

POPLEY

ISSUE THREE

POPLEY FESTIVAL

On 20th March 1994 the "Popley Festival" is to be held at John Hunt of Everest Community School, Popley Way, Basingstoke.

Two open meetings have been held in order to establish the framework of the day, to decide upon the date and to enlist the help of the community in fulfilling the aims of the festival.

It is intended that the Festival will be a show case for the various groups, clubs, societies and organisations in Popley, as well as local schools, play groups and churches.

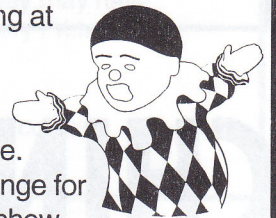
It will be an exciting fun packed family day which will include the whole community.

Children from the local infants and primary schools are designing a cover for the Festival programme, a small prize will be awarded to the successful artist! This will be presented by the Mayor.

Short mat bowls is played at John Hunt by local groups during week day afternoons. This is a development sport sponsored by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The bowlers will give demonstrations at

the Festival which will be an ideal promotional opportunity. We are also intending to start short mat bowls for youngsters from 11 years upwards. The existing group will offer tuition and guidance leading ultimately to the development of a junior team and the opportunity of playing at both league and county levels.

The playgroups from the area will co-ordinate to run an all day creche. We will install a ball pond and arrange for some face painters and a puppet show.



Local uniformed organisations will run the Barbecue, bandsmen will entertain and there will also be static displays.

Dancing demonstrations, singing, self defence, sequence dancing, local musicians and circus skills will all help to make the day a success.



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MATTERS

EDITORIAL

Hello! again, and welcome to this our third edition of POPLEY matters, albeit with a reduced amount of reports and articles. The reason for this is we needed to publish in time for the Popley Festival. I hope many of you will attend this great day, for Popley, see the article on the front page for further information. We apologise to any organisation if we have not included their articles for publication in this issue, but we will certainly include them in the next issue, which will include more pages for publication during Autumn this year. If you have anything you want to say, short story, or whatever, so long as it is of interest to, or about Popley, not only to organisations, but also children, teenagers or anyone at all, then let us know. This is your magazine, please read it and let us have your comments and views. Ron Rowe, Chairman of Popley matters Group c/o 14 Pitcairn Close, Popley.

JOHN HUNT PLAYGROUP

John Hunt Playgroup will be celebrating their 20th Birthday on Sunday 17th July 1994. We will be holding a Fete on this day, so if you came as a child or brought your children then come along and enjoy yourself. EVERYONE is welcome, anything to sell or use as raffle prizes etc. As for the Playgroup, we are open all weekdays 9.30 to 12pm.

Our main emphasis is on playing and enjoying ourselves. We do varied craft work, have different toys and activities out every day.

We welcome children from the age of 2 years 9 months. For more information please contact Anita Bennett Telephone 464750 mornings or 26883 evenings.

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MELROSE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Melrose Hall, off Abbey Road next to the shops is your hall, so join us for:- Keep Fit - Youth Group - Abbey Ladies - Senior Citizens - Junior Discos - Drop In Group - Free Legal Advice - Church Groups - Additionally the hall can be hired for private functions contact Margaret Smith, 460317.

We also hold fund raising events, such as Summer Fete, Christmas Bazaar, Auctions etc, which help to provide funds for maintenance of hall. Details of events from Margaret Smith or any committee member as listed at the hall.

Anyone wishing to start new groups, or to join the committee are welcome.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

26th March Jumble 1.30 to 4 pm

9th April Jumble 1.30 to 4 pm

25th April A.G.M. 8pm - ALL WELCOME

3rd July Summer Fete 1.00 to 4pm

Aerobics and Body Toning is held every Monday 7.30 to 8.30pm for further information call Debbie on 477078.

CALLING ALL SENIOR CITIZENS

Popley 4 Senior Citizens Club are looking for new members to help keep them going. It is feared they may have to close. due to the shortage of members. At present they meet at Melrose Community Centre every Friday from 2pm to 4pm.

If you have 2 hours to spare, why not come along and make some new friends. Bill Anderson is the contact name, he will make you very welcome. Bingo is also played.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Every Thursday Evening Melrose Community Centre, Abbey Road Popley. Basingstoke. (Opposite the Popinjay Public House) for a free appointment without obligation, please telephone during office hours:- Doggett Hawke Wright. Basingstoke 465404.

FIRST POPLEY SCOUTS

We meet on Friday evenings 7 to 9pm at St Gabriel's Hall. We have a lively bunch of boys with a very active programme but are in desperate need of a leader, Male or Female, or just adult help on a Friday evening. If you think you may be interested pop along on Friday or give me a call on 478133 - Linda Jesney.

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

Our activities are held at Melrose Community Centre

Sunday Morning worship 11.00 - 12/12.30

Wednesday - Mid week Fellowship 7.30 to 9pm at various homes.

Friday Youth Club - Junior (ages 5 - 10) 6.30 to 7.45 pm

We are hoping to start an intermediate youth club (ages 11 to 14) in March for further information as to precise dates and times please telephone Pastor P. S. Keeble (0256) 462351 from the 1st March onwards.

THE NEW POPLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

As many Popley residents will already know, a lot of work has been undertaken towards providing the new Popley Community Centre.

The process started last September with a series of Public Meetings to establish the kind of activities the people of Popley want to see provided in the new centre. A Steering Committee was formed with local residents and Ward Councillors. The first task of the steering committee was to decide on an architect for the new centre. Architects interested in the scheme were invited to make a submission for Popley, based on their previous experience of designing community buildings. Seventy five architects made submissions and of these five were chosen to go through to the next stage. Members of the Steering Committee travelled around the South of England looking at Community Centres designed by each of the five selected architects. At each of the centres, members of the Steering Committee spoke to the centre managers and centre users to find out how well the architect had worked with the Community Association and if there were any problems with the design of the building.

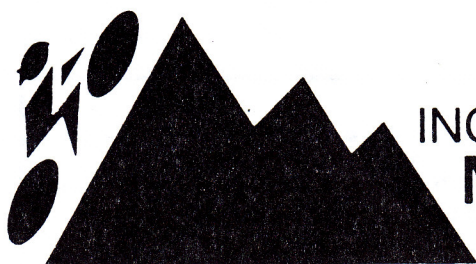
At a Public Meeting at the Ringway Hotel in December, all five architects gave a presentation after which the Steering Committee chose to interview three architects. The firm that was chosen by the Steering Committee to design the new Popley Community Centre is Fielden Clegg, from Bath.

The next stage of the process was to decide on a site for the new centre. Members of the Steering Committee worked with the architect to look at several sites across Popley and eventually decided to go ahead with the Carpenters Down site. With the architect and the site chose, the next stage was for a more detailed look at what the people of Popley want from a new Community Centre. Members of the Steering Committee, together with the architects and officers from the Borough Council, contacted local community groups and local residents to find out what facilities the new centre should offer. A number of Public Meetings have been held at different times of the day to provide as much opportunity as possible for Popley residents to have a say in the design of the new centre.

From these Public Meetings, the architect has come up with a draft design for the building and there will, continue to be opportunities at all stages for local people to be involved in the design. Work on the site is due to start in Autumn of this year with a completion date of Summer 1995.

If you would like to know more about the new Community Centre and the Steering Committee or if you would like to become involved in any part of the consultation process, then contact the Project Officer, Neil Cole at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on Basingstoke (0256) 844844 Ext 2349.

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NEW AND IMPROVED PLAY AREAS FOR POPLEY PEOPLE

Leisure Services has good news for the young members of the population; the play area in Chineham Park is going to be improved and a new one is to be built near the Marnel Infants School.

As part of Leisure Services continuous programme of modernising existing play areas, the site at Chineham Park will have new and existing equipment installed such as a climbing frame, roundabout and spring animals for those under seven years of age and for older children items which are being trialed in Basingstoke for the first time called a dizzy disc and a see-saw snake. This site will be opened by the Mayor on the same day as the opening of Chineham House on the 29th April. The house will be opened at 1.15pm followed by the pleasure area.

Metal fencing will enclose the play area to discourage dogs from entering and coloured rubber impact absorbent surfacing will be laid beneath the equipment.

The new play area near the rear access of Marnel Infants School has been designed so that the equipment for the 3/6 year olds is separate from the items for 7/12 year olds by a footpath. Those children under the age of seven will be provided with two swing seats, and see saw, two spring animals and a climbing frame. A bench will be included for friends and relatives and a litter bin available to ensure that the site is kept clean and tidy. For the older children up to the age of 12 two swing seats, tyre swing, a climbing frame plus a bench and litter bin will be provided. The schools are organising themed activities on the subject of the new play area.

All the equipment in Marnel Play area will have coloured rubber impact absorbent service beneath as will the surrounding areas which will be arranged in imaginative patterns. It is unusual for Leisure Services to build a new play area because much effort is expended in upgrading existing sites, however this exception has resulted from a petition for a play area in Popley 5, which was organised by a local girl.

Work on both play areas will begin and finish before the end of March. During this time you are asked, for your own safety, not to use the play areas. The play area will be formally opened on April 14th by the Mayor, an event to which local schools and residents will be invited.

You are most welcome to view the plans for the play areas in the Civic Offices, please telephone Steven Bryer on Basingstoke (0256) 844844 extension 2607 to arrange a suitable time for a visit.

CHINEHAM PARK RANGERS BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

The 1993/94 season will soon be over with mixed fortunes for our six teams. Some are still in with a chance of glory with either their respective league title within reach or their league cup to be one.

A special thank you to anyone reading this article who bought any of our 1993 Christmas Raffle tickets. As usual some were sold through our players and others at the Chineham Shopping Centre. The first prize of £100 went to a lady in Newbury, our second prize, a Christmas Hamper, was won by a lady in Tadley and the third prize of £25 of Marks and Spencer vouchers went to the family of one of our U/10's players. Twenty other prizes were also won, as a fund-raising event it was very successful, so thank you again to all who participated.

Keeping on the same track of fund raising, if there is anybody whose company would be willing to sponsor a football kit, our current U/10's will be in need of a kit next season. We already have a manager for next season's U/10. He has been gathering 8/9 year olds ready for next season and if any young lad would like to play football, training sessions are held at the John Hunt of Everest School on Saturday mornings between 10am and noon. All our age groups, and they range from U/9 up to U/15, will be looking to increase their squads for next season, so lads of all ages are welcome to come along and join in the training.

If anybody requires any information, please ring our Club Secretary, Dave Cahalarn, on Basingstoke 50512.

1st POPLEY BEAVERS

We hold the 1st Popley Beavers (pre-Cubs) at St Gabriel's Church Hall every Tuesday at 5pm to 6.15pm. We welcome Boys and Girls of 6 - 8 years old. We do varied activities and prepare the Beavers for entering Cubs. For more details please contact:- Anita Bennett 26883 or Janice Lee 22217.

CHINEHAM HOUSE

The contract for the refurbishment of Chineham House, following the disastrous fire, has now been completed.

The house is a listed building and it has therefore been necessary to reinstate it to its former condition, which has been a long and costly exercise. However the house is now ready for occupation and a number of community groups will shortly be taking up residence.

At the present time no groups have come forward to take on the management of the building as a whole and in the interim period the council will be dealing with the letting of the house directly.

It is anticipated that the upper floors will be used for offices by community based groups and the ground floor will be made available for use by local community groups for occasional hire and as a venue for meetings.

On the 29th April 1994 the Mayor will be opening the new playground adjacent to Chineham House and the house will be open on that date at 1.15 pm for anyone who wishes to take an opportunity to have a look around.

If there are any community groups looking for meeting space or an office and would like to look around the house, please contact Simon Buckingham of the Property Services Division at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council on Basingstoke 844844 ext. 2368.

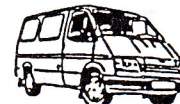
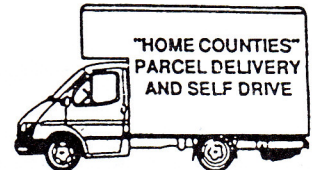
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POPLEY TWO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Residents Association of Popley Two have done remarkably well despite losing use of our hall for many weeks at the beginning of 1993, due to refurbishment.

Once back in residence a lot of work was put in by the Committee to rebuild shelving, cupboards etc. Money was raised to enable us to pay for central heating, also special windows to protect against vandals.

We held a five a side football tournament for teams of ages 9 to 14 years, and were blessed with lovely weather and good attendance. Hard work put in by the committee and others made it a profitable day. Couple this with most of our members not getting their customary free summer trips enabled us to pay for our windows and radiators.

We are currently organising another five a side football tournament at John Hunt School on Saturday 28th and 29th of May (subject to numbers of team entries).

Arising from refurbishment our one disappointment was the reduction in size of the main hall. We are seeking planning permission to extend the hall by 6 ft to enable us to store a Pool Table and Table Tennis Tables as well as other equipment.

MERTON INFANTS SCHOOL - PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS.

At Merton Infants School we have a long standing commitment to working with Pre-school children and their parents. Our pre-school groups for Parents and children had functioned for 10 years prior to funding being withdrawn by Hampshire County Council last year. We were sad to see the closure of our two groups even though the money was used by Hampshire County Council to enable the early entry of four year olds into school last September.

We are delighted to report that our pre-school groups have reopened and are well supported. Sadly we cannot offer places to all pre-school children in the area and places are only offered to children who will eventually attend Merton Infants School.

The groups meet on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 1.30 to 3.00pm and parents are free to select the most suitable afternoon to come. A family subscription of 50p is requested to provide drinks and biscuits for parents and children.

If you would like more information about the pre-school groups, please telephone Mrs V. Peacock on Basingstoke 24507.

MERTON POPPITS PLAYGROUP

Merton Poppits Playgroup meets for six weekly sessions in the pre-school room at Merton Infants School. the Monday to Friday morning sessions are from 9.15 to 11.45, the Wednesday afternoon session is from 12.40 to 3.10pm.

Miss Cori Payas has recently left the playgroup to take up a full time position in a Nursery School. The playgroups is currently being run by Mrs Tracey Richards who is a qualified nursery nurse. Tracey has many years of experience working with pre-school children and is ably assisted by deputy Mrs G. Wynie Bomford and assistant Mrs Carol Richardson.

The playgroup offers a stimulating environment with an excellent range of equipment for indoor and outdoor play. All children are welcome into the playgroup and facilities exist to accommodate children with special needs. For more details about the playgroup or availability of places, please telephone Mrs Richards on Basingstoke 24507.

THE POPLEY HEALTH PROJECT

You will have read in the last issue of Popley Matters that the North and Mid Hampshire Health Commission carried out a survey of Popley. The Commission plans how best to use resources to improve health and Health Services. There are a number of ways of achieving this, one of which is to talk to staff and residents living in the local communities like Popley. Having completed a survey of local agencies, the Commission would like to hear your opinions as users of the services. Discussions are being held with various local groups and individuals during the months from January to March.

These discussions will concentrate on your opinions of health services and other factors that have an influence on your health. We will share information with other agencies, such as the local Council, but any personal information will remain confidential.

Look out for updates in future issues of Popley Matters! For more information please contact:- Audrey Chamberlain, Community Development Advisor, Public Health Department, Harness House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke. RG24 9NB Phone 0256 312251.

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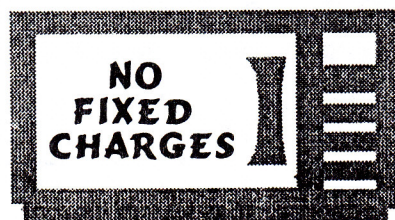
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POPLEY FESTIVAL ...continued from front page

This is an outline of our intentions for the Popley Festival, we are enthusiastic and eager to make this a successful day, perhaps even the first of an annual event, after all even the most famous and popular of Festivals had to start somewhere.

An all day "Bonanza Craft and Table Top Spring Fare" will also be held, Tables are available at only £5 each.

To reserve a table, or for further information regarding the Festival please contact the John Hunt Centre Community Office on Basingstoke 465303. Popley Festival