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# POPLEY MATTERS

December 2001 to February 2002

Volume 3 Issue 15

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, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9EL  
The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chairperson Iris King; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Treasurer Tracey Bentley; Secretary Peter Moore; Advertising/Liaison Kate Lomas; Committee Member Dave Phillips;

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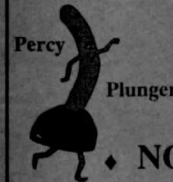
MONDAY 1pm VIABLES CRAFT CENTRE  
MONDAY 5:30pm CARNIVAL HALL  
TUESDAY 7pm KEMPSHOT VILLAGE HALL  
WEDNESDAY 10:30 & 12MID DAY MOOSE HALL,  
CHURCHILL WAY  
WEDNESDAY 6:30pm VIABLES CRAFT CENTRE  
THURSDAY 7pm METHODIST CHURCH, OAKRIDGE  
THURSDAY 7pm OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL  
THURSDAY 6:30pm CHURCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD  
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## News from the Boys Brigade

Mark Hood, took over as the Company Captain on the 1st September, and we wish him and his committed Staff all the best for the future.

Again, another active period. Junior Section started the session off with a visit to the 10 Pin Bowling Centre. They are also well into their new sessions activities.

Anchor Boys, are now full up, and so 25 Boys spend their evenings with games and activities.

The Company Section, (who do have a few vacancies, year 7 plus) have been on a mountain bike session at the Company's Activity Centre. They have also been working hard tidying up the Centre and Camp-site.

Plans are well in hand for the Christmas activities.

If you think that we can help your son, please don't hesitate to contact us, on Bas 323564

For further information to join see our main advert ON Page 5.

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## Adult Education

The Spring 2002 Adult Education Programme organised by Basingstoke College of Technology starts Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January. You can obtain your copy of the programme from the 3<sup>rd</sup> January at your local supermarket, library, the hospital, the Information Centre in the town centre and various other outlets and also by phoning the Information Office at BCOT on 01256 306484.

We run a large and varied programme in nine different centres including BCOT, so there is a course near you that you may be interested in. Topics range from IT to art and craft, carpentry and motor vehicle, holistic therapies, exercise routines and many more besides. To enrol or obtain more information on a particular course please call the above number or the Adult Education Office on 10256 306347/306355.

## Message From the Editor:

September started with the awful events in America, it was brought home to me when I stood at the War Memorial and I noticed a young mother with a three year old child sitting in his pushchair, she was crying, I went over to her and asked if there was anything I could do, "No, my friend was on the 105th floor and she was my sons Godmother, I don't know what I should do". I thought what would I have wanted my friends to do and I said "Go on loving and living and don't let the evil people of this world win".

We have had to extend the magazine to 28 pages. We also had to try to get more paying adverts as this is our only way of raising money to pay for the printing. If you want to write or advertise contact me on 819924 or at 405 Abbey Road.

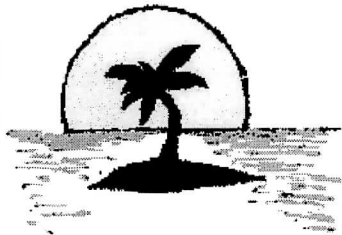
The report on Popley Partnerships Action Plan is in the 8 centre pages and it shows just how much work has gone into it. There are several articles with information that are in the Action plan.

To the person who sends me a "corrected" copy of my message with the cutting advertising Adult Education I would like to extend a request to get in touch, we are always happy to include anyone that is willing to help including proof reading. I have never professed to be any thing other than a willing amateur with no qualifications; this however has not stopped me from trying many things in my life.

I would like to say, a continued to get well to Arthur Attwood who has been a friend to Popley for many years, it is nice to have his grandson, Andrew McCormick writing to let us know the update on Arthur.

Welcome to Mark Head, as the new Centre Manager at Popley Fields, I wish him much success in his endeavours. Louise Tuck has resigned after several years of devoted duty to the centre and community we all wish her well in all she does.

Let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please look out for your neighbours if you have not seen them for a couple of days just give them a call. *Jane Frankum (Editor)*



# TREASURE ISLAND PLAY GROUP

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9AE

Mon-Fri 9:15am-11:45am

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Parents & Toddler Group For More Information Phone

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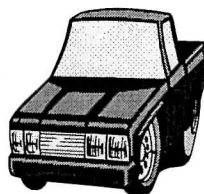
We also operate an extensive day excursion programme to many places of interest throughout the year with local Popley pick ups.

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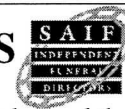
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Please do not hesitate to contact us for advice and assistance at any time:-

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Hook:	01256 761717	7 London Road Hook
Thatcham:	01635 860866	59 Station Road Thatcham

## ✉ Letters to The Editor ✉

Dear Editor; Some months ago I visited my daughter who lives on Popley 1. I noticed several cars that had either no tax discs or out of date discs; 2 cars had tax discs that had expired more than 2 years ago and 1 had a disc dated 1995.

I contacted the council about these dumped cars, about six weeks later when I again paid a visit to my daughter I noticed that a man was taking photographs with a digital camera and sticking large white notices on some of the dumped cars, but not on all of them. Several weeks went by and I kept up my visits. I checked up on the cars that had notices on them and I noticed some of them had the notices taken off them, and had been moved a few yards away from where they had been. These cars were still there 3 months later and the council had not bothered to remove these cars as the notices said they would.

Now I see that some of the cars have been broken up and left in the road again. When is the council going to do what they say within the fourteen days?

It seems to me that the people who own these cars should be charged to have these cars taken away, but I expect that the council will say they can't find these owners, well all they have to do is ask the people who live nearby and then they can do something about them. Some of these car owners seem to buy old bangers just to scrap them time and time again. These people should be found and fined for dumping or in certain circumstances barred from having more than 1 car per family just like some of the new housing regulations.

The road where I live has a 30 mph speed limit like most of the residential areas in Basingstoke, like most areas we have the usual speed idiots that ignore these limits. I contacted the council about this and asked if they could install speed humps along the road as this would make these idiots slow down,

the reply I received was that they are too costly to install, and would not serve any useful purpose. Why then has the council installed speed humps in their Wade Road yard to slow down the traffic if they don't work or is this just another way of wasting the poll tax money the council receives on stupid statue?

Popley Resident

***Editor; I hope you find the article on page 24 helpful. It is frustrating for every one when people claim the car because they don't want to pay the charge for its removal, and just leave it there. This is the fault of the owner, and the authorities can do nothing legally. It also depends on where it is "dumped" on council, Oakfern or private land. However the Council and Oakfern are working together to get things moving faster.***

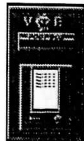
***Speeding and selfish parking is an annoyance to everyone and the people that continue to park opposite T junctions, especially by Abbey Road shops are making the road dangerous, another child of 5 was knocked down on November 1<sup>st</sup> thankfully although he was taken to hospital in an ambulance he is OK now and at home.***

***Council tax (Poll tax finished some years ago) does not go on statues these are funded by private donations and grants for art.***

***There is no policy at the Council that restricts a family to owning one car, only that in certain new developments they cannot park more than one car on those premises.***

**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, 405 Abbey  
Rd, Basingstoke. RG24 9EL**



## MELROSE HALL

We have even more going on now at Melrose Hall both during the day and of an evening.

**Monday** morning 9.30am-12pm Coffee Morning everyone is welcome

**New for Monday's** we have our new Baby Weighing Clinic run by local health visitors from Popley Fields, it is from 2pm-3pm please note that it is only on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month.

**Tuesday** afternoon's our ever popular over 18 Bingo club from 2pm till 4pm, there is always room for more new faces

**Tuesday** afternoon / evening Petite School of dance 3.30pm-9pm (please note the times)

**Wednesday** morning's from 9.30am-11.30am we have Popley Little People, come along meet other mums and dads.

**Wednesday** lunchtime from 12pm-2pm is the Oasis Lunch Club this is open to anybody who would like to come along. Hot food at a reasonable price

### WEDNESDAY EVENING'S NEW THIS YEAR MELROSE AUCTIONS



**Wednesday afternoon we start taking the Lots from 4pm.  
The Auction starts at 7pm every Wednesday evening each week.**

**Thursday** morning 9.30am-12pm Coffee Morning where again everyone's welcome

**Thursday** evening 7pm-9pm Weight Watchers

**Friday** during the day 9.30pm-2.30pm is the Loddon Alliance Drop in group

**Friday** evening Melrose Christian Fellowship Youth Club from 6.30-7.45pm  
Young people up to the age of 11

From age 11 upwards 8pm-9pm

**Saturdays** Petite School of Dance from 9.30 till 12.30 (please note new times)

**Sunday** during the day Melrose Christian Fellowship 10am-1pm

**Sunday** evening Melrose Christian Fellowship 6.30pm-8pm

Up until 17<sup>th</sup> December on a **Monday** from 2pm-4pm there is free computer course. We hope that they will run another one again shortly.

**Debbie our Office Administrator is in the office:-**

**Monday & Thursday 1pm-3pm**

**Tuesday Wednesday and Friday 9.30pm-11.30am**

Debbie is available at these times to take any enquiry you may have, or if you should want to book the hall for parties, weddings, christenings etc.

We are also looking for some more people to join our committee, we meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, please come along and see if you would like to help. We need new members, help us to help you

# Community Surgery

The first Community Surgery was held at John Hunt of Everest School on November 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 2 pm. It was very successful and several residents of Popley came, from people on their own to whole families. They came with their concerns and questions on an assortment of issues, parking, rubbish, vandalism and some private enquiries, and as promised confidentiality was assured. There were two health visitors who were available to ask questions on a variety of issues. PC Matt Deery was kept busy with some traffic and parking problems. Terry Jones who lives in Abbey Road was there to answer questions on problems in the work place and give advice on new legislation. All three local Councillors were there Rob Donnelly, Jane Frankum and Paul Frankum. Oakfern sent two representatives to answer any queries on housing issues.

The aim of the surgery is to enable people to go to a one-stop place with any concerns or problems, and have someone there who can give them an answer or advice. If we can't find an answer we will endeavor to find a person who can.

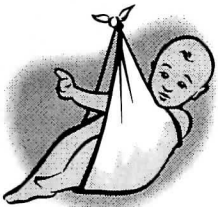
You will be welcome if you just want to talk over a problem or ask about health issues, transport, noise, vandalism, drugs, parking, trees, shrubs or any manner of things, we will all try to help.

The Community Surgery will be held at John Hunt of Everest School the first Saturday of every month, except Bank Holiday weekends. We currently are the only ward so far to have this facility and other wards like Winklebury have said that if it works they would like to set one up.

The surgery is there for you to use and I hope that the residents find that it will be extremely useful and helpful. (Cllr Paul Frankum)

---

## Well Baby Clinic



A Well Baby Clinic started in September and is held at Melrose Hall on the second and fourth Monday of each month it is from 2 to 3 pm. There is always a health visitor who will be there to weigh babies and give simple advice.

## Mr Basingstoke (Arthur Attwood)

Wednesday November 7th saw the launch of Arthur Attwood's latest book, titled "An Illustrated History of Basingstoke". As many of you may be aware, Arthur was admitted to hospital once again, this time on the Isle of Wight, on 28th October, with diabetes-related complications. I am happy to report that, such is the determination of the man, he was able to be discharged and made it to Hammicks in time for the book launch, where he must have signed 200 copies - enough to give anyone writer's cramp!

The book is an excellent publication, which covers all aspects of Basingstoke's history from pre-Roman times right up to the present day. Obvious favourites, such as the burial alive of Mrs Blunden, the Basingstoke Canal, the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway, and Basing House are covered in detail.

Popley is mentioned quite a few times. We all know that the roads are named in Popley after poets, islands, or abbeys. But I didn't know, until I read the book, that Popley is linked to the Harrow Way estate, where the roads are named after vicars, bishops, and abbots!

Popley Fields would have seen a lot of action in historical times. Firstly, during the wars between Saxons and Danes, the area around Popley would have been prized for being high ground close to water. Indeed, the Daneshill industrial estate is named after the Danes' stronghold, which would have been based in the Popley/Chineham area, from which they would have fought King Alfred.

In the Civil War, Popley would have been between Royalist and Parliamentary strongholds at Basing House and the Vyne respectively. The Parliamentarians laid siege to Basing House for over 2 years. There were plenty of running battles in an area extending quite far from Basing House including "Cowdrey Down" where the northern part of Oakridge now stands.

It took Oliver Cromwell himself to smash the siege of Basing House on 14th October 1645. I had always assumed that the Roundheads had burned the house to the ground out of spite, but in the book it states that the house burned down by accident, "caused by neglect in quenching a fireball" (which would have been fired earlier in the day to break the siege). The house was incredibly rich, for the book states "the plunder from the house was valued at the enormous sum, for those days, of £200,000". I'm not sure what that would be worth in today's money!

The book has been on sale since the 1st of November and has made the No.1 spot in Hammick's. It costs £14.99 - books are not cheap these days, but I would say it is well worth the cost and would make an ideal Christmas present. (Andrew McCormick Grandson of Arthur)

Arthur Attwood, "An Illustrated History of Basingstoke", is published by Breedon Books, ISBN 1-85983-271-7, and costs £14.99. It is available from Hammick's, WH Smith and Waterstones.

## Abandoned Vehicles

Dumped or abandoned vehicles continue to be an increasing problem on many estates. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have procedures in place for dealing with this problem. To report a suspected abandoned vehicle contact the Customer Services Section on the number below. You will need to provide the following information:

- Colour
- Make
- Model
- Registration number of vehicle
- Good details of the location of the vehicle

This information will mean that the vehicle can be easily identified and a notice will be left asking the owner to claim it within 7 days or it will be removed. Reports of abandoned vehicles are followed up twice a week after checking details with the local Police, so once you have reported an incident it should take less than a week for them to respond. *If the vehicle is claimed by the legal owner it cannot normally be removed even if it is untaxed or in an unroadworthy condition.* If it is not claimed after a week the council will check the vehicle details with the DVLA and for any HP notification. If the vehicle is on Oakfern Housings' land or that of any other private landowner, they must sign a notice, prior to the vehicle being removed.

The Council has confirmed that currently there is no backlog of complaints and the removal of known vehicles, that can be scrapped, is up to date.

If you have any information relating to abandoned vehicles or to suspicious transporting or towing of unroadworthy vehicles please contact **Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 845474.**

**Basingstoke and Deane have a variety of helplines where you can report any of the following issues:**

- ⇒ Unsafe or broken paving or footpaths 01256 845553
- ⇒ Street lighting issues (please quote the ID number which can be found on the main column of the light) 01256 845553
- ⇒ Overgrown/overhanging shrubs where lighting or pathways are being obscured or causing a hazard. 01256 845553
- ⇒ Where public space shrubberies require maintenance 01256 845474
- ⇒ Street cleansing and litter issues 01256 845474

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## The Boys' Brigade

6<sup>th</sup> Basingstoke (Popley) coy.

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ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14



### Junior Section Aged 8yrs-10½yrs

Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:30pm  
Main School Gym

### Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

Monday Night 7-15pm to 9-30pm  
ROSLA BLOCK ROOM R14

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## Councillors Page

I looked back at my diary for the last twelve weeks and I counted 67 meetings etc that I had attended, some were really enjoyable like the opening of the Magnolia Court Summer Fete, I bought a few bargains and tasted Madge's lovely cakes. I went to Stevenage to see how their community scheme worked along with some of the Popley residents and people in the Popley Partnerships. I even went to University for a few days on a planning course; I wish my mother were here because we would have had a chuckle with me at Exeter University.

Popley Partnerships (which you can read about in the centre pages) took up a lot of my time with meetings in community centres at the Civic offices and Oakfern House. It has taken many months to get the report out and a wonderful effort by hundreds of Popley residents. I helped to present the "Action Plan" to the Community Safety Forum which is made up of senior Police, Social Services, the Health Authority, Fire Officers, Council Chief Executive, senior Council Officers and many others. The report was well received and Glyn Williams, Head of Policy and Partnerships is looking at the costing so that we can start applying for some grants and funding to start some of the ideas that came out of the consultations.

Your Popley Councillors met some residents and their children at the site of the Bermuda Close play area to talk about their wishes for the area, Rob Donnelly the Council Leader has promised to consult and keep the people informed about any improvements in that area.

Councillor Paul Frankum and I went to a meeting to discuss the possibility of changing the travel token scheme to coloured plastic discs that should be easier to find in your purse or pocket, it will also be a big advantage to those with failing eyesight.

We went to a meeting where the council are trying to help to set up Youth Councils and it was great to see so many youngsters there as well as some of us wrinklys. The borough does have a good youth magazine that the youth have a huge input in it is called Teen Spirit.



Wessex Range Trip to Switzerland. During the summer holidays a group of Wessex Rangers, from North Hampshire and West Berkshire, spent 2 weeks in Switzerland. We left the brigade Headquarters, in Shakespeare Road, Popley during the evening of Friday 17th August, and travelled overnight arriving at our Swiss destination at 10 o'clock the next Morning. The distance, from Basingstoke to Frutigen is 650 miles. We returned to Basingstoke during the morning of Sunday 2nd September.

We travelled by minibus, and during our 2 week stay we travelled a Further 1200 miles. We visited Bern, the capital of Switzerland, well known for its Bear Pits, Zoo and, what seemed, miles of covered shopping arcades. Thun, the City of the Alps, with its castle and two-tier cobbled shopping street. We also watched 2 evening concerts in the Town Square. We also travelled over the Brunig Pass to the City of Lucerne. This was quite a long journey and we travelled through 2 Swiss Cantons to get there.

We travelled in cable cars, funicular railways, and chair lifts. As well as trying our hand at rowing boats, on a mountain lake and a toboggan run in Interlaken. We also visited some underground caves and took part in a mountain walk. Most of the mountain villages have their own swimming pools, either outdoor, indoor or both and we were fortunate to have 3 excellent pools within 10 miles of our base.

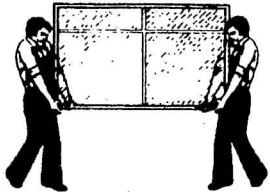
Although I was the only member of the Popley/Oakridge Group to attend this camp, When I go back next year 2 boys and 2 girls from the HQ Unit will be coming with me. We are busy saving towards next years trip even as I write. In previous years boys and girls from Popley/ Oakridge Group, have attended camps in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. I am carrying on the tradition with today's Popley and Oakridge Rangers. The location of our HQ, is in Shakespeare Road near the underpass, is ideally situated to draw members from Popley and Oakridge Estates. *(Lt Nicola Smith Popley Group C.O.)*

For Further Details contact Capt. Brain Smith on 350074



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## Basingstoke Air Scouts

Thirty Cub and Beavers Scouts enjoyed a fantastic Halloween party at Base 2000 with Akela looking 'wickedly' pale with green hair and black lips and her assistant looking almost as ghostly too! Only a few days before that five Cub Scouts had attended the District Cub

Scout Weekend in the New Forest and enjoyed the friendship of thirty other members of Basingstoke East Scout District with a fun filled programme of activities and games. It is always busy, busy in these two younger sections and the best of it is, if you become a leader, you too can act the big kid! How about it? Adult leaders and new members welcome. Beaver Scouts (boys and girls aged from 6 to 8) meet on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Cub Scouts (boys and girls) aged 8 to 10) follow on from 7 to 8.30 p.m. For more information contact Elaine Devenport (Cub Scouts) on 323453 or Sue Keetch (Beavers Scouts) on 471354 or speak with the Group Scout Leader Jan Saunders on 410514.

The older scout section have also been very active. Nine members visited Popham Air Field as part of the Young Eagle flying programme one Saturday morning and others cycled the lanes and the countryside on a circular route from Worting across to Sherborne St. John and Bramley in the most appalling weather you can imagine. They were competing against several other scout troops in Basingstoke and, despite being made to finish due to weather conditions, achieved seventh place with 140 points. Well done! Future plans for the troop include orienteering, gliding, more flying and pioneering; and next spring they hope to add sub-aqua and archery to their expanding their programme

The troop meets on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. and is open to boys and girls aged from 10 upwards. Contact Pat on 07787 340313 for more information. Exciting changes are ahead for this older age group in 2002 as plans for Explorer Scouts begin to unfold. This a brand new section being developed the Scout Association which is specifically designed for the 14-18 age group and promises to offer an even more challenging programme of activities.

**Base 2000** - the new scout/guide and community hall in Carpenters Down Over 120 young people use Base 2000 in Carpenters Down each week on a regular basis demonstrating just how badly the new facility was needed. Both halls are in use most evenings for some or all of the evening. Two community groups 'Voices' and the WEA use the building on three days of the week. Both run creches for younger children and the latter offers opportunities for adult s to develop their art and craft skills.

The facilities are now fully equipped with furniture, crockery and cutlery and offer super venue for parties and meetings of large or small groups either on a regular or casual basis. Hire charges range from £2 per hour for the small hall during the week to £10 for the larger hall at weekends. Special rates quoted for full day or weekend bookings. Contact the Bookings Secretary, Jan Saunders on ☎410514 or e-mail [Janice-saunders@bravo.globalnet.co.uk](mailto:Janice-saunders@bravo.globalnet.co.uk)



Thank you to all those who recently attended our Halloween Family Night, and especially to those of you who got into the fancy dress spirit. We hope you all had a good time.

If you are looking for a great value, fun place to spend New Years Eve with friends and family, we have a great party lined up. With disco music and a licensed bar it promises to be a great night!

Tickets will be available from 19th November!

Are you a member of a sports team needing somewhere to practice.

Floodlit multi-sports pitch available for hire.

Excellent value and several evening spaces available for the winter.

### Did you know?

Popley Fields Community Centre has the following facilities available:-

Weddings and party facilities including function bar and catering.

If you are looking for a versatile venue for any function look no further!

Halls and rooms for hire for the largest conference to the smallest meeting.

Floodlit Football / Netball / Basketball / Tennis facilities.

Table Tennis	Pool	B.B.Q	Garden	Tennis
Changing Facilities	Craft Room	Youth Club	Games	

And we are also recruiting part-time Centre Assistants to help provide a quality service. So if you want a rewarding job with flexible hours call for more information and an application form.

For more details on any of the above call: 01256 414494

## Popley Ponds (The White Horse Pond)

Popley Ponds was the site of a tree planting morning, led by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Park Rangers, on Saturday 27 October.

Both children and adults from the surrounding community spent the morning planting a hawthorn hedgerow around the perimeter of Popley Ponds. The area is an important site for the protected Great Crested Newt, but has, in the past, suffered a great deal of fly tipping. Planting the hawthorn hedgerow will, in time, create a natural barrier to prevent rubbish from being thrown onto the site, and will also provide an important habitat, supporting a diverse range of animals.

A member of the Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group is currently writing a management plan for the site, and practical conservation work should start next year. For more information about the work being carried out at Popley Ponds, please contact the Park Ranger, Amanda Vickers, on (01256) 350321.

*Editors note: The Great Crested Newt is a protected species of newt that grows to about 14cm or 6 inches. It is an internationally important species and it is an offence to intentionally damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place, which these species use, for shelter or protection.*



### Legends of White Horse Ponds

There is a legend that White Horse Pond got its name when many years ago a white horse was said to have disappeared in the pond and was never seen again.

There have been some weird things pulled out and I remember years ago they had to pull out a milk float. Do you have stories to tell about Popley we would like to have a "special" to celebrate ten years since the magazine was first published so come on you don't have to write it out yourselves just let the editorial team know and we will help you with your stories. Contact Editor Jane Frankum at 405 Abbey Road 819924

# DON'T DRINK & DRIVE



Christmas party?  
Pub Lunch?  
Let us do the driving

**818181**  
**Passenger**  
**Services**

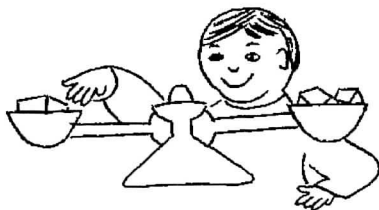


Wish you a  
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

## 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.



### TINY TOWN KINDERGARTEN

- ◆ Open 8am-6pm 51 weeks of the year
- ◆ 18 place Kindergarten offering full time & Sessional Spaces
- ◆ Qualified and experienced staff
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Call Sarah or Hannah for an Information pack & view the Kindergarten 0118 9814325

You are warmly invited to  
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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



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**Richard Aldworth**  
**Community School**

*TOTALLY FREE!*

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Flexible Daytime computer  
courses - City & Guilds Levels  
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Courses held at Popley Fields  
Community Centre

For further information or to enrol please  
contact Dawn King on 01256 473698

## STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

• Sheena Brown is available for Chiropody treatment in the comfort of your own home.



• Please telephone (01256) 336853 for more details or to make an appointment.





## The Good Neighbour Award

In September Oakfern Housing Residents were invited to nominate individuals or families who had helped them significantly with their day to day lives. The group are keen to acknowledge the nominations and publicise the award scheme in the hope that more people will take part in the future.

The Good Neighbour Award was launched by Oakfern's Resident Forum in 1999. Many people seem to concentrate on the negative aspects of the community life, this award helps to focus on the positive elements, to see that all the little things people do for each other are not taken for granted but are greatly appreciated.

This year there were two recipients of the award, Mrs. Helen Parry of Oakridge who was nominated by Mrs. Maureen Gardner they are both residents of Oakridge Towers. Mrs. Parry has helped with the residents of Oakridge Towers organising outings and supporting the residents, she also works hard for Oakridge Methodist Church. "Helen would never refuse anyone anything and is always smiling and jocular she has a wonderful sense of humour and will always listen to other peoples troubles. In short she is a very good friend and definitely a good neighbour" said Maureen Gardner.

Mr. David Cockrill was the award winner in Popley, he was nominated by Mrs. Price a resident of Abbey Court sheltered scheme. Mrs. Price has nominated David for all the help he has given to many of the residents at the scheme. David runs the Abbey Court Christian Fellowship Group and is the treasurer of the Abbey Court Social Committee where he also helps to organise trips and events. "He is always willing to take people to dentist/optician/hospital and Church, you mention something that needs doing and it is done with a cheery smile. David is more than a good neighbour he is an angel" said Mrs. Price.

The awards were presented by the Mayor Councillor Mrs. Rose Wellman in Oakfern House on 7th November. Well done David just one more person that proves that Popley is a good place to live.

## Disabled Access Works

Within the Borough Councils approved Capital Programme there is a budget allocation for a programme titled Access Initiatives.

The Access Initiatives programme is for undertaking facilities for the disabled and mobility impaired within the whole Borough area.

### **The works include:**

- The provision of dropped kerbs, this can either be for a particular individual within close proximity of there place of residence or along a particular route which they take when they are out and about.
- The provision of vehicle crossings to enable residents to park within the cartilage of their property. (The resident must be registered disabled).
- The provision of disabled parking bays. Due to enforcement problems bays can not at the present time be provided within the public highway. With the land owners consent non-enforceable bays can be provided within private areas i.e. Housing Association garage/parking areas.
- The provision of short lengths of footway i.e. across verges to help with access to individual properties.

This is only an indicative list and other works will always be considered where disabled residents are having difficulties in gaining access. No works however, can be undertaken within the cartilage of the property. Works can only be undertaken within the confines of the public highway, on land under the control of the Borough Council or Housing Association owned land (but only with there permission).

If anybody has an access problem they can either contact the Councils Access Officer, Anne Gray on 01256 845593 or the Design and Construction Manager, Martin Bennett. on 01256 845227.

### **Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Access Committee.**

Whilst writing I would also like to make you aware of the Council's Access Committee.

The Committee is an independent body set up to promote an environment that is fully accessible to everyone whatever their particular needs.

### **The Committee:**

- Offers advice on a range of access issues.
- Assists officers, Councillors and Parish/Town Councils.
- Represents disabled people and their interests on various working groups for Hampshire County Council.
- Publishes a Accessibility Newsletter.
- Has produced an Access Guide to Basingstoke sponsored by Sun Life of Canada.

The Access Committee is currently looking for volunteers to represent disabled people and their interests within the whole Borough.

Should anyone wish to volunteer they should write to Michael Howe, Chair, Access Committee, c/o Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 4AH.

Alternatively they can contact Anne Gray, Access Officer for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 845593.

# PROGRAMME MATRIX SPRING 2002 FOUR LANES

Course Name	Start Date	Day Wk.	Time	Fees	Mats	Exam/Reg
<b>ART, DESIGN, CRAFTS &amp; PHOTOGRAPHY</b>						
Dressmaking	Jan 16	Wed 9 weeks	1000-1200	£42.00		
Learn to Draw (From the Right Side of The Brain)	Jan 20	Fri 9 weeks	1000-1200	£42.00		
<b>LANGUAGES</b>						
French Conversation-Intermediate Level	Jan 18	Thurs	9 weeks	1900-2100		
<b>PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>						
Intro to Lip Reading	Jan 16	Wed 8 weeks	1030-1200	£20.00		
<b>SATURDAY WORKSHOPS</b>						
Intro to Stencilling in the Home	See Gazette for Details					
Self-Defence for Women	Feb 23	Sat 1 day	1000-1200	£6.00		
Antique Road Show						

## PROGRAMME MATRIX SPRING 2002 JOHN HUNT

Course Name	Start Date	Day Wks	Time	Fee	Mats	Exam/Reg
<b>FITNESS, SPORT, HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY</b>						
Tae Kwon Do Introduction	Jan 18	Fri 10 weeks	1900-2000	£24.00		
<b>GENERAL INTEREST</b>						
Bridge Advanced	Jan 15	Tue 10 weeks	1900-2100	£45.00		
<b>LANGUAGES</b>						
Italian for Beginners	See Gazette for Details					
<b>SATURDAY WORKSHOPS</b>						
Nail Art & Manicure	Jan 26	Sat 1 day	1000-1300	£15.00		
Intro to Aromatherapy & Massage		Sat 1 day	1000-1500	£24.00		
Colour & You Image Analysis		Sat 1 day	1000-1500	£24.00		



## Message from Local Beat Bobbies

Whilst I have this opportunity I would like to thank all the Popley community for their support and help over these past 3 months.

I have been your beat officer over this period and have been overwhelmed by the positive support and encouragement I have received whilst walking the streets, and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting each and everyone of you. You have made me feel very welcome.

I now have the pleasure to introduce your new beat officer PC Matt Deery.

Since the last issue of 'Popley Matters' I have made a comparison of the incidents that have been reported to the police and in the main they make good reading. My only concern is the dramatic increase in juvenile nuisance. I must emphasise that this 'title' does not class as a crime, but more unsociable behaviour from our youth, which prevents the good living of all the community. The increase coincides with school holidays, bonfire night and Halloween, however, we will monitor the situation over the coming months to try and deter this type of activity.

21st April-30th July 2001 (100 Days)	31st July 2001-7th November 2001 (100 Days)
47 (Non crime) Juvenile Nuisance	94 (Non crime) Juvenile Nuisance
18 Dwelling Burglaries	16 Dwelling Burglaries
101 Damaged Property	83 Damaged Property

We would encourage you to continue calling the police for any incident you feel we can help with, however, PLEASE only call 999 in an EMERGENCY, when Life is at risk; Crime is in progress; People are injured; or Offenders are nearby. For any other situation or for help and advice, please ring our local rate number for all Police Stations: 0845 045 45 45 and then ask for Basingstoke Police Station.

The Police have been invited to contribute to Popley Matters in all future editions, therefore we would like to invite any resident of Popley to write to the editor of 'Popley Matters' with any complaints, suggestions or comments on your policing and we will listen to, and try to answer any problems you have in the forthcoming edition.

Finally you can meet one of your community beat officers on the first Saturday of every month at John Hunt of Everest at 12:00 until 14:00 hours, for any questions or comments you have. You can send any correspondence to your editor at: 405 Abbey Rd, Basingstoke. RG24 9EL

**PC 3364 Andy CARTER**

# YULETIDE YOMP

Richard Aldworth School, Western Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire. RG22 6HA

## Saturday 22nd December

### FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

**CRAFT IN THE MORNING** 10am-4pm

**Party Lunch** £10 per child

## ENTERTAINMENT

### present from santa



For bookings contact the community office on (01256) 473698



## John's All Seasons Gardening

*Grass cutting, weeding, Hedge trimming, Gardens cleared, Gutters cleared*



*General garden maintenance, Haven't time to spend on your garden no job to big...*

### 01256 352032



**Richard Aldworth  
Community School**

## FREE

Basic Computing - Daytime Course

**Every Monday Afternoon  
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.**

Anyone interested please call in!

**Courses held at Melrose Hall  
Abbey Road Popley**

For further information or to enrol please contact Dawn King on 01256 473698



## Popley Forum Report

At the last meeting of the Popley Forum at Maderira Hall we discussed the draft Action plan for the Popley Partnerships that is in the centre pages. There was a pretty comprehensive report, and there was a lively discussion. There were quite a few issues around the youth and some suggestions for a way forward. The consensus of the people that attended was that there was a good deal of boredom by the youths and it was a minority that were causing the problems, It was felt strongly that all the youths should not suffer because of a few anti social elements.

Once again an area for the youth to go to was a solution that was offered by several people in the audience. The Popley Partnerships had spoken to the youths and they wanted the same things, a teen shelter and a kickwall somewhere where it would not disturb the residents too much. This is just one of the suggestions in the Popley Partnerships Action Plan.

The plan is now being costed and as soon as we have any news we will let you know. Just watch the notice boards at the centres.

The local police were also at the meeting Sergeant Lee McClellan introduced himself and explained that from now we will see a bigger police presence, some of the residence said they had already noticed a big improvement and had seen our new beat bobbies walking around the estate. Jane Frankum

## Next Popley Forum Meeting

The next Popley Forum is on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Melrose Hall, why not come along and say what your concerns, worries or fears are. We discuss everything from parking, landscape, youths, and any relevant issue. This is your chance to have your say, we get guest speakers to come to talk to us. We have had Stagecoach, the Director of Planning, The Chief Executive of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, The Litter Warden, Oakfern Housing Chief Executive, Police Inspector and many more over the past nearly five years. If you have an issue you want to discuss then contact myself Jane Frankum on 819924 or Iris King on 411113 by December 22nd. Any constructive ideas are always welcome.

to do. The young people came up with a range of ideas for improving facilities, such as:

- ❖ extend the football pitch near Merton School
- ❖ turn the BMX track into something more useful
- ❖ provide a skate park, a 'kick' wall and a half pipe
- ❖ provide more swings & benches & improve lighting in play areas
- ❖ provide a range of different activities for older children
- ❖ provide somewhere to meet friends
- ❖ clean up play areas and parks, e.g. by removing dumped cars
- ❖ provide separate areas for dogs in parks.

**Working with Young People**—the valuable work of the various agencies that support young people was recognised by residents, and the plan recommends that this work is built on, and that young people are encouraged to play an active part in the decisions about their future.

### **What Happens Next?**

The Residents' Action Plan, which we have summarised above, has now been presented to the Council by the Popley Partnership. The plan contains a lot of recommendations for action, and the Council and other key agencies are looking at how best to tackle the issues raised.

Most importantly, money has to be found before things can be done, since the necessary funds have not been set aside. Residents have recognised throughout the consultation that all the issues and ideas raised in the Residents' Action Plan could not be tackled at once, and that it will take time for resources to be made available and things to change for the better.

The Popley Partnership - made up of residents and the various agencies involved in Popley, such as the Council, Oakfern Housing Association, the Police and the Health Authority—will be responsible for taking the Residents' Action Plan forward. The Partnership will work closely with the Council and other partners, and with residents, to identify what resources can be made available to carry out the recommendations of the plan.

Part of the plan includes suggestions from residents about their priorities for tackling the problems in Popley, and the types of improvements they would like to see first. This will help the Council and the other agencies involved in deciding what needs to be tackled first.

### **Further Information**

If you want to help or if you want more information about the Residents' Action Plan, please contact Linda Phillips at Oakfern Housing Association on 01256 338800 or Iris King of the Melrose Hall on 01256 411113 or Jane Frankum 01256 819924

## **POPLEY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION-ACTION PLAN**

The detailed programme of consultation with Popley residents, which has involved residents in a range of events over the last few months, is now complete and a Popley Residents' Action Plan has been produced.

We describe here what residents' priorities are for improving Popley, and what happens next.

### **Residents' Action Plan**

The programme of community consultation involved two household surveys, various detailed discussion meetings with residents on key concerns, a study visit to Stevenage and two resident conferences. The key question in all of these events was 'What needs to be done to improve the area for Popley residents?'

A Popley Residents' Action Plan has emerged from this detailed consultation with residents. This pulls together all the ideas and suggestions from residents into a single plan for dealing with key problems in the Popley area. focused on three main issues:

- ❖ Managing the Environment
- ❖ Crime and Community Safety
- ❖ Facilities for Young People.

### **Problems and Possible Solutions**

The main suggestions included in the Residents' Action Plan are divided into a number of key areas for improvement, as follows:

#### **(1) Managing the Environment in Popley—Parking & Traffic**

**Dealing with inappropriate parking**—problems are caused when residents park outside marked bays or across driveways, or where cars block the view at 'pinch points' used to calm traffic. The plan calls for the Council and the police to give priority to enforcing parking restrictions and to provide more parking spaces in the area.

**Abandoned vehicles**—the Council has made a lot of progress in removing these, but more publicity is needed and ways of improving the problem need to be explored further.

**Selling of cars**—some residents are running unlicensed car businesses from their homes and the action plan suggests that these could be moved off the roads and into local business units, where they could operate legally.

**Road traffic accidents**—the plan calls for more speed restrictions on the roads in Popley, and for better enforcement of existing speeding restrictions, in order to cut down on accidents.

**Traffic calming**—there is some concern that current measures (such as 'pinch points') are not working properly to calm traffic, and the plan asks for an assessment of these measures to see how effective they are.

**Popley North Development**—even though this is a few years from completion, the development needs to take account of the problems in Popley and design these out in any new development.

**Public Transport**—the bus services in Popley do not seem to meet the needs of residents, and the plan recommends a survey of residents' transport needs.

## **(2) Managing the Environment in Popley—Footpaths & Cycleways**

**Dropped kerbs**—there are not enough dropped kerbs in Popley and an inspection is recommended to identify where these should be installed, and a route map published.

**Footpaths**—these are generally in poor condition and a survey of all footpaths is recommended to identify where these should be improved. The plan recommends that priority should be given to repairing these, perhaps with help from volunteers.

**Underpasses**—residents do not often use these because they are flooded or otherwise not safe, and the plan recommends that money is found for pelican crossings while the underpass problems are looked at.

**Cycleways**—there are plans for a cycleway in Popley (these can be viewed at the Council offices), which should be designed to meet residents' needs.

## **(3) Managing the Environment in Popley—Landscape Maintenance**

**Overgrown shrubs**—the plan recommends that these should be regularly maintained and cut back to reduce nuisance and potential hazards, and that inappropriate shrubs should be removed.

**Clearing of litter**—there are problems of litter not being cleared from footpaths and flower beds, and the plan recommends involving local residents both in raising awareness of litter problems and in having a spring clean of the area.

**Dog litter**—the plan recommends that more dog litter bins are available, that there are lots of stickers on bins and that there is better enforcement by the dog wardens.

## **(4) Crime and Community Safety**

This was a key concern of residents throughout the consultation and the Residents' Action Plan reflects this with a range of issues and possible solutions, as follows:

**Reporting crime**—public confidence in the police is gradually improving in the Popley area, but the plan recommends that more should be done to raise resident awareness about the importance of reporting crime, so that police can take the appropriate steps and also to help them monitor crime patterns. Local surgeries involving the police and other agencies are planned.

**Increasing police resources**—the plan recommends that the Council seeks extra funding to put Street Wardens in place in Popley, to work in conjunction

with the police and the community.

**Neighbourhood Watch and Community Watch**—the plan recommends extending the coverage of these schemes through a programme of active promotion, and suggests exploring whether incentives to households who join (such as cheaper insurance) might help.

**Vehicle crime**—there are problems of vehicle theft and of young people riding motor bikes on footpaths, and the plan recommends a number of initiatives, including invisible marking of vehicles and possibility of creating a space where young people can mend and ride their bikes.

**Drugs**—the plan recommends an active programme of education through schools and of encouraging residents to report drug dealing, as well as recommending that local housing associations look at enforcing tenancy agreements.

**Vandalism**—the plan recommends that the various key agencies carry out studies to identify vandalism 'hotspots' and design improvements to lighting and layout to reduce problems of vandalism.

**Designing out crime**—the plan recommends that the various agencies work together to identify more widely how the environment could be improved to design out crime, and to find funding for this.

**CCTV**—one of the possible solutions to reducing crime would be CCTV in crime 'hotspots', and the plan recommends that the Community Safety Forum seeks funding for installing CCTV cameras more widely in Popley and elsewhere in Basingstoke.

**Longfellow Parade Anti-Crime Initiative**—there are a current range of problems in Longfellow Parade which are being addressed, and the plan recommends that the various proposals to reduce crime in the area are carried through.

**Juvenile Nuisance and Criminal Damage**—this is the general term to cover all kinds of related activities, and the plan recommends an assessment of progress on tackling these problems and an active programme to implement the crime reduction proposals.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**—the plan recommends a more active approach to dealing with neighbour nuisance and anti-social behaviour, with the Council and other agencies to introduce examples of good practice elsewhere, including mediation and better enforcement of existing powers.

## **(5) Facilities for Young People in Popley**

Young people played an active part in the consultation with residents about the future of Popley, and many are keen to see the area improved as the older residents.

**Facilities for Young People**—one of the main problems, identified by young and old alike, is that there are not enough things for young people in the area