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June 2003 to August 2003

Issue 32

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Message From the Editor

Here we are it is June and we are nearly half way through the year. Hopefully we have three months of sunshine before the next issue and most people will have managed to have some kind of holiday or at least got some time sitting in the sunshine (don't forget the sun block cream).

Did you go to the Popley Festival this year? It was up to its usual standard with thousands of people visiting the boot stalls and picking up some good bargains. Also craft stalls, funfair, hamburger stalls, beer tent, performances by Chineham School Choir, the John Hunt Steel Band and many others doing their very best. Every one knows how much I love Popley and the festival always makes me feel so proud of all the charities that are going to benefit by everyones work.

Popley Festival came to life many years ago with St Gabriel's Church and the 6th Popley Boys Brigade starting it in the church grounds and year by year it grew then moved to the John Hunt site. Iris King and Dave Phillips were still involved right from way back but Dave has moved to Morcambe and Iris is giving up some of her many interests and committees so if you feel you would like to help then please contact Suki Binning on 465303. I have never been on this committee but they tell me they have a good time while working hard to arrange next years Festival.

The Popley Forum this June is Popley's own "Question Time" with panel guests from the Police, Sentinel Housing, the Borough and County Council so if you have questions on anything from the plans for new Popley North development, John Hunt School, or any issue you want answers on come along to the Melrose Hall on June 23rd at 7-30pm. We will also be having our Popley Community Awards presentation and AGM at 7pm. Iris is stepping down as Chair a position she has held for six years but Iris will still be on the committee but it means we will need to elect a new chair and new committee any more volunteers out there?

I will finish my page by saying thankyou to all the people that volunteer and deliver this magazine, and send out a plea for a few more volunteers, even to do just the road you live in will be a huge help. *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.

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Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor; The old Chemist shop seems to have been closed for a long time. What is happening to it and how do the vulnerable people manage to get their prescriptions.

Disabled pensioner Glastonbury Close

Editor; The shop has indeed been empty for a long time, but after it had gone out to tender and with the help of the Leader of the Council Rob Donnelly and a magnificent petition from the residents the lease has been awarded to Fastfare and as soon as the repairs and upgrade is done by the council Dave and Naina will open up for business they tell me there will be plenty of variety and offers. As for prescriptions you can change them in the Pharmacy at the Shakespeare House Pharmacy in Shakespeare Road, they also have a delivery service for the elderly, disabled or housebound.

Dear Editor; Trinidad and Tobago Play area has been promised and I wonder if it will ever happen? I don't like my two young children going too far away I like to have them at least within calling distance, the next nearest is too far away.

Editor; You should have received a letter from the council by now inviting you to a display in the council trailer on the play area site, Tuesday 3rd June from 2pm -6-30pm. There will be some ideas of how £38000 could be spent but we want to hear your views. Thanks go to Ms Butcher of Trinidad Close who first brought the agreement money to the attention of the Councillors.

Dear Editor; The new Medical centre at Shakespeare House is lovely and my doctor says it is so much better but as a disabled person in my electric buggy I have to travel up the long path right up to Shakespeare Road (I live in Abbey Road) to come back down again to be able to get into see my doctor or go to the chemist. Surely there must be a better way for myself and the mums with little children who

can so easily run in front of the cars as their mum has to bump down the pushchairs.

Editor; You will be as pleased as I am when I tell you that the piece of green at the back will be made into a path so that you and others can get there more comfortably and it will be done within the next four weeks.

Dear Editor; Stagecoach are just cutting out the number 9 bus this bus is used by lots of people especially to get to the hospital. What kind of person sitting in his big office armchair with the keys to his large car just cuts out the lifeline to the most vulnerable people. I use this bus to go to work at the hospital and to do my shopping at Tescos in Chineham and I know a lot of other people who use this route. What really angers me is that they just decide they are going to do it without asking anyone and they give the very minimum of notice I expect they hope that passengers who help to make them rich will just take it and after all how much can they do in such a short time it is shameful, how do they sleep at night.

Editor; It certainly was very short notice and there was no public consultation that I know of. I was absolutely fuming as were other Councillors and residents, I got on to the Hampshire County Council Transport Officer straight away. John Mariner and I spoke at great length and the net result was that he was proposing to the County Council to subsidise at least the Popley and Winklebury part of the route, but the people of South Ham were not going to be so lucky they will have to travel into town so they can then travel on another bus from town to get to the hospital. Cllr Colin Regan is leading the fight for the South Ham residents and the Popley Councillors and bus users will be right there .

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



Popley Forum and AGM

June 23rd 7pm

at

Melrose Hall

(Abbey Road shops)

We will also be awarding the Popley Community awards for Adult, Junior, Adult Group, Junior Group These awards are given to people who work within our community to keep Popley a better place to live.



Followed By at 7:30pm



Popley's own "Question Time" Come and put your questions to the panel:-

John Guppy Senior Forward Planning Officer BDBC

PC Matt Deery Popley's Local beat Officer

John Mariner County Council Transport Officer

Rob Donnelly Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Melanie Purves Popley Neighbourhood Officer for Oakfern

For further details phone:-



Iris King 411113

Jane Frankum 819924





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



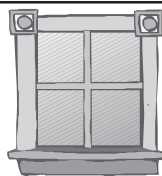
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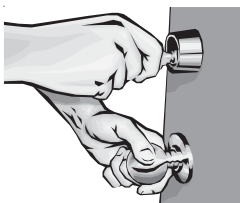
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There are all kinds of concerns and issues that you can bring to the volunteer agencies at the surgery, everything from youth nuisance, abandoned cars, highway, crime reports, overgrown hedges, school issues, parking, speeding, housing issues, road 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. As always confidentiality is assured

Any Enquires Please Call:- Cllr Jane Frankum on 819924



I was fortunate again this year to have been involved with the Popley Festival. This event seems to go from strength to strength each year and is a credit to Suki Binning and her team of organisers. I enjoyed the day and it was great to see so many local community groups involved in the day and being supported by local people who attended in their thousands (despite the weather !!).

Damage to and thefts from motor vehicles is still Popley's largest problem. Clearly from the on-going crime figures it is clear that local people are committing these crimes. I still encourage all of you to report any suspicious activity or knowledge of who is involved to Police. This can be done by phoning Hampshire Police 0845 0454545 or you can give your information anonymously to CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111.

As the summer school holidays arrive and the sound of "Mum I'm bored" echoes in your ears please speak to your loved ones about not entering the school grounds during the holidays. Every summer all the schools in Popley receive thousands of pounds of damage to school property of which the schools own budget has to pay for. Please ensure that your children are aware that schools are not to be used as playgrounds during the holidays and that entering the school site should only be for organised activities.

Popley again has a proportionately high arson & fire rate according to Hants Fire & Rescue. Recently the target has been Carpenters Down woods. These mindless and extremely dangerous actions are believed again to be the responsibility of teenagers. Fire setting is extremely dangerous and it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed. Again please speak to your children about fire setting and report any suspicions or information that they may have.

Another quick reminder of the community surgery, which is held the first Saturday of every month at John Hunt of Everest School at 12pm. No appointment needed... just turn up if you wish to speak to a local councillor or myself.

For those of you who are computer whiz kids who wish to contact me, I have a direct E-Mail address, which is: Basingstoke.communitybeats@hampshire.police.pnn.co.uk

Please do not use this to report crime which requires immediate action as this should be reported on 0845 045 45 45 or 999 in an emergency.

Have a safe & sun drenched summer.

PC3126 Matt Deery



What's on at Melrose Hall

Abbey Road, Popley

Monday we have coffee morning 9-30 -12pm, then 1pm -3pm we have a computer course which is free.

Tuesdays we have Bingo at 2pm then we have dancing from 5pm -9pm.

Wednesdays Mother and Toddler group 9-30-11-30am 12pm -2pm is Oasis Drop in Lunch Club from 4-25pm we have our Charity Auction

Thursday morning, same as Monday morning. In the evening we have Weight Watchers.

Fridays we have Loddon Alliance drop in group 9-30-2-30

Friday evening at 6-30 pm we have a youth club

Saturday morning as Tuesday evening

Sunday we have Melrose Christian Fellowship 11am-1pm and 6-30-8pm

Our AGM is 16th June at 7-30pm Everyone is welcome

**Melrose Fun Day is August 16th 2pm-5pm
BBQ Bouncy Castle stalls and much more**

We also hire out the hall and meeting room for children's parties, weddings and other functions. Call Melrose Hall 420676 for more information

We are also looking for more volunteers at the centre if you have some time to spare and would like to do something to help in the community we would make you feel very welcome.



Sentinel Housing Group Walkabout Report

The walkabout with Councillors, Police, Acting Chief Executive and senior Council Officers, Community Safety and management from Sentinel Housing visited Longfellow Parade on 17th April we all heard all about the bigger improvements that might be possible for Popley but we focused on the more immediate improvements that Oakfern (part of the Sentinel

Housing Group) can make as the Landlord. These are ;-

- Longfellow Parade-kitchen & bathroom refurbishment / some rewiring where necessary/new PVC-u windows and in some cases doors
- Melrose Walk-Re-wiring and refurbishment to kitchens & bathrooms
- Milton/Shelley/Keats and Byron Close -kitchen & bathroom refurbishment and new PVC-u front and back doors

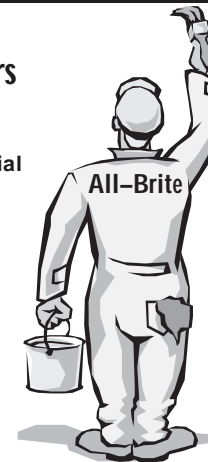
We all look forward to working together to make significant improvements and to regenerate some of our more challenging areas.

Come to the Popley Forums "Question Time" at Melrose Hall June 23rd at 7-30pm where we hope to be able to answer your questions.

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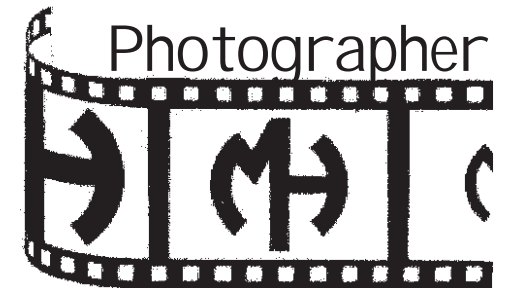
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Newts are a hit with local residents

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To find out more, please contact your local office:
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Hants SO21 3BP
Tel: 01962 774714
Fax: 01962 774522

or BTCV's head office at:

BTCV, 36 St Mary's St,
Wallingford, Oxfordshire,
OX10 0EU
Tel 01491 839766
Fax 01491 839646

Reg Charity No. 261009

A meeting was recently held to encourage local residents to get involved with helping to protect and care for Popley Ponds. The ponds are the home to a large population of the protected Great Crested Newt, which is in decline across the UK.

Representatives from BTCV and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council spent a couple of hours answering the questions of residents and asking for support to protect the ponds and their rare inhabitants.

BTCV's Community Officer Alison Angell comments.

"There is evidence that the newts that visit Popley Ponds are part of a larger population which crosses over with others from other ponds. This makes them a particularly important colony, which should be protected. The role of local people in this is vital and only with the support of the local residents will it be a success"

Residents who attended the meeting were keen to help, but still more people are needed to make it a success.

The next meeting will be on Monday 23rd June at the Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down 7.30 pm.

It is an informal open meeting to which anyone with an interest would be welcome. Come along have a cuppa, meet your neighbours and find out more about Popley Ponds.

For more information please contact
Alison Angell (BTCV) Tel:01962 774714
Email: A.Angell@btcv.org.uk

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What is Connexions?

Connexions is the Government support service for all young people ages 13 to 19 in England. It started in the year 2000, but in Basingstoke it began in January 2003.

The aims are to give young people information so they can make more informed and positive choices in their lives. We are linked to all community agencies and strive to work close together. This includes Youth Services, Careers, Education Services, Police, Youth Offending Teams, Health and Social Services.

I am a personal advisor for the community areas of Popley and Oakridge in Basingstoke. I am the link community worker who visits John Hunt of Everest School in Popley and The Vyne School in Oakridge on a weekly basis.

A young person may approach me for information on a specific issue that may be brief and answered in a day, or they may visit me on a regular basis. This service is voluntary and a place for young people to have a discussion about a concern they may have and not able to solve.

Eventually there will be an information centre for young people in the town centre. At present information points are being developed in the secondary schools for young people, parents, community members, and school staff and governors to display and receive information.

This is a very exciting and challenging future for all of us. I look forward to sharing our future successes in next terms letter.

Shola Cameron
Personal Advisor- Popley and Oakridge
Connexions Office
01256-843022



John Hunt of Everest Community School
Popley Way Basingstoke RG24 9AB
Community Office telephone: 01256 465303

Working together to
achieve success for all

It is nice to see the community programme growing from strength to strength, the aerobics for families group have progressed from being beginners to intermediate level and I for one cannot keep up with them. A new group will be starting on Mondays at 7.15pm from half term. Another success has been the Literacy/Numeracy on Ice Course, you may have seen us talking about it on Meridian TV in February, this involved up to 12 parents and 20 children from the school attending the Bison Ice hockey matches and as well as weekly meetings with the Bison Netminder, Scott Hay. We are extending the project next year to three more groups.

For the summer term look out for a day on 'magic tricks', a visit to the Intec Centre in Winchester and a session for antiques enthusiasts. For more information contact the Community Office at the school.

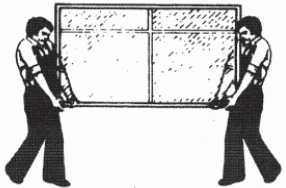
The School is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ascent of Mount Everest with a number of activities centred around the school curriculum, in addition George Band (the youngest member of the expedition team led by Colonel John Hunt in 1953) will be giving a short presentation and the JHE Parent Support Group are organising a family quiz night on Wednesday 4th June, if you have child at the school and wish to submit a team get in touch.

We have a varied programme of activities planned for the summer break, these are for young people aged 11-14 years and include a week of dance, drama, sports and out-of bound days. The cost has been kept to a minimum at £10 for the whole week. Places do fill up quickly so get in touch to reserve a place.

Suki Binning, School Community Manager, 01256 465303

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1st Popley (Everest) Scout Group

On April 27th 1st Popley were hosts for the annual St George's Day Parade for the Basingstoke East District. With all the arrangements for the parade and service completed in a couple of months, all we had to do was pray for good weather. Our wish was granted and the parade got underway. After a short march service and renewal of our Promises was held in the United Reform Church and our thanks go to the Revd Mike Burrell who conducted the service. The various sections have been involved in many recent activities and plans are currently in hand to hold a group camp in the summer.

Bored? Fed up? Nothing to do? Have you ever tried activities like camping, caving, climbing, canoing, hiking, amongst others?

Then come along to 1st Popley Scout Group and enjoy the benefits of being a member in one of the world's largest organisations. Join in with youngsters of your own age and take part in a wide range of activities both inside and out. 1st Popley are a small, friendly Group with a dedicated and trained team of leaders and will be happy to welcome boys and girls from the age of six to fourteen to join in all the fun that scouting has to offer. Come along for a taster session and get to know us. We meet on Tuesday evenings at St Gabriels Church Hall just off Popley Way at the following times:

Beavers (6-8 yrs) 5.00 - 6:15
Cubs (8-11 yrs) 6:30 - 8:00
Scouts (11-14 yrs) 6:30 - 9:00

For more information contact Andy Sumner (Group Scout Leader)
on 01256 355671

Summit Judo Club



It has been quite a successful couple of months for the local judo club. In April we had three players take part in the Hampshire Championships. Following success in the preliminary rounds and tough competition in the second phase Travis Sumner (under 27kg) came away with the Silver medal and Michael Smith (under 30kg) came home with a Bronze. Connor Meule, despite a valiant attempt, did not make it through to the second phase but considering it was his first competition put on an excellent show.

On Friday 9th May Summit Judo played host to all the other Judo clubs from Basingstoke. Nigel McBrayne of the Summit club coaches and the Basingstoke Team Manager organised the trials to select the Basingstoke Judo Team who will represent the town at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Games taking place at Havant in June. Again your local club had some success with two of our boys winning through to the 9 player team. They were Marek Wisniewski (under 27 kg) and Elliott Sumner (under 55 kg). The team will also be represented by local girl Lora Jarvis, who trains partly at Summit Judo,

Again In June we will have a number of players taking part in the Hampshire Inter-club competition in Portsmouth.

Summit will again play host, in July, to the Judo Club from our twin town Euskirchen. It will be the eleventh meeting between the two teams and apart from the Judo everyone is looking forward to meeting old friends. An update on our representatives in the various competitions and a report on the meeting with our friends from Euskirchen will be in the next issue of Popley Matters.

Why not give Judo a try. Come along to one of our sessions at John Hunt Scool on Friday evenings - Novices 6:30 - 7:30, Juniors 7:30-8:30, Seniors and adults 8:30-9:30 or for more information contact club coach Len Dunce on 01256 - 464526

What's New At Popley Fields

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Kick Boxing Children and Adults Tuesdays - 6.30pm to 8pm Thursdays - 7pm to 8.30pm

Call now for more information on any of the above.

Have you got?

Any old games, playstation games, toys or sports equipment lying around that need a new home.

We are constantly looking for things to keep our youth club members occupied and any donations of equipment or skills would be appreciated.

Do you have any spare time to help on Mondays?

Did you know?

You can hire Tennis courts and Table Tennis tables here!



Popley Fields is available for hire for Private Parties, Wedding receptions, kids parties, A GM's, B.B.Q parties and so much more.

But what activities would you like to see held in your centre? What courses or classes would you attend? Let us know.

We also need volunteers to help out at our various Association activities and to help on our Committee.

If you have some spare time and can help call Mark on 01256 414494



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Basingstoke Air Scouts

Now that spring is past the horizon and summer approaches thoughts and programmes turn to the outdoor pursuits, exploring and camping. Fourteen young people from the Cub Scouts will join with 11th Basingstoke (St. Michaels) Pack for a week of fun and activities at Ferny Croft, a Hampshire Scouts' training centre and campsite in the New Forest. The programme will include target shooting, archery, abseiling and wall climbing as well as traditional campfires and stunts.

The Beaver Scouts had a theme of 'growing things' during April and May. They planted runner beans in jam jars for quick response and sunflower seeds for a longer term project. They made a leaf collage one week and are eager to follow a pasta trail one evening to find the trees they know and see the shape of the tree itself. The summer outing is to Pautlons' Park this year and some of the older Beaver Scouts due to move on to Cub Scouts in the autumn are having a 'sleepover' in June.

Scout section is busy planning summer camp. Several of the members were on duty at Popham Airfield Open Day in April and will return to Kemble Air Show later in the year. Activity Day at Ferny Croft proved challenging for some but others have still to experience the thrill of abseiling, cycle-cross, archery and wall climbing.

New recruits and adult helpers for all sections are always welcome but the Beaver Colony is in particular need, at least one more uniformed leader to keep twelve active and energetic boys and girls well occupied.

Weekly meetings take place in Base 2000 Carpenters Down but be prompt because if the weather is suitable they'll be out and about somewhere in the vicinity. All sections are open to both boys and girls.

Beaver Scouts (aged 6 to 8 years) Tuesday 5.30 to 6.45 p.m.
Contact: Elaine Devenport (01256) 323453

Cub Scouts (aged 8 to 10½ years) Tuesday 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
Contact: Elaine Devenport (01256) 323453

Scouts (aged 10½ to 14 years) Monday 7 to 9 p.m.
Contact: Colin Karlake (01256) 410559

Group Scout Leader Pat Brown 7 Remembrance Gardens, Chineham
Telephone 07787 340313



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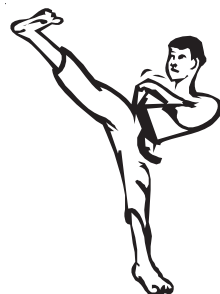
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Kerry Wiggins is the Link2Learn Outreach Worker for Popley. Kerry is keen to meet local residents to offer free impartial advice on any of the following;

- **Learning and training opportunities.** What can you learn? Where are the courses held? How long do they last? How much do they cost?
- **Careers advice.** Use computer guidance packages to search for careers ideas.
- **Jobseeking.** Get help with writing CVs, filling in application forms and going for interviews.

You can arrange to meet Kerry at a mutually acceptable time, date and place. Phone for an appointment on: 07714 064 189

You can pick up leaflets and further information about Link2Learn at any of the Popley Link2Learn signpost sites: Popley Fields Community Centre, Melrose Hall, John Hunt of Everest School, the WEA, or log on to www.link2learn.co.uk

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POPLEY
PARTNERSHIP

As the new chair of this important community group I am pleased to let everyone know that we met recently and discussed a lot of issues that will be of interest to all residents in Popley

On the 17th April members of the Partnership met with the following for a walkabout of the Longfellow Parade and Dryden Close area :-

- Superintendent Alison Queen and a number of police involved in the area

- Acting Chief Executive of BDBC-Gordon Holdcroft and staff
- Deputy leader of BDBC-Rob Donnelly and Ward Councillors Jane and Paul Frankum
- Neighbourhood Services Manager Karen Ayling and colleagues working in Popley

The purpose of the walk about was to look at some of the surrounding buildings such as the former Pen and Parchment pub, the Marlowe Close surgery and some of the empty Marlowe Close garages to see how these might be developed to improve Longfellow Parade as an area. Everyone involved was able to see the potential of the area and noted the fantastic improvements that had been achieved just a few hundred feet away in the Millennium Garden at Dryden Close. Having a close look at the area will help members of the partnership and the above groups plan for how the North Popley Redevelopment could benefit the Longfellow parade area in the longer term

The Popley Partnership met on 7th May 2003 in addition to discussing the re provision of John Hunt School as part of the North Popley redevelopment the following items were on the agenda:-

- Reviewing the parking provision in the area with the Council
- The Partnership with the Councillors asked for more work to be done in Popley to make provision for disabled parking and access along some key routes such as Popley Way
- Hampshire County Council has been looking at a number of suburban areas where a form of rejuvenation is needed and has started to develop. The areas studied to develop good practice include Lee-on-Solent and Wealdstone in Harrow. Popley gets a mention too! HCC hope to develop some of these initiatives in Popley with residents –more to follow on this in the next issue

In the next issue of this magazine I hope to give you more details about the improvements big and smaller scale that are being taken forward

I would also like to extend my thanks to Linda Phillips for all her hard work on behalf of the Partnership up until now. As a resident of Basingstoke I know that she has an ongoing interest in the Popley area

Councillors Page

Things have been pretty hectic of late with the local elections, with Paul Frankum and Andy McCormick up for re-election. The key issue of the campaign in Popley which kept cropping up again and again was Crime and Nuisance. We are happy to report the Police have stepped up patrols particularly in the Popley area where things were getting out of hand, and thankfully things have calmed down a little. Hopefully by the time you read this, the Travellers at Chineham Park will have moved on.

Popley Councillor Rob Donnelly is now Council Leader for the Basingstoke and Deane District. This is great news for Popley and indeed Basingstoke. Rob has wasted no time getting stuck in and last week unveiled plans to transform Alencon Link and New Road with retail unit frontage and flats.

Closer to home, plans are being made to introduce Community Wardens across the Borough, following a successful pilot in Buckskin. Popley is on the shortlist to be in the first wave. What are Community Wardens? They are people employed full time in your community to work with the Police, Health, Social Services and Housing Associations to solve problems. They are there to help you, the residents, keep your community in order.

On the buses: we were shocked to hear Stagecoach are axing route No.9. This is the only cross-Popley bus route which runs hourly and many peoples' only way of getting to the hospital. However, we have been told by Hampshire County Council that they are keen to subsidise the route from Winklebury via the hospital to the Cromwell Inn in Lychpit. They are prepared to use emergency powers to ensure continuity of service. However, South Ham will lose its service to the hospital.

What a fantastic Popley Festival we had this year! More than 7000 visitors despite the changeable weather and all our local charities will gain from this now well established festival. We had good coverage in both the Gazette and the Observer, which is welcome news, seeing as we read so much bad news about Popley: it is a great Community to live in – the best in Basingstoke

We are always available if you want to see us or just come along to the Community Surgery the first Saturday of the month at John Hunt school from 12 noon to 1pm

Cllr Andy McCormick and Council Leader Rob Donnelly

Chineham Park Primary School

How can one Primary School pack so much into one term? March 5th saw a **5-a-side football competition** at Fort Hill School. We didn't win but we played well and it's the taking part that counts.

Comic Relief on March 14th saw the children making "funny face" biscuits, with tea and biscuits being sold to raise funds.

April 3rd was **Lepra Aerobics** and a great time was had by all. April 11th was **Caribbean Day** with the children dressing up. On April 13th Deputy Head Angela Glibbery ran the **London Marathon**, finishing in just under 6 hours. The



Chineham Park Choir sang at the **Popley Festival** (see picture) on May 18th and were very good.

Friday May 23rd was the **Summer Term Family Disco** complete with DJ and MC. Looking ahead we have the **Year 6 Solar Challenge** on June 4th, with pupils building a solar-powered car in half term week.

June 24th is **Sports Day**, and as if the London Marathon wasn't enough, Angela Glibbery is running with staff and pupils in the Race for Life on June 25th. June 27th is Summer Madness Look, with the children dressing up, and finally we have the Basingstoke in Bloom competition coming up, where we came 2nd last year.

North Popley Update

As many are aware, Hampshire County Council as land owner and developer and through it's Estates Practice, is proposing to develop it's land holdings at North Popley as a Sustainable Urban Extension" of both the existing Popley suburb and the wider town of Basingstoke. This is in accordance with the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, North Basingstoke Action Plan and also the Development Brief that the Local Planning Authority produced for the area in 2001.

The County's land is that north of Popley Way and between the A340 Aldermaston Road and Chineham Lane. Here it is proposed to develop a new neighbourhood centre and relocated John Hunt of Everest School for both the existing residents and new development. In addition the School will accommodate new community and leisure facilities and in addition to up to 950 new homes and open space and play areas, the North Popley development will seek to include new employment opportunities and new bus services.

To the east of North Popley between Chineham Lane and across to Carpenters Down, David Wilson Homes are proposing to also develop Popley Fields on privately held land. Here 750 new homes and open space are proposed

In addition, the County Council is proposing to develop 350 new homes and new open space and play areas on the existing John Hunt of Everest School site. The financial receipts from this development are needed to help fund the relocation and development of the School on North Popley.

There is already an outline planning application submitted to the Local Planning Authority for the David Wilson Homes Popley Fields site. This has not yet been determined. The Estates Practice is now looking to shortly submit two separate outline planning applications of its own for its proposals on North Popley and the existing John Hunt of Everest sites.

The Estates Practice and David Wilson Homes recently held an exhibition of their proposals in Melrose Hall in April which was well attended by over 250 people over a day and a half. Whilst there were comments raised on issues such as traffic over 80% of those that visited the exhibition supported the development proposals as the best way forward to reinvigorate and help improve the existing Popley neighbourhood. Comments that were made are currently being examined to help shape the two planning applications and we are also currently in the process of replying to all of those that took the trouble to contact or write to the Estates Practice with their thoughts and comments. Many thanks for your help.

It is intended to maintain a regular "North Popley Update" in future Popley Matters but if you should have any questions in the meantime please contact:

Tony Davison 01962 846952 Louise Hague 01962 846578

Popley Festival 2003

As a result of the changing weather, with rain and sunshine forecast for the day, the wet weather plan was put into operation. However the rain didn't dampen community spirits. Crowds of people turned up to support the Festival, and numbers were at least as high as in previous years.

The entertainment schedule was exciting and designed to appeal to all ages. The school hall was packed full all day with people listening to the various bands. These included the John Hunt of Everest School and Community Steel Pans bands, the School Rock and a Community Rap bands. Music was also provided by the 'Moses Kitchen' Folk band and the local Popley Action Churches Together Gospel Choir. The other notable success was the Chineham Park School Choir with the youngest member being carried in her holder by the Headteacher Gwen Clifford.

Walls Fun Fair brought along a range of rides from a bouncy castle to the larger rides such as the Music Trip Miami, the Orbiter and Tea Cups.

The beer, supplied by Popley Fields Community Centre, was as popular as ever, as were the food stalls which consisted of burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches and jacket potatoes all supplied by John Hunt of Everest Parent Support, Melrose Community Centre and the Air Scouts. Throughout the day there was a constant flow of teas and coffees provided by Popley Action Churches Together.

Over 40 stalls holders came on the day offering activities such as the free raffle to win one of 4 cuddly toys from the Connexions stand, the Basingstoke Observer raised funds for charity by selling raffle tickets to guess the amount (in money) of food in a trolley donated by the Safeway store. There were groups doing face painting, tombolas, painting portraits selling home made dolls houses as well offering information on career choices and health related issues. The Pre-School Alliance team were kept busy keeping the very young entertained.

The winners of the 6 a-side football, Cranbourne School, were awarded a trophy and medals, donated and presented by Mr John Ryan, the managing Director of Basingstoke Observer. The runners-up, John Hunt 14-16 side was also presented with medals.

The Boys Brigade was as efficient as ever under the direction of Mark Hood all the car boot sellers were quickly allocated plots. The car boot was smaller than previous years but still a great success with lots of buyers

walking away with bargains. The Basingstoke Adventure Rangers, celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, parked over 500 cars on the day. As always the Basingstoke Gazette was there supporting us on the day with their caravan and reporter.

The committee would like to thank the Sentinel Housing Group for sponsoring the location maps, the people of Popley for supporting the event, by coming along on the day, the charity and other stalls for their continuing support and the Fire, Police and St John's Ambulance who were all on hand on the day dealing with traffic, lost children and generally helping keep the whole Popley Festival enjoyable.

The atmosphere was great, the weather could have been better but a fun day was had by all. See you all next year!

Suki Binning, School Community Manager, JHE



The John Hunt Steel Band get down to business



The outside stalls attracted a lot of attention, especially at lunchtime!



Basingstoke NeighbourCare...always on the lookout for volunteers!



All the fun of the fair at the Popley Festival.

Photos Provided by Cllr Andy McCormick