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POPLEY MATTERS

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December 2002 to February 2003

Issue 30

Supported by the :-



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FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles etc. (14-02-03); Adverts (07-02-03)

Message From the Editor

It does not seem possible that another year is nearly over. This year we celebrated ten years of Popley Matters of which I have been editor for the last five. There have been some changes in Popley with many more to come over the next ten years, new John Hunt School, sports facilities, new houses, shops and even some small businesses.

One problem we seem to have at last just about got rid of is the motorbikes racing around Aldermaston Open Space. Now everyone can enjoy the park and be safe, this is thanks to the joint efforts with Police, residents and the council. By putting up the bye laws notice, we were all able to react in a more positive way on the reports of riders.

With the cold weather and even earlier dark nights I hope you keep a lookout for our older and more vulnerable neighbours over Christmas and the winter. With Christmas comes icy conditions so be careful and safe, and you drivers out there please reduce your speed.

The winners of the Popley Community award will be announced in the next Popley Matters as one of our judges Ron Rowe has been very ill and we all want him to know that he is in our thoughts.

We (the editorial team) would like to hear from you as to what you would like to see in what is after all your magazine. We often wonder if people out there in Popley do read the magazine. There is an enormous amount of voluntary work done in order to print it then get it delivered through your door through rain, wind, sleet and snow.

Is there anyone out there interested in being a school governor, you don't have to have children just be enthusiastic about education?

Jane Frankum Editor

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/Secretary Andrew McCormick; Advertising/Liaison Kate Lomas; Committee Member

Dave Phillips. Distribution Team: Ann Allwright; Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Tony Frankum; Win Harris; Mark Hood; Iris King; Kylie Humphries; Colin Karlake; Val Lye; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Brian Smith; Cathy Smith; Martin Stacey; Kim Taylor; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Alison Walker; **Youth Volunteers:** Alex Baker; Nathan Barris; Alex Humphries; Laura Humphries; Ryan Humphries; Alex King; Jamie King; Jack Whiting;

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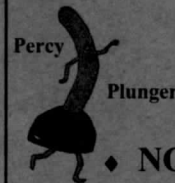
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Boys Brigade 2002

Well, if you remember the last issue, it was being printed when we were at company camp and a wonderful event it was. We camped, this year at New Park Farm at Brockenhurst, a well-situated site for lots of activities. The boys, were available to do various activities through the New Forest on mountain bikes, lots of sports and visits, trips for swimming, a session of Ski-bobbing (its like go-karting on an artificial slope) and much, much more. Excellent food and site facilities rounded off a magnificent week. It is the tradition of the company to promote its senior boys at camp, this year was no different promotions went to L/Cpl R Turner. Sgt. J Purchase and D Seabrook and S/Sgt J Hood. These members are now undergoing Leadership training.

We started our new session in September in good spirit with many events planned. Canoeing, (which we were able to do at camp). Work parties at the Old BVillage Hall that the company have organised into an activity centre for youth and community projects.

Our regular car boots sales are going well with the addition of the "fruit and veg man", our weekly auctions again are very successful. Because of a change in staffing arrangements, we can now take on more members, so any boy between the ages of 6yrs to 18 will be made welcome.

We also have vacancies for adults, to act as officers and Instructors, so if any of you have special skills that you feel that we may be able to use, don't hesitate to contact us.

Please see our main advert on page 5 for more details.

**All at the Boys Brigade wish you all
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

Popley Festival

It may seem early to be talking about Popley Festival but there is a lot to organise and we need helpers and ideas to make this great event keep the wonderful reputation it has gained over the years.

Note the date Sunday May 18th 2003 time 11am to 4pm at John Hunt School of Everest Community School



Popley Forum Report

The last Popley Forum was held at Melrose Centre, 7.30pm on September 23. We had three speakers:

Linda Philips (Oakfern Housing Association), talking about Popley Partnerships,

Andrew Cobb, Strategic Director of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council talking about the North Basingstoke Action Plan and the regeneration of Popley.

Bob Lloyd-Jones, Education Officer of Hampshire County Council, talking about plans for the new John Hunt School.

Popley Partnerships was set up after a residents' petition about the daily problems people faced in Popley:-

Police presence – we now have a Community Beat Officer

Vandalised dog bins – these have been repaired/replaced.

Litter picking – we now have a deep clean rota which goes through Popley every 8 working days.

Grounds maintenance, e.g. trees, shrub areas

Abandoned vehicles – we now have a fast track clearance scheme.

We have also been looking at new initiatives such as community wardens, currently being piloted in Buckskin.

As of 1st October 2002, the decriminalisation of parking came into effect. There will be stricter parking enforcement with £60 fines. Questions were then taken from the floor on parking, bushes near roads, litter and the uneven state of paths, especially near the new Med Centre.

The North Basingstoke Action Plan covers Popley, Sherborne St John and Rooksdown (Park Prewett). The plan involves around 4000 homes, 2000 of which will be in North Popley, plus a replacement John Hunt School. The Aldermaston Open Space will not be built on. There will also be some business development beside the A340 near the hospital. About 30% of the houses to be built will be affordable housing. There will be improved cycle access across Popley to the hospital, plus the entrance to Popley Way from the A33 will be full access with traffic lights.

There were eight questions from the floor about things like road safety, cycle access, community sports facilities, timescales, and houses for rent.

New John Hunt: the key to the regeneration of Popley will be the new John Hunt of Everest School. The school was built in 1970 and the building is at the end of its design life. Massive refurbishment is needed. A new school is planned with an increased roll of 750 to 900 (only about 400 are there now). The new school will cost £21million, which will come from sale of the existing school site and land north of Popley Way, plus contributions from Basingstoke and Deane, Hampshire County Council, and the housing developers.

There were many questions from the floor including why it was necessary to demolish the school (from someone who obviously hasn't been there recently!).

Date of next meeting: TBA

Andrew McCormick

For full minutes contact Andy on 01256 419376

TREASURE ISLAND PLAY GROUP



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

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

Mon & Thurs 12:30pm-3:00pm

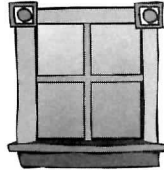
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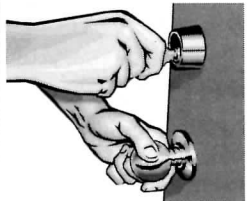
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Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor; In response to the letter from George of Popley in issue 29 I do take his point on garden waste. But exception to being called lazy, some of us cannot drive in order to take our waste to Wade Road, neither can we being on incapacity benefit afford to pay the council to supply green bags at 85p each or alternative charges. Surely it would be better if bags of rubbish could be collected from designated points on set days (i.e. by dog waste bins) for free collection, or by a separate recycling bin like those by Abbey road Shops.

On another note I have noticed complacency setting in, after the arrests of the people in the Holly and Jessica cases in Cambridge it seems parents have started to think everywhere is safe again. A lot of youngsters are out even after dark without supervision. We often hear children screaming and shouting. How do we distinguish between screams of terror or high pranks? My wife and I went out to offer possible assistance one evening and were sworn at. Please pass this on to your youngsters as it could mean that one day your child is in distress not just trying to be louder than their friends.

Editor; I can assure you George of Popley does know about not driving and incapacity benefits . I believe George was saying to the few that spoil it for everyone that they should take responsibility for their own rubbish. The dark nights are drawing in and it is even more important that our children need to be safe so please take note of our Pershore Rd Resident

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



Sherbourne St John

Social Club

Sherbourne St John
Social Club is
celebrating it's 100th
birthday in January,
current and life
members are invited to
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Ecumenical Service For People Who Are HARD-OF-HEARING

At 4pm on Saturday 7th December

At the Holy Ghost Church,
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Followed by Tea in the
Burgess Road Hall

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!



I am pleased to say that the nuisance motorcycles at Aldermaston open space appear to be on the decrease and this has been as a direct result of information passed by you having mentioned it in previous articles in Popley Matters. Please continue to pass on any information and any photographs or video footage you can obtain of the motorcyclists.

Popley residents are lucky in that the area backs on to Carpenters Down Woods and yet again nuisance motorcyclist are making it dangerous for dog walkers and children playing in the woods. I recently stopped numerous groups and this appears to have helped but again please pass on any info.

With Christmas approaching please be aware of "Billy Burglar" who will be more than happy to spoil your Christmas. Every year lots of family's have their Christmas ruined though a burglary which could be avoided with a little preparation. Avoid leaving piles of tempting Christmas presents underneath the tree in the weeks leading up to Christmas, especially if this can be seen through an external window.

Once again Popley has been hit with large amounts of vehicle crime and in particular damage and thefts from cars. We have been targeting specific areas of the estate during the night and would ask that everyone reports any suspicious activity around parked cars.

The areas which appear to have been targeted are (the area many call "Popley 2") Maldive Close, Faroe Close, Orkney Close, Mадiera Close, Pitcairn Close & Ascension Close

I would ask residents to be especially careful with leaving belongs in vehicles in this area and watch out for any suspicious activity. I would especially ask dog walkers who are often out at night to report anything suspicious seen.

Has anyone seen or heard of anyone selling car stereos or speakers?

I can be contacted on 0845 0454545 or information can be passed anonymously through crime stoppers 0800 555 111

As a result of recent enquiries involving theft of vehicle badges I now have in my possession a large amount of vehicle badges, which I believe have been stolen from cars in the Popley area in the last 6 months.

Please give me a ring on 0845 0454545 if you have lost your badge and I will attempt to return to you if possible.

May I take this opportunity you wish you all a very enjoyable and safe Christmas.

PC3126 Matt Deery



MELROSE HALL

Popley Little People, our toddler group are looking for new members as the older children have now started, school.

Every Wednesday £1 per adult (include Tea & 10 Biscuits)

Monday	Melrose Coffee Shop	9:30am-12noon	
	Free Computer Course	1:00pm-3:00pm	
Tuesday	Bingo Club	2:00pm-4:00pm (Over 18's all welcome)	
	Petite School of Dance	5:00pm-9:00pm	
Wednesday	Popley Little People	9:30am-11:39am (Parent toddler Group)	
	Popley Oasis	12noon-2:00pm (lunchtime drop in)	
	Charity Auction lots from	4:15pm-Sale 6:30pm	
Thursday	Melrose Coffee Shop	9:30am-12noon	
	Weight Watchers	7:00pm-9:00pm	
Friday	Loddon Alliance	9:30am-2:30pm (Network Club)	
	Junior Youth Group	6:30pm-7:45pm	
	Senior Youth Group	8:00pm-9:00pm	
Saturday	Petite Dance School	9:30am-12:30pm	
Sunday	Melrose Christian Fellowship	11:00am-1:00pm	
	Melrose Christian Fellowship	6:30pm-8:00pm	

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Table Top Sales at Melrose Hall are on the following dates:-

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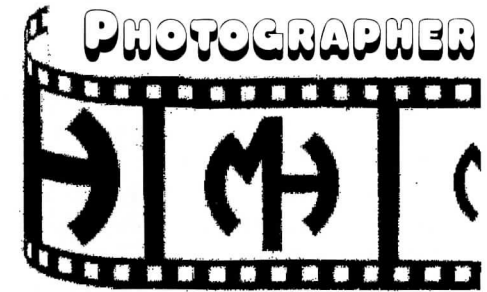


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John Hunt of Everest Community School
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The school is delighted to be able to offer places, free of charge, in our Youth and Community Steel Pans Band rehearsing on a weekly basis at the school on Thursdays from 6.00pm – 7.00pm, starting Thursday 7th November 2002. Come along and

join in.

The school has secured some funding to run a range of Positive Parenting classes. Stress buster through meditation begins in January – come along to the taster sessions on Thursday 16th January 2003 for Year 10 parents and Friday 17th January 2003 for Year 11 parents at 2.25pm.

The following courses will be available in the near future – French for travel, Keeping up with the children – Key Stage 3, Positive Parenting, Assertiveness/Confidence building, family Learning Fun days and Communication strategies for parents.

Look out for the Adult Education programme of courses that are to be run at the school during the Spring term.

The school is now working in partnership with Southampton Football Club to set up a Study Support Centre. This should be up and running by the Summer term.

Suki Binning, School Community Manager, Basingstoke 465303

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sounds good to you well all you have to do is turn up at the class that suits you fill out a quick form and pay £4.00 at the door listen to your body and your ready to go, its as simple as that.

If you have any questions just give me a ring on 01256-410804 my name is TRACY or just come and see me before class starts or after class, it would be lovely to see you, SEE YOU THERE!!!

Class times

Monday	7.00pm	Brighton Hill Community School
Tuesday	7.30pm	Chineham Village Hall
Wednesday	6.30pm	Popley Fields Community Centre (along carpenters down)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL TRACY ON 01256-410804

XERCISE SHOULD BE FUN!!

Councillors Page:

It's been a busy past 3 months at the Council. The highlight of the year must be the opening of Festival Place. This colossal project has taken 7 years in all and has cost about £350 million. Festival Place is a new 2-level shopping arcade, covered courtyard with restaurants, bars, nightclub and cinema, plus most of the old shopping centre including the Sports Centre and Library. There are 165 shops and over a million square feet of retail space, making it the largest centre to open in the UK this year.

Our first anniversary Community Surgery was on 2nd November at John Hunt School. We have had well over a hundred people pass through our doors. The scheme, which brings together Councillors, Police, Housing Associations and various other community bodies, has proved to be very successful, other schemes have started in Oakridge, Buckskin, and Brighton Hill and Winklebury.

Abbey Road Shops: The Council Cabinet has approved Fast Fare to take over the unit and will include chemist items as well as a lot more. This was a victory for local residents.

Shakespeare Rd: Work has started on road safety improvements. Thanks to the concerted action of local residents who collected nearly 700 signatures in a petition, £21,000 worth of funds have been freed up for immediate improvements, further improvements are under consideration.

Footpaths: By the Spring there will be improved disabled access around the surgery, improvements to the path on Carpenters' Down and the paths in the vicinity of the Shakespeare House Medical Centre, following the successful resurfacing work to the path alongside Shetland Road by the A33.

Reading Road Roundabout: Work starts in February 2003 installing traffic lights on the Reading Road Roundabout, and opening up Popley way to full access with traffic lights. The work is scheduled to take 20 weeks, delays possible until August. As this is the second busiest roundabout in Basingstoke (after Black Dam) there are going to be problems, so expect some lengthy delays at peak hours

Fires: Motorbike fires are a real problem at the moment, as are fires to fir trees. If you have any information, please get in touch with the Police on 0845 0454545. Fires can be really dangerous, especially in subways or next to buildings, and we want them to stop.

Bus Fares: The Council Cabinet has recently broadened the number of people who qualify for bus tokens to include the partially sighted and men aged 60 and over but no increase on the basic. In view of the Stagecoach price rises this year this was considered unacceptable by many councillors and Paul Frankum and Andy McCormick signed a "call-in" so the decision could be reviewed. As a result, the token allocation will be increased.

Bermuda and Marlowe Surgeries. Jane Frankum, Andy McCormick and Paul Frankum are working to get these buildings used for the community. They represent a real opportunity to get community schemes in the area. We are currently looking at getting the Police to have a beat office and neighbourhood wardens. We have about 30 other groups interested as well.

Litter . You may have read about the Government's plans to clamp down on litter and fly tipping with on-the-spot fines. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind a small minority of residents that it's not acceptable to dump things like TV's and fridge-freezers outside houses. Call the council, most of the time they will remove them free of charge . Items that are just left out for days can be a hygiene hazard and cause rats.

Play Areas: The consultations have finished and plans have been circulated. We are now holding meetings with the Council Officers about how best to proceed with the public's choice of plans. Please get in touch if you require an update. **Cllr Andy McCormick**

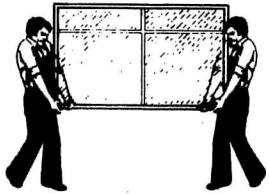
A very Happy Christmas to you all from your Popley Councillors

Councillor contact numbers are: Andy McCormick 419376 / 07879 436985, Paul Frankum 472496, Jane Frankum 819924/ 07974098131, Rob Donnelly 07973 765347.

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

Diaries from The Old Codger

Well as like most of the people of Popley and the rest of Basingstoke I've been waiting to see the new town centre open. I watched it on the news; no way was I going to dive into that melee with so many people. To my surprise I listened to an architect being interviewed by a reporter, this gentleman was standing outside the centre telling the interviewer that we had no houses in the town centre, no library or art galleries. Admittedly we have no art gallery but we show plenty of art in various places in the town. No houses? He had his back to them in the interview you could see Eastrop behind him. Had he been in the town? The last time I was in town we had a library. So I thought I would go into town myself to see if all the houses had been knocked down or the library that I saw the week before had been flattened to make way for something else. Was he right? Don't we have a library or houses? So the next day off I went down to Shop Mobility and got an electric wheel chair. I took myself around to my surprise we do still have a library, low and behold we have houses and a theatre. Perhaps I was dreaming do I need to see some one about my eyes or have I got something going on in my head, do I need to see a physiatrist about this affliction I now have. I found the town centre excellent for getting around yes it was very packed but people on the whole were helpful. Holding lifts etc so you could get around, the town centre staff were very helpful in answering questions. Most of the shops were well laid out to accommodate wheelchairs. Some were a bit cluttered but that was to be expected. The architect said we have pulled down concrete and replaced it with steel. I wonder if he would build it out of Lego or cardboard I personally think it not only looks good but also the engineering aspect and design is brilliant.

I have been watching all the lights go up in town and I wondered this year could the Popley's do better. I think they can, so come everyone get the neighbours in your road involved and light up the estates, I am sure we could at least make a really good effort at it. I have been away the last few Christmases but this year we are going to light up as many houses in the Millennium Garden I may be an old codger but I love Christmas, and all that goes with it. Just one or two things to remember there are a lot of senior citizens out there on their own, there are a lot of people that are not in a position to pay for a good Christmas for their kids either, so look them up make sure they are ok, donate a little to a charity that will at least give them some kind of Christmas.

I wish you all a good festivity and prosperous new year
The Old Codger (George)

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax : 01256 418529



E.mail:

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Charity Reg No : 1052133

Thank You to everyone who came to our Halloween Family Night. We hope you enjoyed the evening and well done to those who dressed up and got into the fancy dress spirit.

New Years Eve our next community event will be our annual New Years Eve Party, so if you are looking for a fun place to spend your evening with your friends and family, buy your tickets in advance to guarantee your places.

Tickets will be on sale from 2nd December.

Youth Nights Do you have any old computer games or consoles, televisions, toys or games suitable for 8 to 18 year olds? We need more things for the youngsters to do at our Youth Nights , so any donations would be gratefully received.

AND We are still in need of adult volunteers to help us supervise our Youth Nights on Mondays between 6.30pm and 8pm.

If you are fed up with the kids hanging around outside causing a nuisance, how can you complain if you are unable to spare an hour or two, even once a month to help provide them with something to do!

Children's Parties There are now spaces available most weekends and Friday afternoons. Book early to avoid disappointment.

New Activity A new activity starting on Mondays from 6th January 2003 is Stay'n'Play This is a new 'turn up' session for parents with Under 5's who want to let their children burn off some energy on our Bouncy Castle and Soft Play equipment. It will run from 9.30am to 11.30am every Monday.

For more information about any of the above or any activity held at Popley Fields Community Centre, please call: 01256 414494

Merton Junior Generations as Partners.

Pupils of Merton Junior School and residents of Magnolia Court have forged a link which has been much enjoyed by all involved. With the support of Age Concern, the residents from the sheltered housing scheme have visited the school to attend functions and have even had a demonstration from the children in the computer suite.

Children, led by their teacher Ms Jarvis, have taken time to entertain their "friends" at Magnolia Court with Christmas Carols and have discussed what life in Basingstoke was like over 50 years ago. They have also shared craft activities. There are plans to continue this educational and enjoyable link with more activities being planned for 2003.

Merton Junior Support for charities.

Children, parents and staff have worked hard to support people who are less fortunate than most.

This year they have chosen to help raise funds for Barnardo's by taking part in a word quiz. Each child taking part collected donations from friends and family and the 180 pupils at the school raised over £700.

The children are also taking part in the "Love in a Box" appeal to send Christmas gifts to children in areas like Bosnia and Croatia where the children will be presented with the parcels from Merton when normally they would receive very little.

The School has also supported the Poppy Appeal annually and this and the other charitable activities have given the children opportunities to reflect on those in need and who require support.

Editor Message: - School Watch; There have been lots of incidences of mindless vandalism at the schools in Popley and I have been asked to ask each and everyone of you to report any incidents to the police. If you see anything suspicious then please do report it. We all have to pay for the damage by increased County Council Taxes. Call the Police on 0800 0454545



Richard Aldworth
Community School

TOTALLY FREE!

(No Centre fee/Registration fee/Exam fee)

Daytime computer course

NEW! - E-QUALS SCHEME

Wordprocessing, Database & Spreadsheets

Also offering tuition in Internet,
Desk Top Publishing, Powerpoint
and much more!

Courses start 6/1/03 and are held
at Popley Fields Community Centre

For further information please contact
Dawn King on 01256 473698

R.J.Gibbons

- Artexing & Coving
- Painting & Decorating
- Wall & Floor Ceramic Tiles
- Plastering
- Insurance work

Merry Christmas

6 Tintern Close Popley Basingstoke Hants RG24 9HE

01256 420654

Mobile 07951960516

PUBLIC AUCTION

Every Wednesday. Melrose Hall
ABBEY RD SHOP CAR PARK

LOTS From 4.15pm Viewing 5.45pm
SALE STARTS 6.30pm

Details 01256-323564

Charity No:-1044547 & Charity No:- 305969

You are warmly invited to
WORSHIP WITH US

at

Popley Fields Community
Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

Sunday Morning

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information
phone:

Graham and Barbara on
(01256) 363692

New Testament
Church of God



Richard Aldworth
Community School

TOTALLY FREE!

Basic Computing for beginners

Suitable for everyone- young or old -
if you have little knowledge or none at
all - you work at your own pace with
no pressure - learn about computing
from how to switch the computer on -
socialise - don't be scared!!!! Enjoy.

Every Monday Afternoon from 1:00-
3:00pm. At Melrose hall Popley

Call in and see us! Start: 06/01/03

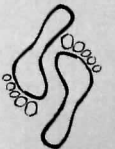
For further information please contact
Dawn King on 01256 473698

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

SEASONS GREETING

• 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.



John's All Seasons Gardening

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



General garden
maintenance,
Haven't time to spend on
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big...

01256 352032



Bridge School of Motoring

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- ◆ Patient, friendly instructor
- ◆ Discounts for Students
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- ◆ Intensive courses available
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- ◆ Pass plus registered
- ◆ Introduce a friend-get a free lesson



Ring Bob on
01256 415817 (eves)
07885 811358 (Mobile)

Merton Junior Responsible Children.

A key feature of the school is the amount of responsibility placed in the hands of the children. Within each classroom are monitors who carry out numerous tasks to ensure the smooth running of the class. The jobs may range from ensuring the classroom is neat and tidy, to handing out books, to ensuring equipment is ready for the next lesson. As the children move up through the school they are given wider responsibilities such as receptionists in the school office, care of the playtime equipment, librarians, organising music for assemblies and the overhead projector. The children are continually learning to become independent and supporters of the work of the school. "One of our problems" said Mr Strauss, "is finding enough tasks for all the children who wish to help around the school."

Merton Junior Rewards for All.

The school is keen to acknowledge all children who do well in their work and are polite and helpful in the school. Every week children from all classes are selected to receive a special certificate in assembly for work which shows particular improvement or high standard. Children are proud to be presented with this reward which is celebrated by the whole school. Children also receive certificates for "courtesy" when they have collected ten marks for their kindness and good manners. Children often refer to this as "Mr Strauss' favourite certificate."

There are also a range of other special rewards which include stickers and "playtime prizes" which all reinforce the positive ethos of the school.

Merton Junior School Houses.

Every child in the school belongs to one of the four houses which are Rowan (red), Beech (blue), Yew (yellow) and Gorse (green). Throughout the week the children collect housepoints for good work and effort and the House Cup is awarded to the winning team in Friday's assembly. Each house has two captains. This year the honours are carried out by Adam Riley, Laura Humphries, Jamie Collins, Emma Wright, Ryan Brooks, Rebecca Allen, Tom Vincent and Christie O'Regan.

am very pleased to see that the outcome of the consultations has been very positive, with teachers, parents, governors and community in unanimous agreement that a replacement school would enhance the quality of learning for pupils as well as providing youth and adult education opportunities for the wider community. With this in mind I have reviewed the project and made the decision to move the project onto the next stage and invite further comments from the community.

The reasons for the proposal to rebuild the school are threefold. Firstly the school, built in 1970, is in need of major refurbishment to bring it to the standards expected today in providing a modern community comprehensive school. Secondly the new school would be larger accommodating 750 pupils and will have the possibility of expanding to accommodate a further 150 pupils if necessary. Finally the replacement school forms a central part of regeneration plans for North Popley being developed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The proposed new school would have a number of features including;

- Information and Communications Technology being an integral part of the new school.
- The facilities and the classroom accommodation would be modern and up to date to ensure they meet the demands of the national curriculum.
- A sport and leisure facility for use by the school and the community.
- A purpose built youth service provision.

The logo for Age Concern, featuring the word "AGE" in a bold, sans-serif font above the word "Concern" in a cursive script font.

ARE YOU ARTY?

Age Concern Basingstoke are holding it's next Arts & Crafts Exhibition at the Anvil in February 2003.

We are looking for people who would like to submit an entry for this event. You do not need to be a professional and entries range from water colours, oil paintings, knitting, crochet, lace, embroidery, quilting, tapestry, cakes, to a seasonal entry of 'decorated eggs'. If you belong to a club there is also a 'club entry' which consists of 5 different entries themed 'Spring'.

Entries must be registered by the end of November, with the actual items not being required until early February 2003. So register now and start making your entry!

For an entry form and to find out more contact Maria at Age Concern Basingstoke, 'The Orchard', White Hart Lane, Basingstoke RG21 4AF or telephone her on Basingstoke 479285.

COMMUNITY UNITED IN JOHN HUNT OF EVEREST SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

The Popley community has given the thumbs up to exciting proposals by Hampshire County Council to build a replacement school for John Hunt of Everest.

Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education, Councillor Don Allen, decided on Thursday 21 November to give the go ahead and take the next step of publishing public notices inviting further comment on the proposals from the public after it being recommended at committee on 19 November. Cllr Jane Frankum who is on the Education Committee spoke on making absolutely sure that the new school will be for ALL the children of ALL Popley.

Around 100 parents, teachers, governors and members of the Popley community attended public meetings in September, held by Hampshire County Council, to offer their views on building a replacement school. A number of issues raised during the consultations have been addressed by the County Council, including:

Home to school travel: the safety of children travelling to and from school is of the highest importance. The County Council, in partnership with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, will be looking at developing suitable walking and cycle routes to and from school.

Catchment areas: the school will serve the present catchment area which covers the Popley community but also including children from Chineham, Sherbourne St John and Bramley schools as well as children from the new housing developments in the area.

Staffing: the ability to recruit teachers to the school will greatly benefit from the Key Worker Housing programme and the working in a brand new school.

The nursery: the nursery will remain part of the plans to move the school and is likely to be accommodated in the new community centre.

Under proposals drawn up by the County Council's Education Department the current school would be rebuilt at a new site about half a mile from its current location on land in North Popley already owned by the Council. The cost would be an estimated £21 million.

Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education, said: "I



Seasons Greetings from Sentinel Housing Group

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours 2002 / 2003 at Oakfern House

Tuesday 24th December 2002 - Offices open 9.00 am - 12 noon

Wednesday 25th December 2002 - Offices closed - Bank Holiday

Thursday 26th December 2002 - Offices closed - Bank Holiday

Friday 27th December 2002 - Offices closed

Monday 30th December 2002 - Offices open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm *

Tuesday 31st December 2002 - Offices open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm *

Wednesday 1st January 2003 - Bank Holiday

* A skeleton staff will be available on these days.

If you have an emergency repair to report during this period, please ring

01256 338700

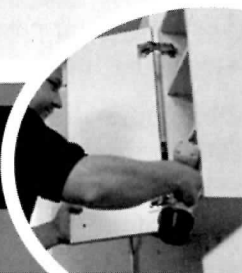
Only emergency repairs during this period will be passed to the Contractors.

**If you call in with a repair that is not an emergency,
the order cannot be raised until 2nd January 2003**
(the repair completion target period will start from this date).

Normal Office hours are as follows:

9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Thursday
and 9.00 am to 4.30 pm on Friday

sentinelhousinggroup
www.yourhousing.co.uk



Bus Queue?



Ten potential passengers standing in a line. One got picked up by a friend.

Then there were nine.

Nine potential passengers: the bus was running late. One phoned a mini-cab. Then there were eight.

Eight potential passengers. One came from Devon: got fed up and moved back.

Then there were seven.

Seven potential passengers stuck out in the sticks. One went up on horse-back. Then there were six.

Six potential passengers glad to be alive. One died there of boredom. Then there were five.

Five potential passengers their nails began to gnaw. One had a nervous breakdown.

Then there were four.

Four potential passengers at their destination long to be. One gave up and walked home.

Then there were three.

Three potential passengers freezing cold and blue. One got hypothermia. Then there were two.

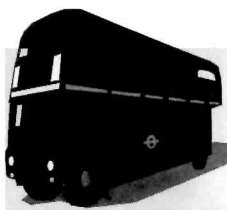
Two potential passengers desperate for the bus to come. One gave in and bought a car.

Then there was one.

One potential passenger sheltered from the rain. A Stagecoach bus whooshed passed by him, and so we start again.

Nine other people came along because another bus was due. They joined the lonely passenger and formed a patient queue. That made:-

Ten potential passengers standing in a line.....



RECYCLING



There are many types of waste which can now be recycled. However, not all waste can be recycled and some causes problems because all recycled bin waste is sorted by hand, hence the reason why glass is not allowed to be recycled.

The following types of waste can be recycled:-

PLASTIC CONTAINERS. These can be recycled if they have a recycle symbol on them. Typically these are fizzy drinks bottles, squash bottles, supermarket milk bottles, orange juice, washing up liquid bottles, cooking oil and cleaning fluid.

ENVELOPES, NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND JUNK MAIL. All of these are paper waste which can easily be recycled.

CARDBOARD. Cardboard can also be recycled, provided it doesn't have a plastic lining which can't be easily detached.

ALL FOOD AND DRINKS CANS. These can all be recycled. It's best to wash and squash these.

The following types of waste can NOT be recycled:

GLASS. This can easily break and can cut the hands of the people at the depot who hand-sort all the recycled waste. Instead of being put in the green bin, these should be taken to the nearest bottle bank.

BATTERIES. Some batteries e.g. Alkaline, can be safely disposed of in the bin. Others, such as mobile phone and rechargeable batteries, contain toxic metals such as cadmium and MUST NOT be disposed of in a normal or recycle bin: Instead, take them to somewhere like Car Phone Warehouse who will know what to do with them.

CLING FILM.

FRUIT JUICE OR MILK CARTONS. These may look like they are 100% cardboard, but often they are lined inside with non-recyclable plastic, e.g. polythene.

MIXED PLASTIC: MARGARINE TUBS, YOGHURT POTS, MEAT TRAYS. These can not be recycled.

PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS. If, like me, you collect hundreds of these things, it gets to the stage where your cupboards are full to bursting with them. Some supermarkets offer carrier bag recycling.

TEXTILES. Please bag up any unwanted clothing, blankets, shoes, etc., and take them to one of the textile recycling banks (e.g. in or around the Safeways Car Park).

ALUMINIUM FOIL Please take this to your nearest household waste recycling centre (place in metals bins).

PAINT TINS These are hazardous waste – please take to Wade Road tip.

OIL. This is hazardous waste – please take to Wade Road tip.

COMMUNITY SURGERY

12NOON-1PM

Every 1st Saturday of the month

AT JOHN HUNT OF EVEREST

(except August and Bank Holiday weekends)

People in attendance where possible:-

- ◆Popley Borough Councillors
- ◆Basingstoke North County Councillor
- ◆Health Professional
- ◆Industrial Relation Consultant
- ◆Deputy Leader of the Council
- ◆Oakfern Housing
- ◆Police

The Community Surgery in John Hunt School celebrated it's first anniversary in November. The surgery was the first of its kind in Basingstoke and the country.

There have been all kinds of concerns and issues that have been brought to the volunteer agencies at the surgery, everything from youth nuisance, abandoned cars, mobile mast sightings, crime reports, overgrown hedges, school issues, parking, speeding, housing issues, road safety, employment, planning and many more.

There is no need to book an appointment just turn up and we will endeavour to help or advise you with any of your problems. Confidentiality is assured

Any Enquires Please Call:-
Cllr Jane Frankum on 819924



Dr Jason Collins reflects on his last two years as a locum doctor in North Basingstoke.

I started work at Bermuda Close Surgery and Winklebury Medical Centre back in February 2000. The post was initially for one month, covering for Dr Baba, the previous GP, who had then been suspended and awaiting an appeal. The appeal process was delayed however, and I continued to work as a full time locum until my last working day in July 2002.

On 15th July, I became acutely unwell, necessitating my admission to hospital. My Thyroid gland had stopped working, which triggered a brief but serious illness. I am now on Thyroid hormone replacement, a lifelong treatment, but otherwise back to full health. As a result of the illness however I am currently signed off work, and I am unlikely to return to full time work for at least two months.

Over the last two and a half years, I have sort to develop Dr Babas practice as much as possible, despite the difficult circumstances. We have recently had confirmation that Dr Baba will not be returning to the practise, and the local primary care trust are therefore arranging its merger with that of Dr Lilani Wickramsinghe, to form a three doctor practice. This will bring great benefits to both staff and patients.

In December this year I will be getting married to my fiancée, Rachael in Winchester. We will be living in Eastleigh initially, this has confirmed my decision not to return to work in Basingstoke after my period of ill health. Once I am fit to work, I will be doing locum posts around Eastleigh and Winchester, with the hope of finding more permanent work in that area.

I have loved working in both Popley and Winklebury. Running a single handed practice has been a steep learning curve for me, and has required long hours, but it is a challenge I have thoroughly enjoyed.

I have felt honoured to have been able to share in the lives of my patients over this time. In working as a GP, it is a privilege to share both joys and difficult times in patients lives. I am grateful for the way patients have accepted me, and my staff have supported me unconditionally.

I am practically glad to have been able to be involved with installing a computer network at the Popley surgery, and to facilitate the move of the practice from Bermuda Close to Shakespeare House health centre.

Our hope is that two new doctors will be found over the next couple of months, to join Dr Lilani in providing ongoing care for all the patients in the practice.

With all best wishes to everyone I have had the privilege to meet over the last two years. *Dr Jason Collins*

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Beaver Scout Section (for boys and girls aged from 6 – 8 years)

Contact: Group Scout Leader, Pat Brown 07787 340313 Elaine Devenport (01256) 323453

The Beaver Scout colony has suffered from the absence of their leader, Cori Keenan over the past weeks but are grateful for the help of Elaine Devenport, Steph Brown and Sandie Pain for helping to keep the colony in action. The celebrated Halloween in true ghostly fashion with games based on witches spells, traditional apple bobbing and a supper of witches nails, Dracula fangs and some really ghastly 'blood' stained cakes!

Future plans include learning to sign for the blind and how it might feel not to be able to see perfectly. The colony also joined with 1st Basingstoke (Trinity Methodist) Group recently and had a look round the church as part of the Faith challenge.

Cub Scout Section (for boys and girls aged between 8 and 10½ years)

Contacts: Elaine Devenport (01256) 323453 Douglas Gowan (01256) 412326

Cubs from the Air Scout Group are the first in the District to be awarded the Air Activities badge recently on a visit to Lasham airfield. Appropriately they had chosen air activities as the first of the new achievement badges open to them under the new national training programme introduced in September.

The badge involved learning about basic air safety rules that apply on all flying establishments; the danger from propellers, jet streams and aeroplanes taxi-ing when often the pilot cannot see what is directly in front of the plane) for example. The instructor, Terry Brige, District Air Activities Adviser made sure they knew the essential parts of an aeroplane, what they each did, and what the airline emblems meant. The Group then visited Popham airfield which is largely for privately owned small aircraft and the occasional bi-place. Unlike the many commercial airports we use when going on holiday, the Cubs were able to walk close to many of the aircraft and watch people carrying out basic maintenance. One pilot, about to do his pre-flight safety flight checks, was generous enough to let them sit in his Cessna 172 to see how it felt to be in the pilot's seat. They watched him take-off and land again safely later in the morning.

The syllabus required the Cubs to learn about other methods of flight and they had a great time with the 11th Basingstoke (St. Michaels) Cub scouts when Michael Devenport from the Basingstoke Model Aero Club came to Base 2000 to show them all how to make and fly model gliders. Another evening was spent in Glebe Hall making kites with members of Basingstoke

Kite Club.

The final part of the badge took the form of a visit to the ATC maintenance unit at Lasham arranged by Alan Davey (a Cub Scout grandfather). There the group saw parts of planes that are normally not visible as we fly in the sky. They even had a privileged 'peek' of a special aircraft being fitted out for a rich customer with gold taps and fittings in the toilets and very superior furnishings. On that occasion we are joined by some of the Scout section and two Cubs completed their linking badge that morning and 'moved-on' to the scout section. They were invested on the flight steps of an aeroplane undergoing maintenance/repair.

Scout Section (for young people boys and girls aged from 10½ years)

Contacts: Jon-Paul Keetch (0789 9087275) Colin Karlake (01256)410559

Scouts from the Air Scout Group have been concentrating their efforts on first aid, angling and photography. The section is about to make a 'behind-the-scenes' visit to the multiplex cinema at West Ham to find out more about modern projection methods and managing a multi-plex cinema. They enjoyed the visits to Popham and Lasham airfield with the Cub Scouts.

David Gibbons has recently completed his Chief Scouts Award, the highest award available in the scout section and a pre-runner to the prestigious Queen Scout Award. David is one of the District's delegates to the 20th World Scout Jamboree in Thailand taking place over the Christmas and New Year period 2002/3. During his training for this event he has spent a weekend surviving up a tree (in company with the rest of the Gibbon section) not to mention other 'whacky' challenges all designed to build young people into a confident and supportive team.

The picture shows the party on the steps of an aircraft at Lasham.

**Beryl Mullender (01256)
321596 Air scouts**

