opportunity to try your hand at being a DJ, some serious drumming or some unusual craft activities. The BCOT building on the site threw open its doors to the public to go surfing on the net or have a play with desktop publishing. Basingstoke Council brought their information caravan. The Gazette were there with their stand, give-aways and the BG the newshound. Oakfern Housing Association kindly sponsored flyers for the event showing the layout of the day. These were given out at the gate and hopefully meant that visitors were be able to find their way round this huge event without missing anything.

One piece of drama on the day was when a visitor's car caught fire on the field. Luckily we had not one but three fire engines in attendance. Chaos reigned while we had to stop entry while the fire was put out but this was unavoidable.

All in all an excellent day for Popley showing what a truly wonderful and amazing place this is to live and work. Work is now starting on next year's for 19<sup>th</sup> May 2002. Anyone wanting to help please get in touch.

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

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## Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor: Why do I have to purchase a green bag from the council at 85p per time just to put their leaves that have come off their trees into my garden. The quality of the bags is about the same as the old black sacks and not very robust.

Annoyed Popley resident

**Editor; The cost of the green bags at 85p includes the cost of taking it away most people also put in weeds and other garden rubbish.**

Dear Editor: You must feel about as fed up of the continuous complaints about rubbish around the estate especially around schools and shopping areas. It will be worse in the summer with added ice cream wrappers and soft drink containers. When are we going to learn about pollution and all the harm that it does. Could people just take home their rubbish to dispose of in their own dustbins. Resident in Popley Poets

**Editor; I think you echo the thoughts and opinions of many people who live and work in Popley. Perhaps we should bring back the old campaign "Keep Britain Tidy".**

Dear Editor How do I get involved in Popley Matters, I am retired and have a few hours to spare, I can deliver a few and I am happy to do many different things I want to help to put back some of the things I have had out in my lifetime.: Active pensioner

**Editor; You would be welcome with open arms as long as you are prepared to work in a team, we are a very small voluntary group and there are many different ways to help, from writing to delivery. Phone myself on 819924 or Iris on 411113. We are both on answer phone.**

Dear editor: As we have the summer months ahead and children like to go and play at Popley Ponds could I remind parents and

carers that it is potentially a dangerous area to play in. Younger children should be accompanied and older ones told of the hazards Worried parent Popley Islands

**Editor; I could not agree more and I look forward to some improvements when the new houses come. There are other dangers too please be careful on the roads and keep your speed down. Teach children to look left and right before crossing. Don't play in abandoned cars they could have dangerous edges or all sorts of other hazards.**

Dear Editor: I was very touched by the delightful plaque the Popley Forum presented me with. Please thank all those involved very much indeed on my behalf. It has been a great privilege to work in Popley and I shall treasure the award greatly. Many thanks and best wishes to you all in Popley Dr L Moss

**Editor: It was our pleasure we hope to see you around in your locum work. May I take this opportunity in the letters page of thanking each and every one of you that voted for me in the County Council elections. I look forward to representing you all. I met so many people on election day it was great to put the face to people that I had spoken to on the phone or had corresponded with letter or Email. My Email address [cldr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk) 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



## MELROSE HALL REPORT

Melrose Hall will be holding it's Annual General Meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. We invite everyone to come along and indeed are always looking for people who are willing to help out on the Committee.

Why not come along anyway and see for yourselves some of the activities that we cater for in Melrose Hall, every thing from Coffee Mornings to Children's dance classes.

This is your community facility and don't forget you can always hire it for Christenings, Birthdays, Weddings, or any type of celebration. Perhaps even practise or rehearsals for bands, groups, etc

Drop in on Coffee mornings, Mondays and Thursdays 9.30am to 12pm, lots of new friendships have grown from meeting people over a cup of tea or coffee, for both young and old alike with a Mini Jumble Sale on as well..

On Tuesday afternoon we hold our over 18 Bingo this is between 2pm and 4pm, Again we welcome anyone who would like to join in.

Wednesday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am we have our Parent Toddler Group. This is not just for mums with toddlers, we welcome dads with their toddler, also Gran's and Grandad's.

Suggestions of a serious nature are always needed, so that we can keep ensuring that we are doing the best we can for you and your family.

## Popley People "GIVE A CHILD A CHANCE"

The people of Popley did it again when they raised enough money to buy a lightweight wheelchair for 8 year old Paige. £1162-87 was raised in a variety of ways. Just as the target amount was being reached 2Ten FM doubled the figure so there was enough to donate to Limmington House to help with the caravan holidays for carers and families. Money was raised with change jars in shops, The Popinjay and even in homes. There was a pool tournament and Jumble Sale. Well done to all those people that made this appeal possible.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Popley (Everest) Scout Group continues to be very active with a wide program of events. All sections have seen an increase in membership over the past term.

The Beaver Scouts (aged between 6 and 8) have had a busy term ending in 18 Beavers taking part in an Easter fun day at Popley Fields Centre on April 7<sup>th</sup>. They made Easter cards and played a game called feed the Beaver (eggs). There were four other colonies taking part and each colony had to make an Easter collage. The Beavers were overjoyed when they announced that we had won the shield, certificate and a yard of chocolate for the best collage.

Reports came in that on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March a group of cubs and scouts were seen in the woods at Chineham. Apparently their troop leader was seen swinging through the trees with the grace and agility of a hippo! When our roving reporter eventually managed to apprehend the leader he said he was putting up nesting boxes that the Cubs and Scouts had been making over the last two weeks. One of the Scouts told our roving reporter that the wood for the boxes had been supplied by Jonathon Forsyth of the borough council. Six boxes were put up in Great Sorrels Copse and the other ten boxes will be put up in other locations around the town.

One Cub told the reporter that making the boxes was part of the Handyman badge, the Outdoor Discovery Award and the Scout Handyman Award. Many thanks must go to all the parents and friends who helped oversee the Cubs and Scouts while making the boxes.

Motoring news now. The Scout troop made headlines on 21<sup>st</sup> April when armed only with a home made go-cart they stormed round the track at Harriet Costello School in the Basic art 500 series, taking second place for the four man team, Well done Scouts.

The group has a very busy summer term with Popley Festival and a tombola and other fund raising activities at the Thornycroft Vintage Car Festival

We are still looking for leaders and are desperate for a Cub Scout Leader. Skips hair has all but disappeared over the last few months as he has been running both the Cubs and Scouts. If anyone is interested in coming to help please phone our Group Scout Leader (Andy Summer) on 01256 353671.

### Meeting times

Beavers	5pm-6:15pm	Tuesdays Tel. 410617 (Janice Lee)
Cubs	6:30pm-8pm	Tuesdays Tel. 414168 (John Talks)
Scouts	6:30pm-9pm	Tuesdays Tel. 414168 (John Talks)

## WEA in Popley/Oakridge

The WEA is a voluntary organisation, which aims to provide an opportunity for young adults and parents to meet other people. We organise get togethers and courses of interest to the local community, and where needed we run a creche alongside. This makes sure that children are well cared for while you get an enjoyable break.

At present we are running an Art and Craft course on a regular basis and we are about to have an Aromatherapy taster. If this proves to be popular there will be more of this type of course. We are always looking for new ideas to improve and add to the courses we run.

If you live or work in the Popley/Oakridge area the courses are free. For all other people a small fee will be charged.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 5th and 13<sup>th</sup> July Aromatherapy at the Vyne School 12-45 to 2-45

We are also planning to hold a first aid course.

We are always looking for suitable creche workers and offer £5-75 per hour

For any information on courses or to become a creche worker please contact Joanne Fawcett on 01252 845558

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## Rubbish, Popleys Rubbish

Everywhere you go there is rubbish and it is worse around the shops and schools. Who drops all this rubbish not me, not you, some invisible person obviously.

There have been so many complaints and remarks but some one must spend hours just strewing the wrappers, nappies, cans, paper and bottles in every corner of Popley. This person waits till the dustmen have been or the men that pick up around the shops then they pounce seeing if they can beat their own record .

Seriously most people do take home their own rubbish or poop a scoop the dogs mess, but for those that don't we don't want your rubbish around the estates TAKE IT HOME.

## Basingstoke Community Car Scheme

When changes were made to the Basingstoke bus network at the end of summer last year, a number of people were left without a bus service to take them where they wanted to go.

To try to overcome this the Popley Forum put together a leaflet which was delivered to all households in the area. This asked people whether they would use a voluntary transport service if it were provided, and if so, where they would like to go. This typically highlighted a need to travel to the doctors surgery, the shops or the hospital. The leaflet also asked for volunteers to help set up and run the transport service.

Since that time the group has become involved with NeighbourCare, which is an organisation that offers assistance with a range of tasks to people who need help. One of the roles of Neighbourcare is to provide transport, and they are happy to provide lifts to the hospital, shops or anywhere that people would like to go, subject to the availability of a voluntary driver. However, in order to sustain Neighbourcare and help it to grow as more people request its services, extra volunteer drivers are required. Volunteers can put themselves forward for as much or little time as they like, as any help is much appreciated.

If you would like to help your community through Neighbourcare, or if you would like help, then please call Kay or Hilary on 332424.



## Basingstoke Neighbourcare

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New Volunteers always welcome  
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## 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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## The Boys' Brigade

6<sup>th</sup> 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

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Monday Night 7-30pm to 9-30pm

ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14

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## Councillors Page

**Popley Awards** I had the great privilege of presenting this years "People of Popley awards", it was an honour and yet more proof of what a great place Popley is to live in. Dr Lynette Moss received the award for the adult section for her many years of service as a doctor in Popley. The Youth award went to Dave Seabrook who has overcome lots of problems and now helps other boys in the Boys Brigade. The group award (for any age group) went to a group of children aged between 8 and 11 who pick up litter and help the elderly and disabled with their gardens, these children have been doing it for over a year.

**Traffic Calming:** The traffic calming in Abbey Road seems to be working, apart from some drivers that seem to want to park in the wrong place and make it difficult for other drivers to see around and for children to be able to cross safely, especially with the long summer holiday just around the corner. The police are monitoring and we have asked for yellow lines to be painted in the worst areas.

**Shopping areas:** We are negotiating for further improvements around the shopping areas and the paving areas around them. There will be some consultation with the public by the council watch the notice boards outside Melrose Hall.

The most immediate need is CCTV in the Abbey Road shops area and the Council are working together with the Popley Partnerships and Popley Forum. The application goes to cabinet on July 11th. we hope to have CCTV installed before the summer holidays are over, the cost will be about £9500. The cameras will be mounted so that the shopping area is covered as well as the car park but sensitively so as not encroach on peoples privacy.

**Market Research:** The Market Research team have finished their consultation with the residents of Popley and we hope to have the results later in July. I will report back to you in the next Popley Matters issue. There was an amazing amount of people that took part.

**County Council Elections:** The elections will be over by the time you read this report, it was for County Council based in Winchester. Next year will be all change for Popley Borough Elections in that it will be split into two with Poets/Hathaway Gardens and Islands in one half and Abbeys and Specklewood Road in the other, with two Councillors for each ward. This will enable a closer working arrangement for every one,

**John Hunt School:** There is no firm decision yet on the rebuilding of the new school but as a member of the planning committee I will keep a very close eye on this issue. Jane Frankum Borough and County Councillor.

What's happening at

## RICHARD ALDWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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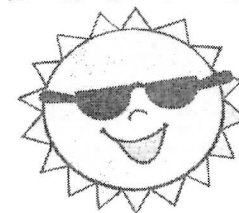
### SUMMER EXPERIENCE

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## OPENING OF THE NEW AIR SCOUT GROUP BASE 2000

It took five years of hard dedicated work to arrive at the opening of the new Air Scout building in Carpenters Down. The opening ceremony was on Friday May 25th. The new building was desperately needed to replace the old leaky hut that was second hand in 1978. £152,000 was needed to be raised, a lot of money for a small group of people to find. Nothing was going to stop these intrepid group of people Beryl Mullender, Jan Saunders and Ken Lane among them.

The first step was to talk to Basingstoke Council to identify where it could be built and the design of the building. Once these were agreed it was the beginning of the task to raise the money. Boot sales, Summer Fete, BBQs Jumble sales and many other efforts started to swell the fund. Many local companies gave donations and the lotteries fund gave £64,000 but time was getting short and there was a shortfall of £36,000 Basingstoke Council came up with £25,000 and buy a brick for £2 enabled people to help who maybe did not have a lot of money but every brick bought made the end much nearer. The first sod was cut in October in the wettest winter on record.

A small but moving ceremony outside saw Wing Commander David Prowse open with the key to the new building suspended on a model plane and it was "flown" in across the crowd of supporters and spectators. It was well attended by Scouts, Guides and their families. Everyone then went inside to have a look and pull their party poppers then there was a delicious buffet to eat while you could look at the notice boards with all sorts of photos and information.

The building will be available for hire for functions from only £3 an hour the top price being £10 an hour there are kitchen facilities.

*Bookings contact Jan Saunders phone 410514 9, Orkney Close Popley Basingstoke RG24 9AR Email janice-saunders@bravo.globainet.co.uk*



## OAKRIDGE REGENERATION PROJECT

As many of you will be aware, Oakfern Housing Association's project to regenerate the centre of Oakridge has begun. A number of trees on the bund at the top of Oakridge (just inside the ring-road) have already been removed in anticipation of this area being reshaped to allow for the construction of new dwellings and the new community centre.

Llewellyns, the building contractors involved in this regeneration scheme, are fully aware of the number of people from Popley who either cycle or walk through this part of Oakridge to the town centre. To ensure the safety of these people, they have:

- ◆ Fenced off the area where Llewellyns are working
- ◆ Established a system of crossing gates that will be manned whenever earth-moving operations are taking place
- ◆ Erected a number of signs warning people of potential dangers

All efforts are being made to keep disruption to a minimum and we will keep you informed of any further developments that might affect Popley residents. However, if you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn Wooldridge (Oakfern's Community Housing Co-ordinator) on 01256-338857 or at the site offices in 10 Myland Close.

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## Don't forget Winklebury Carnival on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 11am to 6 pm.

Winklebury Carnival will have a float procession, beer tent, Fun Fair, Arena events, Carnival Queen, Irish dancing display, horse and cart rides, boot sale and much much more.

## What's on at Popley Fields Centre?

**Mondays:** Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon and 12:30pm-3:00pm

Baton Twirlers 6:30pm-8:00pm

Wu Shu Kwan 8:00pm-10:00pm

**Tuesdays:** Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon

C M A kick Boxing 6:30pm-8:00pm

Couples Line Dancing 8:15pm 9:45pm

**Wednesdays:** Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon

Moves Fitness 6:30pm-7:30pm

Line Dancing 8:00pm-10:00pm

**Thursdays:** Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon and 12:30pm-3:00pm

Parent & Toddler Group 10:00pm-11:30pm

C M A kick Boxing 7:00pm-8:30pm

Popmobility 4:30pm-5:30pm 7-9 years

5:30pm-6:30pm 10-14 Years

Term Time Only

**Fridays:** Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon

Youth Group 6:00pm-9:00pm

Family Planning 10:00am-11:30am

Free City & Guilds Information Technology Course's

Monday to Friday 9:00am-12noon

12:30pm-3:30pm

**Sunday:** New Testament Church 10:15am-12:15pm

**Summer Play scheme August 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-12:30pm**

**August 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-12:30pm**

**Also Available for Private Hire – Weddings, meetings, Parties**

## Summer Consultation for the Local Plan Review

The Borough Council is currently undertaking a review of the Local Plan to guide land use and development in the Borough to 2011 and beyond.

The first stage of public consultation was completed in the winter and a further round of consultation will take place this summer, starting on 7 July 2001 at the Council Open Day, and running until the end of September. This consultation will focus upon 'accommodating development' issues and will involve:

- The publication of an analysis of responses to the first round of consultation (over 250)
- The publication of a consultation paper outlining how much development is proposed/required and what the options are for accommodating it.
- The publication of details of the 170 sites that landowners/developers are promoting for development
- An exhibition showing relevant information being taken around the Borough. An event will be held all day in Chineham Shopping Centre, Chineham on Thursday 19 July 2001.
- A consultation event on 1 September at the Anvil to enable Borough Councillors, Parishes, residents and other interested parties to come and ask questions of the prospective developers of the larger sites who will be exhibiting information on their sites.

The further consultation will enable interested parties to get more involved in the process before any decisions are taken. Regular reports will be made to the Cabinet through autumn and winter setting out options and draft policy approaches for discussion. These will focus on key issues such as the future of 'rural Brownfield sites' affordable housing/key worker housing and landscape protection policies. It is hoped that some interim policies may emerge prior to the completion of the draft Plan.

Contact: Joanne Weare, Strategic Policy Team,  
 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, 01256 844844

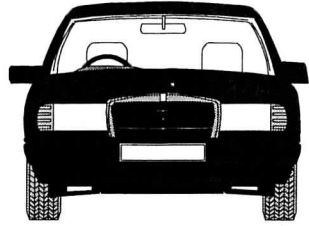
### 13 to 19 year olds This Concerns you

The Hampshire Youth Service have an out reach team consisting of Louise, Mike and Celia.

They are on the streets of Popley on a Thursday night between 7 to 10 pm. They are available to talk to, arrange trips, fun activities and to give helpful advice if need be. They have ID and will always show this when asked, so if you need any of the above just stop them and start a conversation.

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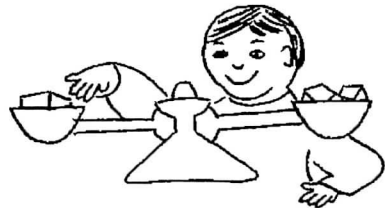


# 01256 818181

## 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.

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For more information phone:  
Graham and Barbara on  
(01256) 363692

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## POPLEY FORUM MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

### JOHN HUNT SCHOOL

It was nice to see so many attend the Forum, which included the proud parents of the children who won the Popley Forum Group Award for their services to the Community. They were Alex King, Harvey & Michell Middleton, Jamie Clark, Jamie & Ross Emerson, Curtis & Kyra Bent, Sadie Weatherhead and Jamie Chandler. The Popley Forum Youth Award went to David Seabrook from the Boy's Brigade. David helps with the junior section as well as acting as a general factotum, he also helps regularly with the car boot sales. David is respected by all the boys and adults in the Company. David is a pupil at John Hunt School and plays cornet in the Basingstoke Silver Band.

The Popley Forum Adult Award was given to a Doctor who has been a friend to many in Popley and although officially retired she is still working in the Community. She came to Popley over 27 years ago when her husband took up a post as eye consultant at Basingstoke Hospital, she worked tirelessly for the people of Popley, even running the practice single-handed at one time. She often accompanies her husband to developing countries to help with sight saving surgery. There were many nominations for this very special lady. The award was given to Dr Lynette Moss;.

Following the award Tim Marsh from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council spoke about the plans for the North of Popley Development. After consultation in 1999, 1110 houses were planned for the site. Government guidance, which changed the brief in December 2000, increased the number of houses to 1700 and gave an option to relocate John Hunt of Everest School to within the new development. Public consultation had taken place between 12<sup>th</sup> December 2000 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2001 during which 115 representations were made which on the whole were supportive.

The feedback from the consultation process will shortly be going to Cabinet. Changes likely to be put forward include substantial improvements to the Aldermaston Road junction, improvements to Transport and also landscaping by Abbey Court. The scope for the provision of a new school within the proposed development with new sports facilities, including Astroturf pitches for shared use by both the school and the Community. Basingstoke Council are currently working closely with Hampshire County Council on possible development plans for the existing John Hunt site. This could include 350 new houses, play areas and retail facilities. Look out for these plans that will be available for public consultation later this Summer.

The proposal for houses on the existing John Hunt site could mean fewer houses for the North of Popley Development. A resident expressed concern about moving the school away from the centre of the Community. Tim explained that the overall benefits would be far greater and that there were also implications with regard to catchment areas and also on traffic. Councillor Frankum reiterated her determination to ensure that all the children of Popley will remain within the catchment area of the new school. Cllr Frankum added that she would need as much "written evidence" later when the school is built, to ensure Popley remains served by the school. The Forum was assured

that improvements to roads would be carried out before, during and after the development. The timings would have to depend on the timescale for the scheme as a whole. A resident expressed concern about the provision for primary school children. Tim explained that both Hampshire County Council and local heads of primary schools had been consulted and saw no potential problems.

There was a question about the proposed use for the outside play areas and who they were aimed at. There was concern about provision for youths, women and dog walkers. Tim replied that he would take all questions & concerns on board and would be more than happy to deal with questions, residents could contact him at the Civic Offices.

The next guest Ewan Ramsey from the Market Research Company, whose company are compiling the data from the questionnaires that were sent out with the last issue spoke on the results of the survey so far. He added that some of his staff would be visiting local residents at home with a more in depth and detailed questionnaire.

Tony West from the Community Safety Team said that things were going reasonably well given the usual funding constraints. CCTV at Abbey Road Shops is waiting for a meeting to be set up between the Crime Reduction Officer and local shopkeeper. Councillor Frankum would contact the manager of Fastfare to expedite the meeting.

Linda Phillips of Oakfern Housing answered concerns that were expressed about neighbour nuisance, Linda arranged to speak to residents after the meeting. Linda reiterated that there were set procedures for dealing with neighbour nuisance and that official complaints needed to be in writing and supported by evidence.

Patricia Langley of John Hunt School gave out copies of the latest edition of 'Parent Link' the newsletter which gives details of all the events going on at John Hunt.

Councillor Jane Frankum spoke on the continuing work at Popley Ponds, a liaison between Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Heritage Groups. This will create a valuable resource for the local community. She added that traffic calming at Abbey Road is still being developed. Also she reminded the Forum that Stagecoach would be changing their timetable again on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and she is aware of the continued problems with the timetable, routes and also the buses.

Finally Aldermaston Road open space – a meeting would be held for all interested parties to examine ways of developing the space as a leisure facility for the whole community. With regards to Chineham Park, a half pipe was being installed.

A huge thank you to all of you who replied on the Community Car Scheme and especially those of you who volunteered as drivers for the scheme which is being run in conjunction with Neighbourcare.

The next Forum will not be until September. This is due to ill health and prior commitments of those on the Forum – don't forget if you could spare any time the Forum are always looking for anyone who can help, no matter in how small a way.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good time over the next few months but would ask you to remember that our community is only as good as those who take the time and trouble to think of others as well as themselves. In addition look after the younger members of our community and teach them the same as well as remind them of the 'Stranger Danger' and also taking care when crossing roads.