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December 2006

Issue 58



Distribution of Over 3,500

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Message From the Editor:- I just can't believe how fast this year has gone, and yet I bet there are quite a few youngsters that will be thinking that Christmas is just taking ages to get here. Is it an age thing? Does time seem to be going faster as we get older?

Though it has been mild so far I suspect the weather will change, and so quickly that if we are not prepared we could get caught out. I am getting my warm clothing ready and my blanket for when I sit (on rare occasions) and watch TV. Warm drinks and soups in my cupboard at the ready, and my old trusty hot water bottle is there in case I need it. My mother always used to say "Keep warm inside and out and let the bills take care of themselves" and I am sure within reason she was right, as Mums always are!

Please do look out for your neighbours especially if they are elderly, it used to be so much easier when you could spot if the milk bottle was still left out. We have lots of good advice over this festive season from the Fire and Rescue service on page 19 and driving tips from ROSPA on page 14. Please take note of the letters page too and do not get caught out with some of the scams that the police and Trading Standards are putting warnings about. It could prove quite costly.

We would love to receive some articles and letters from you readers. The address to write to is Popley Matters PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG. I am told that people love reading the stories so it would be good to hear from young and old. You could write a poem, article, story or letter.

PC Dan Carter, PC Paul Thorne and the Community Wardens have joined the message board on our Popley Matters website and you can talk to them online or via a private message if you want advice or to report any concerns. The web address is www.popleymatters.org.uk

All the Popley Matters team wish you Seasons Greetings and hope that you have a good and safe time. See you next year.

Hits on www.popley.matters.org.uk website for month of October 4612

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, P. O. Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG email editor@popleymatters.org.uk The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Kevin Walker; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;
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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I am so very angry as my Daughter came home with shoes and socks caked in dogs mess. Why have a dog if you are not going to look after it? Do these unthinking owners not care about what germs are left by their dogs mess, and more sadly do they not care about our environment? Good stiff fines are needed and prison if they persist. They should also be banned from keeping a dog. Ms S Popley Islands

Editors reply; This subject is in the top five of complaints to this magazine and to the council. They do have dog wardens who try to find the culprits. You can report it to them. On-the-spot fines can be imposed by the Wardens to any person who fails to act responsibly and doesn't clean up after their dog. If you know someone who takes their dog at a regular time and route just report it to them with as much information as you can on 844844 and they will do the rest.

Dear Editor; I wonder if any readers could help? I have a very old pipe knife that my dear old Grandfather gave me, it is stainless steel. The problem is the two blades in it are loose and need resetting. This can only be done by small tool engineers, I think, They would have to have the rivets removed first. If any one can help could you please put them in touch with me? Yours truly,

The Old Codger
Editors reply: If you can help our Old Codger could you ring me on 819924 and I will pass on the message. By your description the knife must be an antique over 100 years old.

Dear Editor: I read somewhere that there is a warning about a postal scam, do you know anything about it please? I am told that it could cost a lot of money and with it being Christmas lots of people could get caught if there are such a scams?

Mrs E Abbey Road

Editors reply: Yes the police and Trading Standards had both put out a warning for residents not to fall foul of this scam. The scam centered around a card being sent by a company calling themselves Parcel Delivery Service (PDS) suggesting that they have been unable to deliver a parcel. They then invited you to call 09066611911 a premium rate number, to retrieve it. But as soon as callers dialed it and started to listen to a recorded message, they were charged £1.50 and a further £1.50 per minute thereafter. The cost would soon mount up and you won't have known till you get your next telephone bill! The phone number has now been closed but if you receive a card you dont recognise contact Graham Belton at Hampshire County Councils Trading Standards. On 08454040506 or visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

Editors Note We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.

Please send your letters to:
The Editor, Popley Matters,
P. O. Box 6727, Basingstoke
RG24 9GG or email:
editor@popleymatters.org.uk
or phone 819924



A new sewer for Basingstoke

We have made good progress with laying the sewer so far.

We will be shutting down our site over the Christmas period between 22nd December 2006 to 8th January 2007. All of our work areas will be fenced off and made safe with roving security looking after the site. During the break, all road closures will remain in place.

From all the project team at Thames Water, may we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Please remember, If you have any queries about this work, you can call us on 0845 9200 800, quoting your address and our reference number **BB716903**. Our lines are always open.

Sherbourne St John Social Club

Sherbourne St John Social Club is a club that welcomes all, with many Popley residents already members.

We have lots of events like Bingo on Sunday nights, a quiz once a month on a Saturday. Our pool table and darts are popular and the old traditional crib and other bar games are available too.

On a Friday night we hold a meat raffle and we would love to welcome you to our happy club. We are having our first Table Top Sale on Sat 20th January 2007 from 12 noon to 3pm, you can hire a table for £5 and take advantage to sell your unwanted goods and Christmas gifts. Come along and enjoy a tea or coffee or even a drink at the bar at very reasonable club prices.

Everyone is welcome. If you would like more information or to book a table for the January Table Top Sale you can phone me: Brenda on Tel 850303 but please call after 7.30pm.

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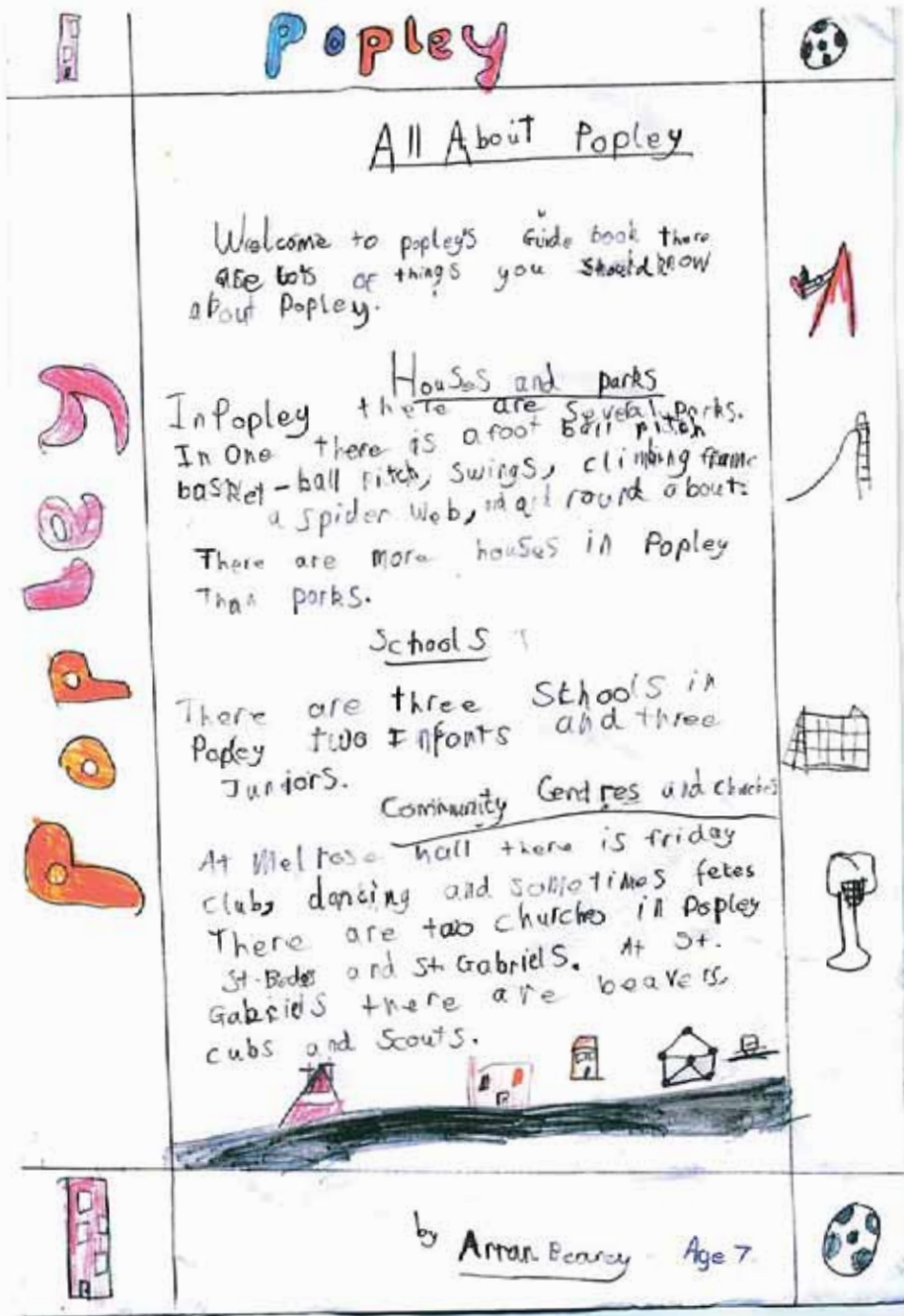
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Come and join us for a cup of tea and a mince pie at Popley Fields Community Centre and ...

- Meet Mr & Mrs Santa Clause and you may get a present - if you're good!
- Face painting
- Mocktails & Candy Floss
- Steel Band
- Arts & Crafts

11 December 2006
 between 5.30pm and 7.30pm
 at Popley Fields Community Centre



Councillors Page: What a wonderful evening I had when I went to the Fashion and Sound show put on by the youths who had been working with “The Making” there must have been well over 100 children with nearly 30 of them modeling their fashions that they had created and exhibiting photos and pieces of art. Well done to all, it was a pleasure to present the prizes.

The sewer works will close for two weeks over the Christmas time so if you see any activity please call the police.

We have not had to use salting yet, Shakespeare Road is upgraded to priority one because of the surgery and school and because it is a bus route.

The hospital bus has been saved from any massive cuts but the early one will be cut due to it not being used? Route 5 will have new low loader buses.

Please do not call PDS if you get a card to pick up a parcel it is a cruel scam and the call will cost £1.50 a minute

Popley West: With the help of the wardens and beat officers Dan Carter and Paul Thorne we are keeping an eye on the cars sale, particularly on the roadside verges, as this is a dangerous and unsafe place to park cars. I have noticed more fly tipping and it makes everywhere look so untidy, Christmas always brings lots more rubbish so please do not leave rubbish around the estates. If you have large items like furniture ring the Community Furniture Project on 320700 and they will pick up any reusable furniture for no charge. They sell it on to the public at very affordable prices. They are open to all at their shop at 6 Joule Road, Houndsmill behind the HSBC Bank. Deliveries of the items can be arranged.

The resurfacing and remarking of the road and path to the underpass to town via Sherbourne Road is now finished and all the potholes filled in. Please let me know if there are areas near you in Popley west that need attention call me on 819924 or write to 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL Paul Frankum

Popley East. Christmas is coming and as it's the season of goodwill I'd like to take this opportunity to ask you to look out for your neighbour, especially if they are elderly. The nights are getting darker and colder and this is the time of the year when you are most likely to discover problems with your central heating. Houses do not have to get that cold - 15C is enough for an elderly person to develop hypothermia.

The sewerage roadworks are proving quite disruptive for the residents of Gilbert Close, Cayman Close, Lundy Close and Faroe Close. In some places the hoardings are blocking the light from the streetlights making it pitch black. I have been assured by the manager of Murphys construction that lights are on their way.

The A33 30mph speed limits are up and the roundabout works have started. Things have not been as bad as I feared disruption-wise. A new fence has had to be installed outside Chineham Park, apparently they damaged the old one.

Planning permission was granted for 5-storey flats facing onto Popley Way on the John Hunt site. I can't say I'm happy with this, but our concerns have been ignored by the developers and the councillors from the leafy suburbs who vote on the Development Control committee. There is a new policy by the new ruling administration “the right homes in the right places”. If this means saying yes to flats in Popley while opposing builds in places like Kempshott and Grove then I have to oppose such double standards. Popley deserves better. Best regards, Andy McCormick

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Welcome
To the New Testament
Church of God Basingstoke

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Treasure
Isl and
Play Group

Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9AE
Mon–Fri 9:15am–11:45am
Mon & Thurs 12:30pm–3:00pm

Basingstoke Air Scout Group



Boy and girls 6-8 years
Meetings: Tuesday 5.30-6.45p.m.
Eve Alexander 346510

Boys and girls aged 8-10½
Tuesday 6.30-8.15p.m.
Elaine Devenport 323453

Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9p.m.
Colin Karlake 410559

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE
Charity number 267734

Group Scout Leader: Pat Brown 7 Remembrance Gardens, Chineham RG24 7DE
Telephone: (01256) 351366 or mobile 07716 855474

Scouts attended the Civic Remembrance Day Parade and Service in Basingstoke War Memorial Park on Sunday 12th November. Lauren and Lucy were pleased to be shown round the Mayor's Parlour by the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Councillor Tony Jones accompanied by Lynden Jones a past Mayor of the town. Lucy laid the poppy wreath on behalf of the District.

Two members of the Group have completed prestigious Chief Scout Awards recently. Christopher Blissett gained the Bronze Award and Harrison Conner t, Silver. These are the highest awards achievable at beaver and cub scout level respectively and indicate enthusiastic participation, a high standard of achievement and satisfactory completion of a personal challenge. One other cub is nearing completion of the award but his behaviour falls short of requirements for the moment (now, there's a personal challenge!)

Nearly all the Colony joined other Beaver Scouts from throughout Hampshire at Paultons' Park in November for an early visit from Father Christmas and came home tired but content clutching their first Christmas present! Weekly meetings have included a treasure hunt; finding out how muscles and other parts of the body work; a sponsored silence in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and Personal Safety. Preparations will soon start in earnest for the nativity play on 19th December. The section desperately needs another leader to replace Granny Beaver after Christmas.


Several members of the cub section had a go at Circus Skills at a recent ProAct weekend and others are working on Swimming and Life Saving techniques at Cranbourne Pool with Calleva Swimming Club. The Pack represented the District at Hampshire County Cub Scout Scrapheap Challenge in Waterlooville recently. Work continues on DIY, Home Safety, First Aid, World Faith badges and Christmas!

The Group will run a Gift Tombola Stall at Popley Fields Christmas Fayre on 25th November to raise funds for Centenary Camps in 2007.

New recruits welcome in both cub and scout sections. Parents of Beaver aged children are advised to get their child's name on the waiting list to avoid disappointment as the Colony is now full. Granny Beaver's retirement at Christmas will leave the Colony short of adult help and another leader must be found if the Colony is to continue its present active programme. Contact me or Eve Alexander for more information.

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Chineham RFC

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Chineham Rugby Club is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year from its humble beginnings training on Popley Fields to having its own clubhouse; we are currently looking for players and supporters as we grow. We run 2 teams in Hampshire, the 1stxv are in Hampshire's league 2 while the 2ndxv are in the Merit League. We are looking for players of all ages and abilities to join us .Training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 until 8.30 at Sherfield School on the A33 Reading Road

Apart from playing rugby we have a very friendly family orientated social scene at the club with varied events to suit all tastes and ages

If you are interested in playing, getting fit or just supporting your local rugby team check out the web site www.chinehamrfc.org or you can contact me on 07884497168 (9-6.30 only)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY
NEWYEAR TO ALL**

John Williams

2nd xv manager



Making Hampshire Safer

Celebrate Safely
this Christmas and New Year.



Tips with candles:

- Always put candles in suitable holders on a firm surface and away from furniture, curtains and decorations.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- **Never** leave burning candles unattended.
- Before going to bed or leaving the house ensure all candles are properly extinguished.

Electrical tips:

- Before hanging festive lights ensure they are working correctly.
- **Never** use indoor lights outside even if they are safe from the weather.
- If the insulation is worn or the wiring damaged, get new lights.
- **Never** overload electrical sockets.
- Check that plugs have the correct fuses fitted.

Drink Drive Safety:

- You can't calculate your alcohol limit.
- It takes less than you might think to become a drink driver.
- Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.

At Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, we hope that you do not have to invite us round during your festivities and hope you have a safe, enjoyable, fire & incident free celebration.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

2006 Revisited

Once upon a time, the Church was a central part of the community but this has changed in recent years. At the beginning of the year, we decided that we would like to change things. So, for 2006, we adopted the theme **"Making God's Family a Reality"**.

The Church is about people, not buildings or meetings, so during 2006 we started putting a greater emphasis on doing more of the fun things together as a Church. Getting together for meals, bbqs, to play games or just to sit and talk. Simply doing the things that families do.

Looking back, it has certainly been a busy and exciting year with lots of different things happening. We started the year with a fantastic evening of Gospel Music with the London based Aria International Gospel Choir, we enjoyed it so much they returned in May and September! For those of you who joined us you'll know just how good they are.

As the year progressed, we actually had the opportunity to do some singing ourselves, first we were at Queen Mary's College with the Basingstoke Diversity Forum for a celebration of different cultures and then, in the summer, we sang at Popley Fields Community Centre's Anniversary Celebration. The Team at Popley Fields certainly organised a fantastic day and with the beautiful sunshine we all enjoyed ourselves.

One of the exciting parts of this year has been watching the way that the Church Family has grown. People of different cultures and ages coming together to celebrate as part of "God's Family". As we worship together, on a Sunday, you can clearly see that things are changing and that we really are a family.

Of course, with Christmas now only a few weeks away, like all families we are planning how we will celebrate. Christmas is always an extra special time for the Church as we remember the Birth of Jesus.

Looking forward to 2007, we will be hosting our first **Alpha Course** starting on Wednesday 17th of January at 7:30 p.m. in Popley Fields Community Centre. If you want to find out more about Christianity and the fun of being part of the family, please join us. If you would like to know more, please contact us or look for the advert in January 2007's Popley Matters.

Graham Owen – Pastor
New Testament Church of God

Telephone (01256) 363692
eMail: graham@ntcog.co.uk
Web Site: www.ntcog.co.uk



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 1st birthday to M.F.C POPLEY, Since starting in December 2005 having only 5 kids turn up for the 1st ever training session (which was a little embarrassing) we now have three age groups consisting of 20+ kids per team, which is fantastic.

I originally started up the team for my son Jacob, who amazes me every single week with some of the stuff he produces on the pitch. I am very, very proud of him and cannot wait until he signs for Man United. Sometimes I am a little hard on the kids, but I know I get the best out of them. You do have to show them who's boss because, as you know, if you give them an inch they'll take a mile, discipline never hurt anyone.

I would personally like to thank Dave Wombwell who has been there with me from the beginning plus Matt, Russell, Danny, Chris, Kev, Colin, Julius and the fella who brings his boy with that horrible, nasty Arsenal kit. Poor little sausage get him a United kit for Christmas and you Daubs (parents forcing their kids to support London teams, disgraceful) I would also like to thank FASTFARE, DAVID WILSON HOMES, R.J.CARR DECORATORS, SENTINEL and Marnel Infants/Juniors who have all contributed in the sponsorship of the club. Parents keep up the support, and a very special thank you to the kids, because without them none of this would be possible, Thank you.

Lee

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL OF M.F.C. POPLEY



NOW THAT'S A BRIGHT IDEA!

My wife and I were privileged to attend the leaving party of Lesley Phillipson, former head teacher at John Hunt of Everest School. It so happened that a reading in "The Word For Today"* one day that week was about education. I would like to quote that reading as follows:

"Tommy had a hard time at school. He never seemed able to keep up. Finally his teacher gave up on him, called his mother and told her to take him home because he couldn't learn and would never amount to much (I guess that in today's schoolspeak that would be "permanent exclusion" – "expelled" in my day!).

Tommy's mother had a different opinion; she was a nurturer and believed in him. She schooled him at home and each time he failed she gave him hope and encouraged him to keep trying.

Whatever happened to Tommy? Well, eventually he grew up and became an inventor holding more than 1000 patents (registered designs), including the phonograph (record player to you and me!) and the first electric light bulb. His full name? Thomas Edison. Wow! When people have love and hope, there's no telling how far they can go! Solomon writes in the Bible "Pleasant words are healing" (Proverbs 16:24). So how are your words? Do they build up or tear down? How do people feel when they are around you? Do they feel small and insignificant, or do they leave you believing in themselves and realising what they can become? With God every weed is a potential rose. His book the Bible, is the ultimate book of hope. It tells us that Jonah got a second chance to go to Nineveh and the whole city turned to God. The Prodigal Son came back from a wasted life and was restored to his family. Peter, who ran out on Jesus, became a leader in the New Testament church..."

Lesley, like the mother/teacher in the story was an encourager, a nurturer and a restorer with many a pupil whom others would have given up all too soon. Who knows how many Tommy's are out there because of her?!

We shall miss her and we wish her well!

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Meets at Melrose Hall, Off Abbey Road, Popley 4 (opposite the Popinjay) Lively, powerful and interesting morning services on Sunday 10.30 – 12.30 followed by refreshments. Problems? Feeling lonely? Not well and need prayer? People are there for you!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL

Christmas Services: Sunday 24th December 10.30am. Christmas Day. 10 – 11.00am
New Years eve: 10pm to 12.30am (Games, food, fun and fellowship, Praise for the year gone and prayer for the new year just beginning). Make Jesus the centre for your life in the coming new year! You can't go wrong with Him!

* The Word For Today is available free of charge at Melrose Hall. Published quarterly.

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So Good they Did It Twice

Popley Conservation Volunteers

Following on from surveys conducted earlier this year the conservationists have started work this autumn on a small pond in Basing Forest. Two splendid days were spent in improving the habitat. The pond will be monitored next year to determine how successful the conservation work has been.

The Volunteers have now moved back to Popley Ponds where some considerable changes are taking place. The most noticeable is the felling of the magnificent Poplar which could be seen from Tobago Close. It is always sad to see a venerable tree such as this one being felled but unfortunately it had become unsafe.

In the last issue I thanked the MOTOROLA team for their public spirit of coming to the pond and putting in several hours of conservation work. They evidently enjoyed it because they came back for another go! A great deal of valuable work has been achieved by the MOTOROLA team, which will help the volunteers to keep to their ambitious schedule this year. Once again many thanks to MOTOROLA. Thanks is also due to the Leisure Services Department of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for organizing these events.

Below is a list of our activities up until May 2007. Do contact our secretary to find out more or just turn up and join us on task days. Details at the bottom of the page.

Popley Conservation Volunteers task list.

Saturday 16 December 06 Popley Pond

Clearing reeds and debris from pond & building hibernacula.

Sunday 14 January 07 Popley Pond

Coppicing & scrub removal

Saturday 27 January 07 Popley Pond

Coppicing & building a dead hedge

Saturday 10 February 07 Popley Pond

Coppicing & building a small hibernacula

Sunday 25 February 07 Basing wood

Survey pond in Basing Wood. Coppice & clear scrub around a pond in Basing Wood.

Saturday 10 March 07 Popley Pond

Weed & mulch a boundary hedge

Saturday 21 April 07

Pond surveying Basing Wood.

Sunday 25 March 07 Popley Pond

Ivy Cull & removal of old fencing & barbed wire

Sunday 6 May 07

Pond surveying

For all tasks meet at the end of Tobago Close, Popley, Basingstoke at 10.00 am. If it is going to be your first visit it is a good idea to phone to confirm. Contact: Our secretary Lee Roth lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk 01256 330738 or David Glover david.glover3@gmail.com 01256 429663



Base 2000 Carpenters Down Popley RG24 9AE

www.base2000.co.uk

Contact: Helen or Pat Brown (01256) 351366

The fire extinguisher was stolen from the building recently has been found thanks to Marnell Bowls Club. A fire risk assessment report has been completed in accordance with recent changes to legislation affecting all non-domestic premises. The annual inspection of fire fighting appliances was carried out in November.

Charges from January 2007 - the cost of the Small Hall will remain at £3.50 for non-profit making organisations increasing to up to £8 per hour for weekend users. The new rates for the Main Hall will range from £4.40 to £11. Full details are available from the Bookings Secretary. Damage deposits of £100 are required in certain circumstances.

Enquiries to use the building for parties, special celebrations and meetings are welcomed. If you'd like to have a look round contact the Bookings Secretary, Helen Brown on 01256 351366 or mobile 07733 032407 EMail: patrick@p.brown4.wanadoo.co.uk or write to 7 Remembrance Gardens, Chineham RG24 8DE.

Users are expected to leave the building in a clean and tidy state after use (equipment and materials provided) and are urged to use certain waste bins for recyclable materials only.

Additional facilities include photocopying @5p per A4 copy, television, video/dvd, projector, flip chart and floor-standing screen. Matching crockery and cutlery, BBQ equipment and water glasses for up to 48 people can be provided on request. Please consult with the Bookings Secretary.

Rainbows, Brownie Guides, Guides, Senior Guides, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Wiggins Teape Pensioners, Melrose Christian Fellowship and CMA Kick Boxing, Ladies Keep-fit regularly use the building and welcome new members. The Prince's Trust's new course for 16-25 year olds ends in December.

Dear Friends

What if the three wise men and been three wise women? Well, they would probably have asked for directions and arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, brought a casserole, and given the child more practical gifts!

The season of goodwill, peace to all is upon us. Though looking at the world around us you wouldn't think so! Apart from the hotspots of Iraq and Afghanistan there are so many other areas of conflict in the world, there are droughts, famines and diseases all demanding our quiet consideration and prayer. Some of the world's problems may seem to dwarf our own personal difficulties but they are no less important – anxiety over health, relationships and/or jobs and money can all combine to block out the light. This is especially true at Christmas when all we really want perhaps is some peace and quiet and some time to enjoy our families and friends.

The church is moving into the season of Advent which is a time of preparation. Similar to the season of Lent, it's an opportunity for taking stock, a chance to examine our lives and see where we've gone wrong and make a commitment to change those attitudes of our hearts and minds and lives that cause hurt to those around us and to God before its too late. It's a tough call, but, once we do we can feel cleansed and renewed, refreshed and ready to start again.

I hope this year you'll take that opportunity and that you'll take the opportunity to join us at one of our Christmas services. We're having Christingle Services on Sunday 10th at 3.30pm and 5pm; Candlelit Carols on the 19th at 6pm and Midnight Communion at 11.30 on Christmas Eve.

Amid all your Christmas preparations and as you're putting up the Christmas lights I hope that you will take time to consider the baby in a manger who came as *'the light of the world'* and will one day return in majesty and power to draw us all before God. May the light and peace of Christ be with you and yours this Christmas season and in the year ahead.

With warm Christian greetings
Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's.

Diaries from the Old Codger



Researching your family history, well I don't know how many readers saw the series on TV, it looked so easy. You just turn up and find what you are looking for, no matter what country you are in. There is only one word for this and that is RUBBISH. The amount of time to find one person can take weeks if not months. I have been doing mine for about two years and have only got back to about 1831, even in the 1901 Census it is a mess. My Great Grandfather could read and write; in fact he helped to write a lot of Bevin's speeches when he campaigned for leadership in the dock unions. I still have my Great Granddads Sash of Office. His name was George Potten he had six children in 1901.

Joseph his eldest son died in 1905 at the same time as his mother. In the Census, all his children bar one had a different spelling of the surname, so I had to delve into that. I then wanted to find his mother and father so the list goes on. Yes the program was worth watching for ideas but that was all. Do not try just turning up hoping they will tell you. Another way is to pay a genealogist to do the work for you but that takes the fun out of it.

Halloween night went well, first I let "Her Indoors" open the front door and instead of the kids frightening us in the costumes they ran screaming down our path with fright. I saved a bomb on sweets, about 9pm I took her in doors out trick-o-treating. I got a full bucket of sweets. No it is a great evening for the small ones and we have loads of sweets for them when they came most of them had an adult with them and they lived in the area.

It is good to see that our local beat officer is on Popley Matters web site. I do know a lot of you don't have these beasts but with the site you can e/mail him and he always posts replies. On computers and police matters, I would like you all to remember one thing you will find you get lots of e/mail from bogus banking scams asking you to confirm your bank details. Do not reply to them they are just scams and will empty your bank accounts. This also applies to phone callers if they ask your bank and pin numbers do not give it to them and one more thing do not put bills, addresses or letters to you in the rubbish, make sure you cut them up or shred them if you can.

Another matter: I want you all to be vigilant on is what they call cold callers that want you to change gas, electric, they want to look at your bills. Don't do it. Tell them to send you a letter and you will look at it (Do not sign anything even if it is to say they called). It is now winter you will soon be aware of ice paths and roads. If you are a bit doddery on your feet like me and it is icy ring the council and ask for the foot path to be gritted. Under the new E.U. directive they are obliged to give access and if you do not have access then they are breaking this directive. Don't open the doors at night unless you know who it is just, stop and think, especially the elderly!

Well that time is coming closer. Every year it comes round quicker than the year before, I wonder if they keep pretending its December so we have to start spending, mind you every time "Her Indoors" goes to town its Christmas as far as she is concerned, by the amount of bags she brings home. Then the January sales are on,!!! but January sales are on all year round dearest one, then I get it both barrels, If you want me to walk round with no clothes on I will!, I shut up and quiver in the corner of the room C.J jumps on my lap and starts to quiver as well just to think of it. The way I look at it now is in "THE" January she can start buying again for next Christmas. It won't save money as she will buy twice as much than she did the year before.

I received a lovely letter from a 96 year old a few months back. In 1940 she looked after two boys; the Dad was a surgeon in London. I was asked if I could find them. It was wonderful that I did and she rang one of the boys. It was only a small thing to do but to make an old lady happy was worth the effort put into it. Thanks for all your questions when out and about it is nice to talk, I only wish more people would. I think the world would be a better place. Words rather than guns will always win in the end. On that note I hope you all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year, all keep well, *The Old Codger*

WINTER DRIVING ADVICE FROM RoSPA.

British drivers are not prepared for winter, with more than three-quarters seriously underestimating how long it takes to stop on winter roads and young drivers being the most at risk.

Most motorists do not know that it can take up to 10 times as long for a car to brake to a halt in icy conditions: 20% of drivers are also confused at how to deal with a skid on ice if it happens.

Less than half of British drivers carry out even basic checks on their car in the run up to winter. One in 10 will not carry out any checks, while more than 75% do not check the battery, even though this is the most common cause of winter breakdowns.

The top 10 tips to beat wintry conditions are:

Check the weather forecast

Check your battery regularly

Allow a few extra minutes before a journey for car checks

Remove ice from all windows before driving off

Make sure tyres are properly inflated

Check oil and water levels for the engine

Keep the wiper blades clean and in good condition

Clean all of the lights regularly

Carry a fully charged mobile phone

Keep essentials in the car such as an ice scraper, de-icer, torch, warm clothes and some food and water in case you become stranded

If you wish to know more about RoSPA and how we can help in your everyday motoring visit our web site www.roadasouthern.org.uk

Mark Hamilton-Peach
Chair RoSPA Southern Group.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Christmas is looming and we've got lots on so we hope to see you at one of the events!

POP ZONE: The kids all over Popley have been working with 'The Making' over the last few weeks and it culminated in a great fashion show where they had a chance to show off their designs! Well done to all who took part and thanks to all those who have been helping do great things over the last few months.

Coming up we have a trip to Paultons Park this month and the usual fun and festivities. Please note there will be no 'Pop Zone' on Monday 11th December due to the Magic of Christmas event. But you are more than welcome to come to enjoy this great family event. Let's see if we can beat last years' excellent turnout!

And any adult volunteers willing to give up any amount of time would be most welcome!

Staffing: We currently need several new staff to help us with our busy functions and events, mainly at weekends. It is mainly casual work but some regular hours are currently available. Call the centre for more information now!

Forthcoming Events

Tea Dance: The Christmas Tea Dance is on Friday 8th December from 2pm to 5pm so come down for a great afternoon. Tickets £4 in advance or £5 on the door!

Magic of Christmas: Monday 11th December 5.30pm to 7.30pm. This year there will not be a procession through the estates but there will be masses on at the Centre to make it a fantastic community event for Popley. Anyone willing to volunteer some time to help on the night would be most welcome!

Popley Festival: The Popley Festival will next year be held on Sunday 20th May 2007. It will be held at Popley Fields for the first time so we hope to see you all there to enjoy the great day out and to make it bigger and better than ever! Volunteers to help before or on the day would be very welcome!

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Xmas Family Night: Unfortunately we have had to cancel this event this year.

New Years' Eve Family Night: Sunday 31st December: 7pm 'til' late.

Call us for more info on any of the above.

We look forward to seeing you at our events over the coming month but if you have any suggestions for future events or activities you would like us to look at holding in the New Year, let us know!

Call 01256 414494 or pop in if you want to find out more about any of the above.



Hello people of Popley.
 I hope by now you would have all seen me on my bike in Popley or I would have visited you! If you haven't then this could be because you have been on holiday or your windows were steamed up! If you do have general enquiries that you would like to discuss with me or even if you just want to say hello then please contact me on 0845

045 45 45. You can also join the Popley Matters website and chat to myself and other members of the site.

Although I primarily work in Popley West I won't discriminate against Popley East! And infact PC THORNE and I do tend to cover each others patches when we can.

I have been told by a number of residents that about a year ago a meeting was held to discuss Neighbourhood Watch in Popley. It is my understanding that currently no schemes exist in Popley! I am keen to change this and would encourage you to get in contact if you and your neighbours are interested in being a member of the scheme. There is, or are a number of criteria for the scheme to get underway and usually 50% of a proposed area would need to be interested to initially get things rolling. I'm not an expert of the scheme yet but I know officers that are!

If you would like further information or think that you and your neighbours would be interested in being part of the scheme then please get in contact with myself on 0845 045 45 45 or the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator PC Paul Green on 01256 845316 or 01256 405009.

If you do see me on my bike this time of year and you think I look miserable well this isn't the case It is probably because my face has frozen in that position! But try not to worry too much about me as my police uniform is semi-waterproof. Take Care



SEASONS

GREETINGS

TO ALL

POPLEY

RESIDENTS



From your Community Wardens,
 Sarah and David.

Please continue to contact us regarding any issues of concern on (01256) 845508