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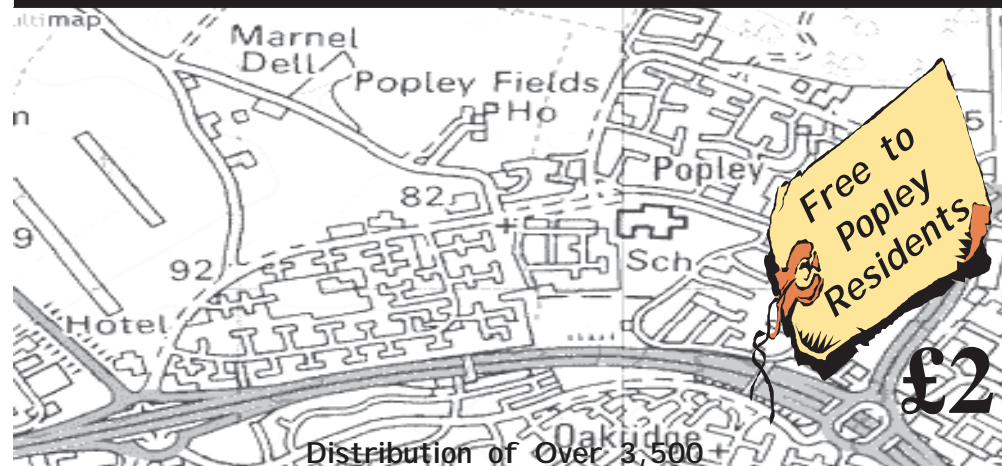
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2007

Issue 62



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20–04–07)

Message From the Editor:- What a mixture of weather we are experiencing this Spring, and what a mixture of articles too. Good news with the progress of the new school on page 6. Articles from the Fire Service this month page 23. We have articles about the young from Funky Monkeys and Chineham Park Pre-school on pages 24 and 25. What a lovely drawing from Arran aged 7 on page 3. A simple but heartfelt message that I know just about all of us share. On the same subject is a letter from a resident in another part of Popley on page 28. We also have a new writer "Soapbox" on pages 14 and 15. We always welcome new articles from our residents it is good to have different views and styles of writing, and we have never been shy of differing views, though of course there must always be some respect of each others human rights.

I owe a huge apology to South View School. It was of course Park View School wherethe Hearing Impaired Unit is located and under threat. Sorry you have a wonderful language unit that is thriving in South View.

We have had so much information and local news that we could not squeeze all the articles in, so I will briefly mention here that the over 55's April meeting is on the 18th at Carnival Hall from 10am to 1pm, with guest speakers Shelagh Goddard from the hospital and Maureen Shuter from the Independant Complaints Advocacy Service from St Micheal's Hospice. It is a very well attended event. Around 130 went to the last meeting.

Sorry to a couple of roads that we were unable or late to deliver the last Popley Matters. We do still need some more volunteers to help us get your community magazine delivered. We have 3,700 printed each month and will soon have to increase the number with the new houses being occupied so quickly. So please if you want to write to us we will certainly try to get as many articles in as possible, and please if you can spare an hour a month to deliver that would be tremendous. Contact Jane or Paul on 819924 for writing, and Iris on 411113 for deliveries. Can I take this opertunity to thank Iris for her work for Popley Matters as Distribution Manager and acting Treasurer. Any willing Treasurers out there? Jane Frankum (Editor) .To Advertise contact Jane on 819924.

Hits on www.popley.matters.org.uk website for month of March: 651

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, PO.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; Acting Treasurer/Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;

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Youth Volunteers; Alex Humphries; Martin Stacey;

More Volunteers Welcome

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I am not complaining about fly tipping or bad neighbours, it is the uncaring pet owner that lets it foul on the path where people have to walk to and from school and the shops. I opened my gate the other day and there was a big pile just short of my gate. I have to look before we leave the house to make sure we can get in an out with out treading in it. It is not all pet owners, just the ones that do not seem to care. But that is all it takes to make bad feelings towards pet owners. Yours Mrs B Popley Resident

Editor's reply; This letter is on the subject that is probably the one I get most often. It is antisocial and so unnecessary. You can use the old carrier bags from your shopping and you don't have to find a "doggy bin" as long as its wrapped, any bin will do. There is a need for more bins, agreed, and there are some on order.

Dear Editor, Why have double yellow lines been laid down at Chaucer Close? I found it hard to find a parking space as it was, now where do you expect me to park? Would it not have made more sense to have residential car parking permits than slapping down yellow lines. This may lead to overflowing along Shakespeare Road, which is dangerous as it is. Resident of Chaucer Close

Editor's reply; The double yellow lines were laid down as part of a consultative process after many complaints from residents. Residents said they were not able to see past parked cars and were not able to get their cars in and out of their garages safely. Parking in Chaucer Close and many others have been an problem for quite a few years. The ideal solution would be to

add more parking spaces. There are plans to increase some spaces with the regeneration.

Dear Editor, I had two people knock on my door who said they were working for the Fire Service. I was not sure who they really were, or if they were genuine. They had a uniform on and had ID cards but they wanted all my bank details. I said I was a pensioner and didn't have much money to spare I was willing to give a donation but not to give my bank details. The Firemen do a great job and no one would deny it, and I would of happily given them a donation but how do you know that they are for real? Mrs P Abbey Road

Editor's reply: I was away at aconference actually with the Fire Service when they knocked on my door, so my husband phoned me to check as he was concerned. I was able to check that they are genuine and they are collecting for the Fire-Fighters Benevolent Fund. However they were being over enthusiastic. If you are not sure ALWAYS close the door and ring the police. It is better that you have checked and if their genuine they dont mind. It is better than to be the subject of a distraction burglary.

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,
PO Box 6727, Basingstoke
RG24 9GG or email:
editor@popleymatters.org.uk
or phone 819924



A new sewer for Basingstoke



The picture above shows a conveyor belt removing the chalk dug out by the tunnelling machine on Shetland Road.

Over the next months, we will be linking the section of sewer pipe at the Carpenters Down end of Shetland road with the first tunnel shaft. J Murphy and Sons Limited will also be constructing the cable ducting on behalf of Scottish and Southern.

Once complete, we will be resurfacing the length of Sheltand Road where we have been working, putting the road back to how it was before.

Shetland Road will reopen to through traffic at the end of the project later this summer.

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Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734



Boy and girls 6-8 years
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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

Centenary Year celebrations continue apace with features on national TV, Radio 4 and local radio stations. A special St. George's Day Parade will be held in the town on Sunday 22nd April attended by His Worship the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane and the Lady Mayoress. Twenty three Scout Groups totalling some thousand young people from throughout the Borough will join together for this very special occasion. Scouts from both the Air Scouts and 1st Popley (Everest) Groups will attend. Parade moves off from Fairfields School Playing Fields prompt at 2.30 p.m. led by a mounted 'St. George' in armour. The service starts at 3 p.m. in the Park and all are welcome to attend. A collection will be taken in aid of Wessex Children's Hospice which celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year.

Details of the Hampshire 007 Centenary Camp in the New Forest at the end of July beginning of August continue to emerge. The programme looks spectacular and everyone is in for a fantastic 'once in a lifetime' experience (including the leaders!)

The Beavers are looking forward to District Easter Fun Day in Popley Fields Community Centre at the end of March. About a hundred Beavers from the seven colonies in the District are expected to participate so the woods will be busier than normal that afternoon if the weather is fine! Several new recruits were invested recently in the Air Scout colony and were delighted to receive their first badges and activity awards.

It has been nice to see the daffodils planted in the autumn blooming. They brighten up the area and are a real breath of spring. The Group will be planting a silver birch tree on 27th March to commemorate the Centenary of Scouting to add to the display.

Daniel Jackson recently completed the Chief Scout's Silver Award, the highest award for the cub section. The completion of his 'personal challenge' took a concerted effort on his part - well done! One other Cub has nearly reached the target - keep going Katie! The pack took part in the District Five-a-side Football competition in February coached by Mr. Tustain. Won 1; drawn 1; lost 1 but a good effort nonetheless.

The Scout section spent an evening learning Morse code recently using torches and realised just how difficult it can be to send and receive message accurately without the benefit of a mobile telephone or e-mail! More work on communications will follow. The troop hopes to take delivery of a new computer system complete with broadband in the near future which will help to extend their technological skills.

New recruits welcome to both Cub and Scout sections but sadly the Beaver colony is full and has a waiting list. Contact the appropriate Section Leader for more information.



Editor's Note:-It is good to see that our children in Popley are thinking about the environment and the future. There are health risks with "do-do's" and we owe it to our future generations to think about where and how we live.

Well done Arran

Councillors Page:

Yet another busy month for us all, with surgeries, CREW (Crime Reduction Environment Week), meetings and case work.

Paul and I went to the launch of CREW week and were surprised at how many people it takes to serve Popley. It was only when you see them all together in one place that the sheer numbers can be seen. Police, PCSO's, Special Constables, ACSO's, Community Wardens, Street Cleaning, Firefighters, Housing Officers, Dog Wardens, Graffiti Remover and Community Safety team. We did however remark that CREW week is a good idea, it's no good doing it for one week only, it needs to be continuous.

The Hearing Impaired Unit at Park View School will now go to a scrutiny panel in Hampshire County Council, where I will put the very strong case for it to continue in Basingstoke and not be moved to Farnborough. All the Basingstoke Councillors agreed that it seemed madness to take a newly refurbished and very successful unit and move it to a place where it would have to be upgraded. Basingstoke is a more accessible place than Farnborough by road, bus and train. Jane Frankum County Councillor Basingstoke North ☎819924

Popley West: At the new Everest Community College you will soon see the start of the internal fixtures and fittings ready for the opening of the school in September. There will be the start of the new homes so there should be a few ready at the same time as the school opens. That has to be really good news for some of the families on the waiting list.

There is a proposal to make some changes in how the points are allotted on the waiting list. I know we have had some very upset residents who have got to the top of the list then all of a sudden they are fifth or six or even worse.

We continue to support the families of children who have to be in an enormous heavy and uncomfortable plaster cast. They need to have temporary Blue Badges but have been told it is out of the question. Also I will be seconding a motion to council to ask that the abuses of disabled parking by non disabled people should be managed better with a zero tolerance. Jane Frankum ☎819924

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Popley East. March has been a busy month. We have had a lot of people contact us about street cleaning and litter. Rest assured we have made people aware of your problems. March 19th-24th is CREW week and Popley has been flooded with Police, PCSO's, ACSO's, Wardens and people from the Council and Sentinel Housing Association. Daily events have been held with surgeries at Popley Fields Community Centre. One of the initiatives being plugged is Neighbourhood Watches. We are in the process of setting some up.

They are a really good way to tackle crime - all it takes is for neighbours to talk to each other and pass information on to the co-ordinator who lives in your road. They then liaise with the Police and other agencies. That's all for this month.
Mary Brian ☎322108

You are warmly invited to Worship with us

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Funky Monkeys - Part II



Before I gave birth to my son 14 months ago I'd heard of toddler groups as most parents have. I never dreamt I would go along to a parent and toddler group, let alone become one of the committee members.

But Funky Monkeys is different to the other groups I tried. The people there were friendly and talked to me even though they'd never seen me before, now I've got friends there who go every week. We can have a natter and a coffee while looking after the children - who are also really happy to be there and play with all the toys.

The younger children can play in the baby corner safely and the older ones can even do arts and crafts. Everyone joins in the nursery rhyme singing at the end of each session; mums, dads, carers, the children sometimes sing along too!

Funky Monkeys is so well attended that we've now got an afternoon session from 1 'til 2:30 as well as the morning one from 10:30 'til 12noon. That's why I volunteered to join the committee to help make the afternoon group successful for other mums starting out like me.

So if you are bored sitting at home, come and join in the fun at funky monkeys. It's only £1.50 per family and that includes refreshments for everyone. It's at St. Gabriel's church, Tewkesbury Close, Popley, Basingstoke. If you have any queries please call 01256 324734. Hope to see you there. Tracy Bebbington

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Chineham Park Pre-school has had a busy few months, with almost all sessions full and an ever-increasing waiting list. We have survived our Ofsted inspection with good results, and also been awarded Accreditation by the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

Our Pre-school room has been revamped with lots of new toys, equipment and seating, and we have also updated our secure outdoor play area.

The children now enjoy our 'café' for snack time, where they can independently help themselves to healthy snacks such as fruit and salad, in line with our healthy eating policy. Our Breakfast Club is enjoyed by the children, where they can choose from various cereals, fruit juices etc, and lunches continue to be very popular, with children either having a hot school meal or a packed lunch provided by their parents.

For the entire week beginning 12th March we held various fun and fundraising events for Comic Relief, including 'crazy hair', decorating biscuits, cake stall, colouring competition and making flapjacks.

The summer term will see us holding sports day, a trip to Finkley Farm, and continuing to prepare the older children for the transition to mainstream school. Our waiting list is constantly expanding so we also anticipate a busy Autumn term!

**Why not have some fun together as a family?
Have some of that quality time that everyone
raves about? Learn a new skill?**

Come along to our Family Courses at John Hunt Community School this Summer, we still have places. Contact us **NOW** on 01256

338726 between 10am-2pm OR email:
marilyn.botham@hants.gov.uk


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The Basingstoke Silver Band
Marnel Junior School Choir

Saturday April 28th
St Bede's Church 7.30p.m.

Tickets £5.00 (inc. refreshments) available from
St Gabriel's Church - call 324734 and Marnel Junior School

Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy a wonderful evening of music
for your pleasure. Limited tickets available so hurry and book now!

Merton Rise and Everest Community College - Project Update

Again, continued progress has been made on both the school and advance infrastructure works (both on and off-site). For the school we will be shortly commencing the internal finishes and completing some of the external landscaped areas, including School Square (located to the front of the school buildings) in readiness for the formal fitting out programme to support the opening of the school in September. For the on-site infrastructure provision, with the recent better weather, good progress has been made on the completion of that part of the spine road required for the school and the Phase 1 developments to open/to be occupied. Following the outcome of the closure/diversion order applications (in progress), tying in works will be completed to allow Chineham Lane to re-open and a through route will be on part of the Merton Rise spine road. The rest of the link between Chineham Lane and Sherborne Road will not however be open until the land it is serving (Phase 2) is sold, which is programmed for March 08. This will allow us to manage itinerant occupation and also the health and safety of pupils being able to potentially wander across the site. Off-site, the works being undertaken by Thames Water up to Chineham Lane are also nearing completion.

On Tuesday 27th March, we (will have) held the Everest Community College School Travel Plan event as part of our preparation of the next version of the School Travel Plan to support the opening of the school. I spent a sunny morning last week with our School Travel Plan consultants walking from the existing site to the proposed school, assessing the safety of existing routes and those that will be available within Merton Rise at the point of opening, and also in the future as the site is developed. Although there is limited funding to undertake major improvements (and any that is available forms part of the financial package for general improvements to Popley Way), we found several opportunities for minor improvements e.g. dropped kerbs, pedestrian/cycleway signage, as well as improvements that could be identified to be undertaken when the scheme along Popley Way is developed. The School Travel Plan will be an important document in developing this strategy with the Highway Authority.

The Phase 1 developers will be starting on site after Easter and will ensure that some new houses are in ready for occupation the school opens. Alongside these developments, the County Council will be constructing one of the key strategic open spaces – known currently (and rather catchily NOT) as Chineham Lane Local Park (!). This park will provide one of the 4 intended local equipped areas for play and kick-about areas intended in Merton Rise, and also provides one of the first opportunities for Public Art. With regard to the latter, we have recently appointed a local artist to work with us to develop the artwork to link in with the proposed space theme for the park. In addition to a series of design days involving pupils from local primary schools and also John Hunt of Everest School, we are proposing to take a stand at Popley Festival to show the proposals for the park in more detail and hopefully provide an opportunity for small groups to “have a go” at doing some mosaic work (the design basis of the proposed artwork).

Finally, we are nearing the end of the selection phase of prospective developers for the Phase 2 land on Merton Rise (which includes the mixed use neighbourhood centre), and we are very pleased with the high quality of the shortlisted parties. The developers will work in combination with my design team and the Borough Officers to develop their scheme proposals, and prior to application we will have an informal pre-application information event (likely late summer on the current programme) to share some of the detail of the scheme proposals.

Regards

Louise Hague Merton Rise Project Manager



Cigarette Safety.

Smoking Hazards.

If you or members of your household smoke, then you need to be aware of the fire risks and take the appropriate steps to avoid them:

- **Never** smoke in bed - numerous deaths are caused when people fall asleep whilst still holding a lit cigarette.
- **Don't** leave a lit cigarette or cigar unattended - as they burn down they can end up on the carpet and start a fire!
- **Don't** leave matches or lighters lying around where children can reach them.
- **Don't** leave your ashtray on the armrest of your chair and at the end of the day empty them outside into a metal container.
- **Always** use a proper ashtray - make sure it can't tip over and is made of a material that will not burn.

Did you know?

- Smoking and smoking materials are the second biggest cause of fires in the home.
- Cigarettes can burn at temperatures of over 700°C.
- Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette.
- You can buy child-resistant lighters and containers for match boxes from your local DIY store.

Useful contact points and further information:

'Quitline website: www.quit.org.uk or 0800 002200

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

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

Popley Community Boot Sale IS MOVING!!

From April and every Sunday and
Bank Holiday Monday afterwards
this popular boot sale will now be held at:
Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9AE

Sellers from 8.30am

Buyers from 9am to 1pm

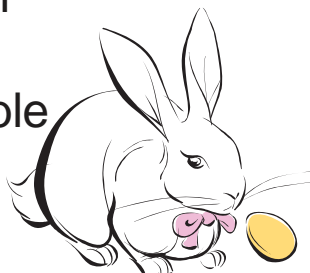
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Easter Egg Hunt
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Adults Easter Bonnet
Competitions
8th April 2pm to 4pm
at Melrose Hall
Refreshments available
Tombola



Thank you to everybody who was involved with the sponsor day on the 10th of March It was a great day had by all (in the end). All our winners took home a JJB voucher and a trophy, runners up a JJB voucher and a Nike football.

WINNERS: U9's Connor Oates, U8's Fynley Judd, U7's Jack Lyte.

RUNNERS UP: U9's U8's Jacob Austen, U7's Jack Rush.

Tornados & Whirlwinds

We had a great result against Thatcham Town Harriers with the Tornados teaching the opposition a footballing lesson by putting seven past them. On target was John Bailey (2), Fynley Judd (4) and Jack Parrat with his first goal of the season. Well done Jack.

Also a first for the Whirlwinds they had their first double win of the season beating the Thatcham B 3-0 and their A team 2-1. EXCELLENT!

We have 3 girls playing in the club at the moment and I must say I'm very impressed with their improvement. Ellie Dawber is gradually getting there, and never gives up, which in my eyes is everything, giving 110% every game. Samantha plays in goal for the Whirlwinds. For Dave she's a God-send and again gives 110% each week and without Sam I think the Whirlwinds would definitely struggle week in week out.

I was informed by Chris that a couple of weeks ago Shanika was the best player on the park. Now I don't know if it was because her Dad was there watching, and if that's the case, can you come and watch every week please?

Can we keep up all the great support from the parents please? More screaming and shouting from the Mums.

Thanks Lee, TEL: 07811167791/E.MAIL: MFCPOPLEY@HOTMAIL.CO.UK
HOTMAIL NOT HOTMALE



Hi,

I'm Steve Smith the new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) for Popley West. I've just finished my tutoring period out in Whitchurch with Matt Deery and I'll be working alongside Dan Carter in the West, and Paul Thorne and Phil Rapley in the East. I'm really looking forward to getting out into Popley, meeting 'the locals' and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. I am currently heavily involved in CREW week and will be attending the main events throughout the week and working with all the other partner organisations that are contributing to the week. Before becoming a PCSO I was working at North Hants Hospital as a Healthcare Assistant in operating theatre. I've lived in the Basingstoke area for 6 and a half years so I know the area well.

I'm always happy to say hello so don't hesitate to stop me and have a chat with me and voice any concerns you have.

I look forward to seeing you all when I'm out and about,
Steve Smith

* * * * *

I am very glad that Steve has come on board and that Popley now has it's full complement of PCSO's. Paul and I along with the two PCSO's will be working very close to ensure that the issues relevant to our area are dealt with in an appropriate and speedy manner, along with the issues that need a longer term approach. Yesterday was the first day that Steve and I worked with each other and this also coincided nicely with the CREW week (Crime Reduction and Enviromental Week).

Steve and I attended the Popley Fields Community Centre yesterday for the start of CREW and were involved in youth activities along with our police information stand. On the stand PC Thorne can be seen in a photo posing heroically! The day was a great success and well attended by the youth of Popley who especially enjoyed the climbing tower!

On the 20th March PC Thorne, PCSO Smith and I attended a public meeting at John Hunt of Everest School. The meeting was well attended and some really positive points were raised and issues expressed.

Next month I will give a rundown of how the event went and what we can all take from CREW to make our community in Popley an even better place for the future.

As always if you want to get in contact with any of us to discuss issues you have in Popley then don't be shy and give us a call. We can be contacted on 08450454545.

PC 20686 CARTER and
PCSO SMITH- Popley West
PC 23234 THORNE and
PCSO RAPLEY- Popley East.



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A NEW LOCAL

Window Cleaning Service has started up in this area:-

If you would like us to clean your windows on a fortnightly or monthly contract, please ring one of these numbers

- 07810 286470
- 01256 411036
- 07979 437514
- 01256 478058

The basic price will be £10 this will cover the ground floor and first floors front and back, with other floors and services at extra cost, as our equipment arrives i.e. for second floors and inside windows

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Let your child grow and learn to their full potential.

Please phone us to arrange a time to bring your little ones to visit.

Tel: 01256 410119/07971864304

AGE CONCERN INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday 18th April 2007

Age Concern is encouraging local people to find out about the help and support available to them by visiting an Information Day for Older People on Wednesday 18th April in Church Cottage (behind St Michael,s) between 10.30am and 1.30pm.

Information and advice will be on offer from a range of local organisations working with older people including Basingstoke Sports Centre, Basingstoke Talking News, Penningtons Solicitors, the Pension Service, the Police, Shopmobility & of course Age Concern. Many other organisations are expected to confirm.

At this time of year Age Concern encourages older people to check they are getting the benefits they are entitled to. Come to the event to find out more about benefits for the over 60s and lots more besides.

Refreshments will be available from the Age Concern Café as usual. Everyone is welcome; however please note public parking is not available at Church Cottage.

For more information please contact Age Concern on 423874.

Diary Date: Summer Time Music Hall, Sunday 29th July 2007,
The Anvil

Age Concern at Abbey Court

Age Concern run an activity centre at Abbey Court, Popley each Wednesday from 10.30am to 2.30pm. Spaces are currently available for older people to come and enjoy quizzes, games, bingo and of course good company! We charge £2 towards refreshments and most people bring their own packed lunch. For more information, contact Beverley Jones at Age Concern on 01256 423874.

Beverley Jones
Community Services Officer



Hello to all of our Popley residents. We hope you are all keeping well! Isn't it wonderful to hear the sound of the birds singing, to see the beautiful sunshine and to smell the fresh spring air? It makes our role as community wardens all the more enjoyable.

Motorbike problem

We have received many calls about mini-motos and scrambler bikes recently and are amazed at the age of some of the children riding these motor vehicles. They are being ridden on paths, in the road and on grassed areas where children play. Not only is it annoying for residents who have to listen to the constant drone they make, but it is also a danger to people on the roads and footpaths.

The only place where these bikes can be ridden safely and legally is on private land with the landowner's permission. If they are driven anywhere else they require the same documentation as any other vehicle, including registration documentation, tax, insurance, MOT, driving licence and a number plate.

So what are we doing? When a person is caught or reported, they will receive a warning from the police under Section 59 of the Road Traffic Act. If they are caught again, they risk having their vehicles seized.

We are urging residents to ring in on the new non-emergency number 101 with details, including descriptions of bikes and riders. "Make the call, make the difference!"

Thanking you for helping us tackle this important issue,
Sarah Ratcliff and David Mason,
Popley Community Wardens



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Do you have a business idea but don't know where to start?

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Call 0845 600 9 006



Bermuda Community Association Hall

Why not join us here to play Bingo

Every Tuesday evening

Doors open at 7pm

Eyes Down at 8pm

Finish around 9.45pm

Very friendly atmosphere



Light refreshments are always available during the break

Tea Coffee soft Drinks crisps biscuits etc.

This is a non smoking establishment

In order to play you must be over 18 years old.

What's going On at the Bermuda Community Association Hall

<u>Monday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	Adults Singles Club 6pm to 7.30pm
<u>Tuesday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	BCA BINGO Night 8pm to 10pm Doors open at 7pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	Hall available for hire for the evening only
<u>Thursday</u>	Pre School 8am to 4pm	Papercraft 7pm to 9pm
<u>Friday</u>	Pre school 8am to 4pm	Friday Club (5 to 10 year old) 6.30pm to 7.30pm
<u>Saturday</u>	The Hall is available for hire	
<u>Sunday</u>	Family Fellowship Meeting 3.30 to 6pm	

**Small meeting Room also available
 for hire during the day and evenings**

The Bermuda Community Association
 40 to 44 Bermuda Close Basingstoke RG24 9PE

Telephone 01356 363156

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

I'll be back....!

Any of you who have seen Arnold Schwarzenegger's films will remember his famous line that he will be back to complete the job and finally get rid of the baddies (is it the Terminator series – I'm not sure?). I always like a good ending!

At this time when Easter approaches, we remember that God, who had taken on the form of a human being with all of a human's weakness but none of the sin, actually won a great victory over Satan and evil when Jesus died for crimes He did not commit. Do you remember the ending of the film "The Passion of the Christ" where very briefly we saw Satan, who thought he had won, realised that he had lost?

What the film doesn't show is that for the 3 days that Jesus was supposedly dead, He went down into hell and demanded some important keys from Satan, which Satan had no choice but to give up. In the film "Narnia" it's called "The Deep Magic"

When Jesus re-appeared to His followers he gave them the same power to overcome Satan, sin, bad habits and general nastiness in their own lives and tell others the good news that they too could be set free from all that rubbish and get out of the hands of the bad guy.

Jesus visited His friends for a while and then got His followers together and said "I've got to go back to heaven now, but only so that my Father can send The Holy Spirit, the comforter, to you but***I'LL BE BACK***".

What does that mean? Well put simply, God has promised that Jesus will be coming back to earth not as a baby growing into a man who allows Himself to be killed again but as King of Kings and absolute ruler over all the earth. Every nation, every country, town, family and human being will come under his government and I'll tell you now, He'll make a better job of it than all of our governments put together!!

Question is... are you ready? If not, while there is still time, get ready. Break the habit of a lifetime – come to church this Easter (Sunday 10.30am) and find out how to make peace with the King. Remember "I'll be back!"

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

Friday Clubs for the youth! Every Friday during school term time. Is there one near you? Melrose Hall, Bermuda Close, Base 2000 (behind Popley Fields) and Oakridge Hall 4All. Infant/Junior school age 6.30-7.45pm. Secondary School age (Melrose Only) 8-9-15pm
For further information contact Pastor Philip Keeble on 428795

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

There is so much going on at the moment it is hard to know where to start!

POPZONE: Lots of kids are still attending on Mondays between 6 and 8pm.

We have had lots of problems recently ensuring we have enough people to open the doors. We are therefore asking parents to come forward to help us by volunteering to help on a parents' rota. If all parents could help out just once for a couple of hours it would mean probably giving up 2 hours every 8 weeks at most. Not a lot to ensure over 60 kids gets a great night every week. So please let us know as soon as possible so we don't have to cancel the club in the near future. And anyone else wanting to work with young people or who have a skill you would be willing to share with them, we would love to hear from you!

GARDEN: Our vegetable plots have been built so we are now looking for people who are interested in learning more about gardening and growing vegetables etc. So anyone interested in being involved in helping tend the plots or learning more about plants and vegetables, we want to hear from you now!

POPLEY FESTIVAL: To help this fantastic event in its new location, which can help so many local organisations raise some vital funds run smoothly, we urgently need more community minded individuals willing to help marshall on the day. Anyone over 12, willing to give up some time would be most welcome but we need people to register now, so call Mark at the centre for more information please!

CAR BOOT SALE: From 1st April the Popley Community Boot Sale is moving location to Popley Fields from John Hunt School. The sale is run by local charities and monies raised from the events, every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, help these charities help local people. And marshalls or helpers for any of these events would be most welcome!

Again contact Mark on the above number for any information or to see if you help!

DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

Well what a month the Old Codger had, all excited when I had a film done about my life and the writing I do, then to get a slap in the face as it were (Well a stick I should say) by a group of youths. It is my pride that hurts most as I could have just walked away. The thing with me is I just can't run away if I had done so the next person would, or should I say could, get it worse, and the next person even more as they get more braver as they do it. It is called **HAPPY SLAPPING**. It started in the USA a group of youths got together and hit someone and film



it at the same time as they dance around you. Not a very nice thing to happen, it was all because of my little dog that I stood up to them for it. I can say now for the rest of their life they will have that tucked at the back of their mind I can move on. Now and then what they did will come to the front of their minds again, one day they will be old and they may get the same done to them. I do hope that will never happen. As you know I do write children's stories and have had them published in books. They could have read one of them at school once. Her Indoors came out and pulled me away. The youths took one look at her and must have said ——— and off they went, not before her in doors told them a few home truths. I got back in the house and she sat me in my chair. I was shaking from head to foot with rage, then my chest went tight and I knew it was an angina attack (no it was not Her Indoors sitting on it)so out came the heart spray her in doors made a cup of tea, I could hardly hold it in my hand, as the evening went on so the pain eased off, the pain in the side of the head lasted a few days. One person who knows I have a bad heart said “Do you know you could have had a heart attack out there with them”? The adrenalin was rushing that much I could not feel any thing only that these youths had to be stopped. The police officer who came round was very understanding and we must thank him for that.

Well things are back on track. Her Indoors is giving out the orders and strict instructions every day so nothing new on that front!!! I just say “yes dear”. One thing I do know, yes I may be wrong but I would do it again (yes I know, fool) but I am not going thru the rest of my days thinking that I did not do anything, and yes I also feel people like this are not worth the risks, again I was brought up in the days when you never turn your back on a problem but face up to it no matter what, because it will not go away. You can walk away from it but tomorrow when you wake up, it is still there This is the same as many things in life. I must at this point say we have so many fantastic kids and youth on Popley they should not be tarred with the same brush I believe in our kids as they are the future of our town and they will be the next generation of builders and hopefully all will learn from mistakes we have made. I know

Dear Friends

Taking my grandson to and from school has been a real bonus for me in the past few months. I love doing the school run as it gives me a chance to meet and chat with folk I wouldn't otherwise meet. I recently remarked to one of the mums while waiting outside the school that I'd been laid up with a shocking cold, to which she replied, “children get colds, men get flu, women get on with it!” I guess there's an element of truth in that, but while resting from my bout of 'man-flu' I was able to watch a couple of my favourite movies!

There are lots of good films on release at the moment – one in particular that I plan to see is Amazing Grace. This is the story of William Wilburforce who was a key figure in the movement to abolish the slave trade in the 19th century. From the trailers it looks to be a powerful film!

Slavery is not something we associate with our modern world and yet human trafficking is still rife. Not just in the Third World but here in Britain! Especially with young female migrants from some of the poorer countries of the EU, enticed here under the promise of employment and wealth and then forced into the dark world of prostitution and pornography. It's an alarming situation and one that needs both our prayers and our practical action to remedy.

Have you ever thought of yourself as being a slave? You haven't? Daily I meet people who are enslaved by their careers, by financial problems, or in sustaining a difficult relationship. We can so easily feel trapped, living our lives in quiet desperation, longing to be free, feeling somehow that there has to be more to life than this! There is! Jesus said “If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed!” I believe passionately that if we allow the power of the Son of God to be at work in our lives then he can transform any situation we find ourselves in – he might not rescue us from it immediately but he will transform us so that we can see things in a new way, his way and bring about a change.

In May we begin our third Alpha Course at St Gabriel's and if you want to find out more about Jesus and how to get to know him then why not come along. It begins on Thursday May 10th at 7.30pm in the church hall on Tewkesbury Close.

God's Blessing for this Eastertide.

Your Vicar,

Arthur.

The Vyne Community School offers a wide range of community activities:

- Leisure Learning - Salsa, Pilates, Digital Photography and lots more
- Out of School Care & Holiday Clubs - fun, friendly and professional
- Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities for hire - football, netball etc.
- Halls & Rooms for Hire - meetings, parties, community groups etc.
- Fitness Studio - no membership fee, monthly or casual use
- Dance Studio - sprung floor, mirrors.



Forthcoming Events

- **Car Boot** - 1st April 11.00 - 2.00 pm (cars from 10am, £5) and then 1st Sunday of each month.
- **Craft Fair** - Saturday, 2nd June 11.00-4.00 pm - cards and paper crafts, jewellery, ties and lots more - ideal for Father's Day presents.



Assisted by
Basingstoke
and Deane

For more information please contact the Community Office.
Tel: 01256 407037 Email: community@vyne.hants.sch.uk
The Vyne Community School, Vyne Road, Basingstoke, RG21 5PB.
(2 mins from the train station)



Hampshire
County
Council

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?
If that's a question you've been asking then discover

THE ALPHA COURSE

THURSDAY MAY 10TH

An invitation to join us for a relaxed opportunity to find out what the Christian faith is all about and ask those questions you've always wanted to ask! Boring, irrelevant, untrue? Definitely not!

ST GABRIEL'S CHURCH

Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way
Call 324734 for a free invitation or pop into the church and pick one up!

I was no angel, well I could not have been. I went scrumping and that would send tingling down my spine if I was chased. Now and then if I felt brave, Knock Down Ginger. Dad was a strong man and discipline was tough in our house so you very rarely played up he had hands the size of dustbin lids. God that takes me back the good old fashioned dustmen. They would come in the back gate, pick up your bin put it on their shoulders and then into the cart no mess and no rubbish left over the roads. They were the men of Basingstoke they worked hard and would always stop and ask how you were or the family, they would take every thing you put out for them. With no complaint and we always saw them OK at Christmas time.

Can you remember the days when you all sat round the radio of an evening and listened to the many plays, the Archers or the forces programme on a Sunday lunchtime? What about some of my favourite programs Around the Horne, The Navy Lark not to mention the Goon show? Just a few shows to jog a few laughs as you cast back in your minds. I have loads of tapes on Round the Horne and I still listen to them a lot, I can remember going on holiday with some friends and I had the tapes with me. We were by the pool in the shade I had my headphones on and Her Indoors and our friends were laughing at me as I was laying down and my belly was going up and down that much with laughter. We don't have these types of comedians around now. All we have is idiots, half of what they say is swearing and I do not like that as comedy but we have to face changes and people's tastes. I only have a few words on what has happened over the last month please be careful out and about do not be afraid to go out. I think I was an isolated case and hope with the publicity it drew will stop.

Now for all of you like me a bit dodgy on the old pins, again please watch your footing when going out in the winter, is not over yet I know I keep going on about it but it is better than spending weeks in hospital with broken bones. We have had a lot of the wet stuff, but the next night we could have frost that is when you can fall, plus all the wet leaves about still. how many of you have been out and got one of the mugs I talked about last month, they keep tea or your soup hot. On the outside they are not hot to touch and that makes it better to hold plus the large handles on them give you a better grip. The lid stops the spilling of it but you can take it off when ready to drink. You can buy two sorts of the mugs, one is Starbucks, the other you can buy at most good stores. It to has a lid and called a Proofaill. Doing this page this month I need to grip some thing. I would say her in doors throat but I know another smack on the head would be on its way. By the way, just a quick note, the picture you see on this page is better looking than me and I thank Paul for making me look that good and I hope you are feeling a lot better.

me and I thank Paul for making me look that good and I hope you are feeling a lot better now.

Keep well all.
The Old Codger.

I was deeply impressed by an article in the Guardian (6th March) by Jeremy Paxman in which he says we need an initiative, collective and individual to combat the accumulation of rubbish that blights this country; that this is the time for a national spring clean involving 'councils, schools, voluntary groups, community organizations as well as statutory authorities. His view is that this is "One of those few tasks in life at the end of which you would see a result". I commend you to read it if you can get hold of it.

To try to get his message across I have 'cherry-picked' from his article and ask his pardon for using my own words where appropriate.

Of all the litter we accumulate plastic is undoubtedly the worst because it won't break down as dog poo and paper eventually will. All of us who visit the Chineham shopping centre can attest to this when we see the nearby woodland festooned with scraps of plastic bags. There are an estimated 10 billion plastic bags distributed free of charge to UK shoppers. Our government could follow Ireland's example and impose a charge for plastic shopping bags and reduce the number of polluting bags by an estimated 90 percent in three months! I believe Michael Meacher tried to do just that when he was a minister for the environment but his idea was shot down in flames. Was it because of the persuasive claim by the suppliers and manufacturers that plastic bags are not as great a component of litter as discarded cigarette butts or was it Meacher's misfortune to stray into someone else's territory? Paxman seems to

think that both apply, particularly the second. He suggests that eventually a memorial built with discarded plastic bags might be in order for the person who scuppered Meacher's plan.

Having said that, all our litter, beer cans, bottles, cartons, paper, plastic bags is a disgrace, possibly less so in Popley than many parts of Britain today but there is no place for complacency. Popley is only marginally better in some respects than it was at one time. While the majority of us keep our own property reasonably clean and tidy we seem to be blind to anything just over the fence. I do not hold with the excuse that somehow 'The Council' is at fault. If people resisted the urge to pollute their surroundings there would be no need to blame anyone - least of all the council. On a personal level, my wife gives me hell if I occasionally bring a free plastic bag home - we have a cupboard

and car boot full of charity shopping bags so I have no real excuse. We may be cheapskates but if we pay for our bags we don't dispose of them. We simply occasionally have to add to them when we forget to take our stocks with us when we go shopping. Any free bags are disposed of properly. We are probably crazy - but at least we aren't plastic polluters.

Also on a personal level, I spent the early part of my life in a poor Third World country where poverty and ignorance walk hand in hand with dirt and rubbish. I have also spent time in developed countries such as France, Ireland and Australia where cleanliness of streets and open spaces is the norm. Surely extreme poverty is not our problem, so what is?

Perhaps the Old Codger can throw some light on the subject?

Do we as a community and as a nation care enough to question our headlong rush to rubbish-tip-of-the-world status? Do we, as Paxman suggests, see squalor and act squalid or perhaps when we see clean and tidy we act clean and tidy?

Should we perhaps be asking for a zero tolerance policy on the discarding of rubbish in public places with community service (picking up litter or scraping up chewing gum) as a punishment? Should we name and shame occupants of houses where even the basic rule of not fouling one's nest is disregarded? There are a number of rubbish strewn gardens to be seen by any passers-by even in Popley.

Should we be Ranging the areas near our homes picking up litter on an organized basis? Should we be asking help and advice on ways and means of dealing with this problem?

Or should we just close our eyes, forget that we are civilized humans - and get satisfaction in finding fault with things beyond our control?

Surely it is not too much to ask that at the very least we set an example by ensuring that our bit of turf and a reasonable distance beyond our border is kept clean and tidy and also teach our children to do the same.

"Soapbox" Evesham Walk

