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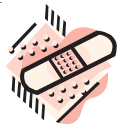
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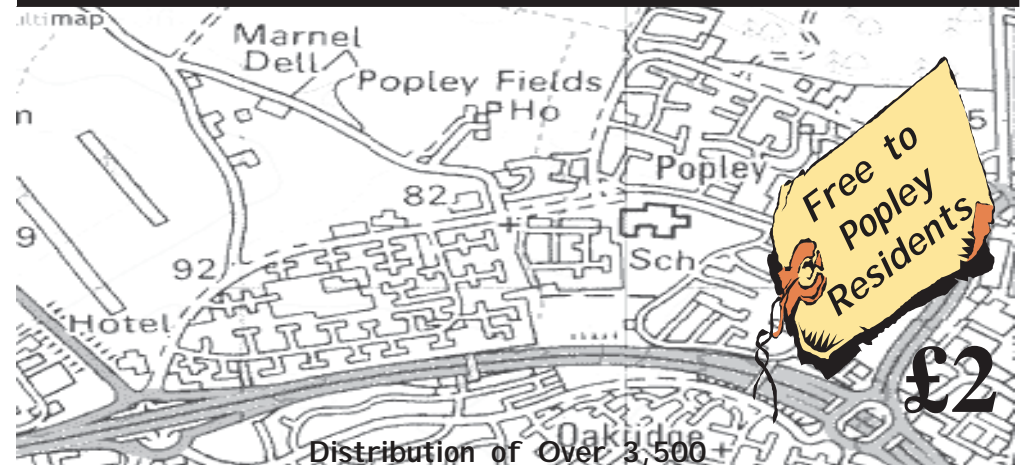
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

May 2007

Issue 63



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

## Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Police Update	Page 13
Silver Surfers	Page 1	Popley Crew Week News	Page 14/15
Sentinel Update	Page 1	Diaries from The Old Codger	Page 16/17
Blinks Legendry Free Party	Page 1	What's on in Bermuda Hall	Page 19
Merton Poppits Playgroup	Page 3	Melrose Hall Report	Page 22
Speakeasy Advocacy	Page 4	Guiding in Popley	Page 22
Popley Conservation Volunteers	Page 6	Caravan/Camping Safety	Page 23
MFC Popley News	Page 7	Soapbox	Page 24
PCSO News	Page 8	Basingstoke Air Scouts News	Page 26
Popley Festival Information	Page 9	Letters to the Editor	Page 27/28
Popley Fields Events	Page 11	Shopmobility 'Ladies Day'	Page 28
Festival News	Page 12		

[www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk)

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-05-07)

**Message From the Editor:-**It has been a sad time for our family since the last edition with the passing away of the head of our family, my dear Father. It is ten years this month that the revival of Popley Matters took place and I have written about my family in some of them and I had some lovely letters back. Dad had a copy sent to him in Lincolnshire every month, and my brother Martin would read it out to him, as Dad was totally blind. At the funeral with the British Legion in full uniform and proudly bearing the flag, it made me think about all the sacrifices made by the older generation for our freedom of today, and how we should treasure every moment.

The Matters is packed with articles and information and we all hope you enjoy reading them. CREW week report is on pages 14 and 16, Police on page 13, and the PCSO's report on page 8. The Fire and Rescue service have some useful tips and safety advice on holidays when camping and caravanning on page 23. There is the report from the Scouts on page 26 and an appeal for Guides on page 22. There is a lot from the different agencies about their part in Popley's CREW week and I hope that they learn from previous CREW weeks, and that it is ongoing and the work continues.

There are quite a few events too to visit in the next month: Ladies Day for Shopmobility on page 28 and of course Popley Festival at its new location at Popley Fields Community Centre and grounds. There will be the usual big car boot sale and charity stalls, fire engines, fairground rides, live music, beer tent, refreshment stalls and archery to name just some of the many things that will be there. Let's hope we have the beautiful sunshine to make this as successful as Popley Festival has been in the past. The day starts at 11am till 4pm. If you do go too early, the organisers have asked me to say that you will be asked to come back at the proper time. This is to avoid any traffic holdups and inconvenience to the residents that live nearby. Read about it on page 9.

Is there a volunteer out there with Treasurer skills? Iris is doing a grand job on a temporary basis but we would like to see a willing volunteer step forward please.

**Hits on [www.popley.matters.org.uk](http://www.popley.matters.org.uk) website for month of April: 1383**

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](mailto: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;

**Distribution Team:** Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Irene O' Brien; Iris King; Colin Karlake; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Judy O Connell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes

**Youth Volunteers;** Martin Stacey;

**More Volunteers Welcome**

<b>Advertising Index</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Response	Page 2
Your Local Decorator	Page 2
Your Country Florist	Page 2
Curl Cut Colour	Page 3
Paul and Lee Plumbing	Page 3
Youngs Chinese & Fish Bar	Page 5
Computer Services	Page 5
Accountant for small business	Page 5
1st Choice Plumbing and Heating	Page 10
Spades at Dawn	Page 10
Business Link	Page 10
Melrose Christian Fellowship	Page 18
The Vyne News	Page 20
Alpha Course	Page 20
Ovenclean	Page 21
Computer problems	Page 21
Window Cleaning Service	Page 21
Kylies Whippersnappers	Page 21
Church of God	Page 25
Remortgage Now	Page 25
Corner stones	Inside Back Page
Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
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## Letters to The Editor



irresponsible owners who let their children drop crisp packets and plastic bottles everywhere, who themselves drop cigarette ends from their bedroom windows, leave cigarette packets lying around and also leave empty bottles and cans lying around (for dogs and children to injure themselves on). The same irresponsible people who left general rubbish at the back of a group of houses last night (4th April).

I know it is not all parents who are irresponsible, the same way that it is not all dog owners who are irresponsible.

As a dog owner myself, fouling on the walkways and grass irritates me. So please don't generalise.

Lynne Moore

*Editor's reply; I would say that 9 out of the 10 letters that come in about dog fouling*

*are from responsible dog owners who are annoyed at the thoughtless act done by the few. As for rubbish most of it is due to it being thrown down rather than putting it into rubbish bins. We have asked for more bins to be provided around the Popleys.*

*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](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)  
or phone 819924**



## Silver Surfers

Magnolia Court will be holding a Silver Surfers afternoon on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May between 2pm-4pm. Anne Wharton from Basingstoke and Deane will be attending. She is providing 6 lap tops for people to try and gain a new skill or brush up on the skills they have already. All retired citizens in Popley are welcome.

## Sentinel

### Update on Faroe Close & Maldive Road

As part of our regeneration feasibility work on Faroe Close and Maldive Road, Sentinel Housing Association will be carrying out some limited ground investigation works over the coming month.

Ground samples will be taken during day one by a small bore sampling machine.

For more information please contact Sentinel's Regeneration Project Manager Susan Woodward on 01252 788741.

### BLINKS LEGENDRY FREE PARTY NIGHT IS BACK.

Dance Decades 07 is back. This fantastic free party night is the party night that Basingstoke has come to love. Dance Decades 2007 will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June from 8pm to late.

This great party night is being held at The Hampshire Centre Court hotel, Basingstoke.

Join BLINK and their ultimate dance band BAD TOAD, perfectly fused together with DJs playing the dance floor fillers from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and today.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Response

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## Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I have real concerns regarding the new roundabout on Carpenters Down. It is an accident just waiting to happen. If you cross from Guernsey Close at the provided point, you cannot see round the long bend towards Chineham. I am middle aged (just) but have had to sprint across the road to avoid being flattened by drivers who don't consider pedestrians who are crossing at that point. It's particularly bad at rush hour, when used as a cut through. How are the less able members of the community meant to cross at such a blind junction?

*Editor's reply; This is clearly a case for the agencies to work together to make it much safer at this busy roundabout.*

Dear Editor, In the April edition of Popley Matters Soapbox of Evesham Walk had me solidly on his/her side with the article concerning the litter problem, until the suggestion to name-and-shame those whose rubbish-strewn gardens are visible to the public.

One of those gardens is mine, and I can assure Soapbox that not only am I not responsible for depositing the rubbish, but a knee disability prevents me from climbing over the low wall to clear it away. The path is higher than the level of the small garden, and if I climbed in I could never climb out again!

Years ago I planted bushes to block off the open end to stop young children from walking in and urinating behind the cover of the wall, but these also bar my entry. My daughter has, in the past, cleared it for me when visiting from London. However, in recent months she has been unable to come as her firm, a corporate travel group, promoted her and required her to create and run a completely new department. This has involved a period of extremely long hours, six days a week, and as her own house is up for sale, her Sundays

are now spent redecorating and putting it in order.

Name and shame me, Soapbox? Why not! After all, how much worse can you make my situation? I live on a corner used as a gathering-place for teens, pre-teens, pre-schoolers, and at night those returning from pubs and clubs. All choose to sit on my wall and drop their litter into my garden, including sweet wrappings, crisp and snack bags, bottles, cans, containers for chips and kebabs, various McDonald's items, you name it. I also get plastic sheeting, carrier bags and, various odds and ends of wood and plastic.

When this was a council house, I asked permission to have the wall demolished and replaced by a sturdy fence with pointed pickets to deter sitting. I did not even receive the courtesy of a reply.

I made the same request of Sentinel Housing last year, with the same result. If Soapbox thinks my garden is unsightly, he/she should try living with it! No fun, I assure you.

Popley Resident. Ascension Close, .

*Editor's reply: I too am an end of terrace house and recently took down our old fence and overgrown shrubs as we are not getting any younger and wanted to have a garden as maintenance free as possible. The joy of letting the light in and just some grass to cut was soon gone with people cutting across the lawn, the cat scarers being uprooted and thrown around the corner onto the path, one broken beyond repair. The very few plants we had in a planter uprooted and a broken glass left stuck in the soil. . Rubbish just seems to gather there. We will be putting a fence back up as soon as we can afford it.*

Dear Editor I am writing in response to the letter in last month's Popley Matters about dog fouling, and the child's drawing.

Can I just say that it is not the dogs' fault. It is the irresponsible owners. The same

## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734



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



Boys and girls aged 8-10½  
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Elaine Devenport 323453



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



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Leader Mrs Jan Allen, Deputy Miss Deb Thane

Tel: 01256 351036

We have had exciting and enjoyable term learning about 'Nature'. The children all planted sunflower seeds and were able to take them home to care for them and watch them grow. They have also been looking at various insects and observed how frog spawn turned into tadpoles over a period of weeks.

The fashion show we held at the end of March was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the show and the models were superb! The clothes weren't bad either!!! The children enjoyed two dressing up days, the first to raise money for new toys and equipment at the playgroup and the second to raise money for comic relief.

On the 9th June 2007 we are holding a Summer Fete at Melrose Hall from 2pm to 4pm. There will be a bouncy castle for the children, face painting, and lots of other stalls and entertainment for all to enjoy!

In our raffle, to be drawn at the fete, there will be many great prizes including tickets to Paultons Park and Birdworld.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome, hope to see you there!

From all at Merton Poppits Playgroup

The Beavers had a super day at the District Easter Fun Day in Popley Fields Community Centre. They especially enjoyed the large cake and all the fun and games with an Easter taste! Now they look forward to District Sleepover weekend in June and to the other exciting ideas planned by their leaders for the coming weeks. The colony has recently sponsored a puppy called Emma from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and will receive regular updates on her progress whilst in training.

The Group took part the Centenary of Scouting St. George's Day Parade through the town centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and joined in the open-air service in the War Memorial Park to commemorate the life of the founder, Lord Robert Baden Powell and offer thanks for the work of Scouting today. Over 1200 young people and leaders from across the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane attended together with the Mayor, Cllr Tony Jones and the Lady Mayoress who exceptionally agreed to don their official regalia for the occasion. The parade was led by an armoured and mounted 'St. George' which attracted much attention. Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums accompanied the parade and Tadley Concert Brass played during the Service.

The next local Centenary event is an Activity Day at Oakley in July when members will have the opportunity to try out a range of new pursuits and interests. A Scout Band from the New Forest will attend.

The Group planted a silver birch tree outside the Headquarters to commemorate Scouting's Centenary Year and buried a 'time capsule' beneath with mementos from 2007. Static displays promoting Scouting will appear in local libraries in May whilst Milestones and the Willis Museum plan to stage historical displays commemorating Scouting's achievements since its formation in 1907 later in the year.

The Group continues its involvement with Community Boot Sales under the management of Popley Fields Community Centre and will take part in Popley Festival. Members took part in a sponsored litter pick recently to raise funds for Centenary camps and events.

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. The Cub section desperately requires more adult leaders/helpers who do not necessarily need to wear uniform and is also looking to find a Group Chairman and Group Secretary to help with administrative issues such as finance and insurance. For more information contact Group Scout Leaders Jerry English on 01256 316104 or Mike Mullender on 01256 321596

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# Speakeasy Advocacy

We currently have 40 active volunteers, ranging from students, people in full/part time work (van drivers to writers) to the retired. Our volunteers help in a variety of ways:

- **1:1 advocates** – meeting with someone with a learning disability, autism and/or Aspergers syndrome once every 2 or 3 weeks to build a relationship with them so they are able to support them to live the life they want.
- **Group Volunteers** – supporting one of our self advocacy groups to develop their skills and find out about the local community.
- **Saturday Coffee Morning** – support our members to run their own monthly coffee morning.

Our volunteers make a real difference to peoples lives. They are often the only person in the life of someone with a learning disability who is there for them and not because they are paid to be involved. All we look for is a common sense approach and we train and support our volunteers. We hold volunteer events twice a year to give everyone the opportunity to meet up, talk about their experiences and be updated on local initiatives and legislation.

If you are interested in volunteering you can call us on Tel: 01256 332795 or Email: [speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com](mailto:speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com).

You are warmly invited to  
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Basingstoke  
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## POPLEY,POPLEY,POPLEY AND POPLEY

These days, I seem to channel what little energy I have into thinking. Increasingly it is about the 'what ifs' in things that affect me and those around me. What if, for instance, Basingstoke's planners (borough or county) had years ago given some thought to names in relation to the area that would be home to so many of us. How many times in the years since I arrived here have I had to explain to friends and family that why Popley 5 is so named is actually a mystery to me? The only likely reason I can think of is that someone considered it simpler to have one name for this huge area and add a number for each segment - hence number 5 next to number 4. The fact that just on the other side of Popley 5 is number 1 just adds to my difficulty in rationalizing it all. The whole point I am getting at is this - why didn't someone in authority, when the whole project was completed not think of individually naming each segment? I imagine the furore if for instance Kempshot had been saddled with the name Buckskin 2? I know that is quite ridiculous but the devil in me chortles at the thought.

Some years ago (can't remember how many) there was, if my memory serves me correctly, a suggestion from somewhere that each segment of Popley be given a name that retained the 'Popley' but added an additional short name - for example something like Popley Poets or Popley Islands. I am not suggesting those names nor do I remember what names were put forward and I believe it would need input from many interested residents to come up with names with which we could all live comfortably. That is of course assuming that there are others in Popley who think that we should have a change. Another reason why I personally feel a rethink is due is that all the new developments in this area are, by a stroke of the pen, disassociated from Popley - just new houses whose residents will live cheek by jowl with us Popley-ites, but somehow separated from us. Am I crazy and if not, what can we do about it?

Soapbox  
Evesham Walk



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# Missing The Point

Popley Conservation Volunteers



Top right: Burnt litter at the base of a dying Oak being burnt to death Top Left: More burnt litter  
Bottom: This time the burnt litter has been dumped onto Popley Pond  
All photos at Popley Pond Local Nature Reserve

## CREW

Crime Reduction & Environment Week. This event, held in Popley a few weeks ago, was surely welcomed and a good way to raise awareness and hopefully change attitudes.

Although I was unable to go to the event I imagine many leaflets were handed out and advice given.

What happened to those leaflets?

Presumably they were taken away and read. If they were read, it seems that they may not have produced the desired effect with some. A fair proportion of the leaflets found their way into our Local Nature Reserve, Popley Ponds. Whoever did this were not content with mindless littering (this is normal in the reserve) but actually tried to set light to the reserve by setting light to the pamphlets! It does not take much thought to come to the conclusion that this probably goes beyond antisocial behaviour and is breaking the law.

The reason the ponds were given Local Nature Reserve status last year was because they are a habitat of a species which is given the top degree of protection in Britain and Europe. To damage this habitat in any way is strictly against the law. Indeed Popley Conservation Volunteers need to agree and report to Natural England on a regular basis about any disturbance caused by their activities.

So it goes without saying that deliberately lighting fires

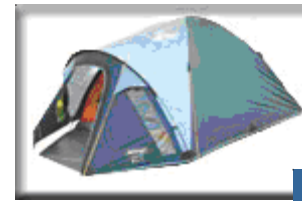
and damaging the habitat is unlawful. To do this with the very leaflets which have been handed out to advise on how to reduce crime and improve the environment is ----- words fail me.

The half-wits who carried out these activities have completely missed the point of CREW.

If you would like to know more about Popley Conservation Volunteers contact our secretary, Lee Roth  
lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk or 01256 330738



Making Hampshire Safer



## Caravan/Camping Safety.

Whilst you are on holiday it is easy to forget the importance of safety while you are having a good time, but a few simple precautions could save your life. When you arrive at the camp site make sure you take appropriate fire safety precautions:

- Find out what the fire-fighting arrangements are on the campsite and where the nearest phone is.
- Keep a torch handy for emergencies.
- Don't use naked flames i.e. lit candles or matches (especially in/near a tent).
- Fit a smoke detector in your caravan.
- Keep caravans/tents at least 6 metres apart.

Always treat LPG gas cylinders with care :

- Change cylinders in open air and tighten (but don't over tighten) connectors.
- Ensure the appliance and cylinders are turned off before changing the cylinder.
- If you think there might be a gas leak in the cylinder connection or pipes extinguish all naked flames.
- Always ensure the LPG regulator is compatible with your appliances.
- Ensure all appliances are turned off when not in use.

In the event of fire :

- Get everyone to safety.
- Turn off gas cylinders if it is safe to do so.
- Raise the alarm and call the Fire Service on 999.
- Get out, call the Fire Service out, stay out.

*Useful contact points and further information:*

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)





It's all go here at Melrose Community Hall as we prepare for our Fun Day to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the hall. Please come and celebrate with us on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 12 noon - 10.00pm. We will have: BBQ, free Bouncy Castle, Fire Engine, Tombola, Refreshments, Street Dancing, Exhibitions by our resident groups, Disco, Bingo, And Much More!

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
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Tues:		4.00pm - 7.30pm Petite School of Dance.	
Weds:	9.30-11.30 Popley Little People, Parent + Toddler Group 9.45-11.30 Quit Smoking Clinic	12.00-2.00pm Oasis Lunch Club	
Thurs:	9.30-12.00 Friendly Café		6.30-8.30 Weight Watchers MCF Youth Club
Fri:	10.00-3.00 Together (Friday Club)		6.30-7.45 5-10y 8.00 - 9.15 11+
Sat:	9.00-12.30 Petite School of Dance		
Sun:	10am Melrose Christian Fellowship.		6.30-8.00 Melrose Christian Fellowship

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, Conferences and all your private hire needs. We take bookings for both occasional and regular events. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information.

## Guiding in Popley

Having been involved with Guiding in Popley for some 20 + years (too many years to remember), we find ourselves in quite a strange situation. For the first time in this period the numbers of girls we have within our four units are diminishing.

Do you know any 5-14 year olds that would enjoy being involved in making different crafts, starring in a play, working towards badges (whether on their own or in groups) assisting younger girls by giving them help and support, learning skills such as tying different types of knots, cooking outdoors on open fires and camping? If so we are looking for additional girls to be involved with all the fun things we get up to in Popley.

If you want to find out more call our District Commissioner Sue Saunders on 07778 301948 or pop into Base 2000 Monday, Wednesday or Thursday to find out more.



Well, the first season has nearly come to an end with an impressive year from all of our teams. We have had some ups and downs along the way, but mainly ups.

The U7s have had a great season. There are quite a few players who are playing a year above themselves. Kevin is doing a great job with them, even though he's still having trouble putting the goals up. It's like watching "Krypton Factor".

The U8s have had an absolutely brilliant season with the Whirlwinds having a slow start, but picking up a quarter of the way in, beating Overton, Thatcham and the best result, a draw against Winklebury Wizards. The Tornados have been outstanding. Their control, passing, teamwork, 110% effort and the ability to keep their heads up and get back into games still believing they can win, and that's all I can ask of them.

Jacob Austen has scored 50 goals this year and Finley Judd has scored 49, so far. Well done to both boys.

The U9s, personally I think the Renegades have done Popley and M.F.C Popley proud. From getting hammered every week, and I mean hammered, they have turned it around to get to a point where other team managers are actually praising the team and cannot believe that it's the same team they had played previously at the beginning of the season.

Well Done Callum, Jack, Stanley, George, Connor, Billy and Danny (Manager).

Not taking anything away from the Hurricanes, due to players not turning up week in week out for training, Chris has trouble playing the same team and cannot concentrate on specifics in training sessions. Obviously one or two training sessions will be missed due to holidays, but I heard last week about a player who couldn't play because his Dad was doing a Car Boot. What a joke!. As long as you ring Danny, Kev or myself and arrange for them to be either dropped off or picked up on the rare occasion you cannot make it, for whatever reason, the kids don't miss out.

Lee Mob: 07811167791 EMAIL: [mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk) (that's hotmail, not hotmale)  
Kevin Mob: 07951228754  
Danny Mob: 07765341679



Hello all,  
I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we have been blessed with. I know we certainly have on our bikes.

I am now in my 5<sup>th</sup> month here at Popley and I am enjoying it very much. The residents are really nice and Popley itself is such a great place to work. This last month has passed very quickly. Your Popley BOs and PCSOs were all involved in a 2 day Seminar regarding Neighbourhood policing which is great news for the residents of Popley as now we have all got ideas and prospects in order.

Last month we were dealing heavily with rowdy and inconsiderate nuisance youths. This could be anything from underage drinking to groups gathering outside the shops. Remember that if you see anything like this the best way to help us crack down on this matter is to report it.

Marnel school was a particular hotspot for these occurrences with graffiti, vandalism and underage drinking. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you, or for you to remind your children that no-one is allowed on the school premises after school hours or during holidays and weekends.

PC CARTER, PC THORNE, PCSO SMITH and I have been patrolling this area vigorously over the holiday period and have been quite successful in removing the youths. If you are caught on school grounds you will automatically be given a yellow C12 slip which will have different outcomes, depending on the circumstances. Please do not let anyone you know go on any of the school premises through Popley.

I would also like to remind you that during this hot weather when you leave your homes please make sure all windows are securely shut.

Thanks and I will see you out and about

PCSO Phil Rapley 13284

## DIRTY OVEN?

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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

## KYLIE'S WHIPPER SNAPPERS Quality Childcare

We are 3 childminders working together

Open 24 hours and all shifts welcome  
Loving home environment for your children to play and learn and good old fashioned fun.

Children have their own playroom, lounge and dining room. 13 years experience, all food provided is nutritious and home cooked, special diets welcome. Pick up from most local schools and use Treasure Island Playgroup.

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



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 Sale - 6<sup>th</sup> May 11.00 - 2.00pm (sellers from 10am, £5) and then 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

The Vyne School Family Day - Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30-2.30pm - a choice of 9 FREE workshops for you to join in with your family - NAIL ART, SALSACISE, DRAMA and lots more

## CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY 2nd JUNE - 11.00-4.00

Come along with your family - cards and paper crafts, jewellery, ties and lots more!!  
IDEAL FOR FATHERS DAY PRESENTS - PLAY ROOM FOR CHILDREN - REFRESHMENTS



Assisted by  
Basingstoke  
and Deane

For more information please contact the Community Office.  
Tel: 01256 407037 Email: [community@vyne.hants.sch.uk](mailto: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!

# popley festival

NEW VENUE

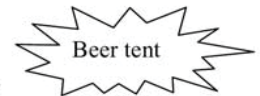
NEW VENUE

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



Live Music

Sunday  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2007



Beer tent

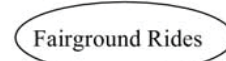
11.00am - 4.00pm



Car Boot Sale



Raffles



Fairground Rides



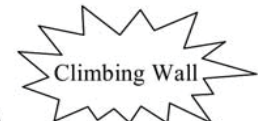
Tombolas



Hot Food



Charity Stalls



Climbing Wall



Fire Engines



Archery

And lots more for a great family day out!

For more information call: 01256 414494  
or email: [popleyfields@hotmail.com](mailto:popleyfields@hotmail.com)



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

Find the answers to your questions by attending one of our FREE local Start Up awareness events in April and May 2007

**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

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

# From Orphan to Princess...

My name is Rue. I'm 18 and a student at QMC. I enjoy my time there!

I was born in Zimbabwe, but in 2002, when I was 14, I moved to England with my younger brother to be with our mother who was a nurse already working here. My dad died when I was 10. I lost my grandparents between 1989 and 2000 including other close relatives. It was a 'funeral packed life for me... I just couldn't be happy because I thought to myself "*Oh my gosh, who's gonna die next*". Then my mum died of cancer in 2003, 4 months after we arrived in England.

I thought to myself, "*If there's a God out there, why isn't He stopping all this horrible stuff?*" I really didn't like God and blamed Him for everything. It made me go nuts because I was so bitter with bottled up anger.

Before my mum died, we went to Melrose Christian Fellowship. I begged God to make her better but the longest day in my life was when my brother and I were sitting around her death bed. It was very hard to see her groaning in pain, knowing that it would be the last time we would see mum alive.

After her death, things were so difficult, and I thought that was the end of my life... "*I'm just an orphan now....*"

One day, I called out to God and just cried. I gave my life to Jesus. Later on, God told me how special I was, how much He loves me and wanted to wipe away every tear. He also told me what my life is gonna be like! He said "*I've got great plans for your life, plans to make you prosper, not to harm you, but to give you a hope and a future!*" He took away all the hurt and pain I had and now I'm not even bitter or angry about the horrible experiences I've had. I also came to know that things that went on in my life were not His fault because He wants the best for me, and He loves me! I'm really excited because I know Jesus is with me wherever I go, and He's promised NEVER to leave me; and His love never fails. I'm moving forward!

His love is so amazing, and He wants to know YOU and be your friend. If you trust Him, He will take away your hurt, pain, past horrible experiences and any unforgiveness you may have. To this day, I'm still talking to God, and trust me, He's for real. This Christian thing is well cool! I've gone from being an orphan to a daughter of a King and that makes me a "princess"!

*"...all who accept Jesus and become His followers have the right to call themselves and actually become sons and daughters of God" John 1: 12 (paraphrased)*

\*\*\*\*\*

**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. For further information contact Pastor Philip Keeble on 428795

**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 Hall4All. Infant/Junior school age 6.30-7.45pm. Secondary School age (Melrose Only) 8-915pm

**POPLEY FESTIVAL SUNDAY 20 MAY POPLEY FIELDS 11am – 4pm**

**See us and other participating churches there**

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Lots have been happening here as always and there is never a dull moment!

**POPZONE:** Tracy Rogers has recently left so we would like to thank her for all her hard work over the past couple of years and wish her all the best. Fortunately for us Tracey Judge has willingly stepped into her role as Youth Worker so there has been a seamless transition and we have been able to keep the club open.

We hope the kids enjoyed the activities during the CREW week and we are working on an exciting programme for this summer! Some very kind parents have offered to help out on a rota for Popzone but we really need a few more to come forward to help it run regularly and to help us offer the best range of activities for the kids!

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS:** We are currently looking into running a summer scheme for 4 weeks in August for 5 to 13 year olds. Look out for a survey coming round, or register your interest with us now if you are looking for summer holiday care.

**GARDEN:** Anyone interested in learning about growing vegetables and helping in our community garden, please let us know.

**CAR BOOT SALE:** These are going well and we have been on the field for a couple of weeks. We hope you all like the new venue and please spread the word so we can make it the best sale in the area, with profits going to the organising charities and helping other organisations. But we could do with some more help on the mornings so let me know if you can spare a couple of hours on some Sunday mornings!

**POPLEY FESTIVAL:** This promises to be a great day out so look out for our advert and more information as it comes out. If you are over 12 and are willing to give up a few hours to help on the day, we need to hear from you now so we can plan how to use our helpers. If you can't help, please come and support us on the day by having fun and spending your money, thereby helping lots of local charities and organisations.

**RETURN TO NETBALL:** Did you used to play netball?

Basingstoke & DEANE Borough Council along with Sport Hampshire & IOW are planning to run a 'Return to Netball' programme at Popley Fields.

This subsidised 10 week programme is a great way to have fun, get fit and make new friends and you don't even have to know the game!

If you are interested please contact Susan Parker at Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council: 01256 845685 or susan.parker@basingstoke.gov.uk.

# popley festival

This year's festival has changed location. If you weren't aware already, it will be at Popley Fields Community Centre. This is because there is more space available here than at the present school site and we expect the day to be as successful as the event has been in the past.

If you are reading this and want to have a stall, we may still have space available, so please contact the Community Centre for more information.

We intend to have two public car parks this year so traffic coming from the A33 will be directed in to the main car park on the main field along with all the boot sale sellers!

Vehicles coming from Popley Way via Carpenters Down will in the first instance, be parked in the fields opposite Falkland Road.

We have an action packed festival planned again this year making it the best day out of the year in Popley for all the family.

Events start at 11am and finish at 4pm so we hope to see you there! Car Booters will only be allowed access from 9.30am and not before, so please do not turn up early as you will be asked to come back later and it does not help traffic flow!

Because of the size of the event we are always in need of Stewards on the day to help it run smoothly, so if you feel you can spare a few hours on the day we would love to hear from you.

And we would love to hear what you think of the event (good or bad) and of any ways we could make it better for future years so please let us know after the event.

We have pre-booked the sun this year as someone forgot to do it last year! Hope to see you all there to make it the best festival ever!

weeded, edging cut back, and in the winter months get blowers to push leaves on to the roads as sweepers come along and clean them up. At the moment as soon as they sweep your road' leaves are back on it and on the paths making it dangerous for the elderly to walk on.

Well it is May and the birds are well on the way nest building, if they can find some place to build. This is why I ask people to put up nest boxes in gardens with different hole sizes in the front of them to take house sparrows, blue and great tits. A nice thick bush will give a blackbird nest sites. We could do so much to help. This draws me on to the subject of trees and shrubs we have so much going on in the Popleys at the moment with new houses going up when it comes to replanting, I feel the council need to keep involved with what is to be done, and not let builders put in twigs as they give no protection to birds. Shrubbing areas should be made so the small birds like greenfinches and goldfinches can nest safely. Do not put in small ornamental shrubs, we need mature shrubs and trees and hedgerows replaced after work is finished. Hedgerows take years to grow and all sorts of wildlife depend on them. The list is too long to write about, the next time you are out walking just take your time and look at them closely. On the Popley Matters website we talked about food that we loved in times gone by, I can remember certain things. One thing Dad fried up for us stands out, it was a favourite in the East End, because it did not matter if bread was stale. He would get two slices of bread, butter them add home made jam, put the two together and batter them, then deep fry them. We loved every bit of it, and it was a way to fill the belly cheap. If one of us was ill my granddad made up some kind of egg custard. I don't know what he put in it all I can remember it tasted yuk, but by the next day your fever was broken. It could be that you got better just in case he came in with another batch of the stuff. Another thing my Gran would stick down our throats each day was a spoon of black treacle. This stuff was extra strength. My Aunt May worked for Tate and Lyle in Silvertown. What about the good old pigs trotters and pigs head? Good cheap food at the time. Another cheap food was mutton. Now look what they charge for it, all because it has come back into fashion.

One bunch of people I would like to mention is the Shop Mobility gan. They always give you a warm welcome when you go in, and they always try and give you the scooter you need to get around. If you go away on holiday you can hire one to take that fits in your car. I try to hide that fact from Her Indoors as I do like to see her get a good sweat up pushing me around, especially if it is hills that have to be negotiated. Till next month have a safe May and I hope to see many of you at the Popley Festival.

The Old Codger



## DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

In last month's Popley Matters I was asked a question by Soapbox. Soapbox said about how clean other countries are and on my travels I have to agree with him. One country I have been to a few times is Turkey, It looks so impoverished with the state of the place, however when children go to school they are the smartest children I have ever seen. Every school has the same uniform, so no one is left out. They are very polite, if you get on a bus they all want to give you their seats. However I do not agree with France I took Her Indoors many times over the water, (no, I could not lift her to throw her over the side). We did go to the markets, this is where you saw poverty, children with hardly any clothes on. You would think you were back in Dickens time. They were scavenging for scraps of food in between the (stalls, greens, spuds, etc.) as long as it was food. Yes, I know some of this is put on, and there are unscrupulous people running this as a business. They get the tourists to feel sorry for them and give them money. Going back to Turkey you could see children out collecting plastic of allsorts to recycle. They serve a mandatory two year term in the Army, but they do it at a time that suits them, as long as it is after 17 and before 25 years old. They can then complete their studies first. The discipline is strict but very fair. So you asked the questions about these things Soapbox and in my view is it has to start with family values. The parent is responsible for his or her child and the child is responsible for their mother and father. I can say with my own children and another person I know, (well I hope she will not mind me saying it, Julie), two different ways of life but one goal our children came first. If I felt they were not up to behaving themselves then a smack on the hand or bottom never hurt them. Yes, it hurt to do it but that is the way I was brought up and I am very proud of them. They in turn are very loving to us and their children and our extended family. If a parent throws paper on the street so will the child walking with them, because it's OK to do so because mum or dad does it. As for fly tipping that is a hard fought battle, but if they are caught the weight of the amount dumped should be the amount of months spent in prison i.e. 20 kg =20months If I were to dump Her Indoors I would never get out. I would be about 150 years old, bless her. When Soapbox said about houses, I have seen such a decline over the years on keeping property clean and neat on the outside. In the original rent book you had, it said the front gardens and back of your house should be kept cut and tidy. Now you can walk round and see broken down fences that have not been repaired and grass up to your armpits. I know these are small things but they are the sort of thing owners, landlords, and housing associations need to get on top of. Closing one's eyes to the fact that it will go away is not an option, and the county do their bit by keeping paths swept,



As you know, last Month in Popley the agencies pulled together to take part in a CREW week.

CREW stands for Crime Reduction and Environmental Week.

From the Beat Officers perspective we were involved in various operations to tackle issues within Popley. This was also the first time that I got to work with PCSO SMITH who is the new PCSO for Popley West. One of the operations we took part in was a DVLA Day. Police along with the DVLA identified problem vehicles within Popley and took appropriate action. Between PC THORNE and I we seized 11 cars within Popley over a two day period. This was mostly due to the vehicles being untaxed. The owner does have a right to get the car back, but at considerable cost, and invariably the tax dodger doesn't pay up and the car is turned into a steel "Rubic Cube."

The main CREW base was situated in the Popley Fields Community Centre in Popley and many stands displayed by various agencies including Police, Fire and Rescue, Accredited Community Safety Officers, Community Wardens, Sentinel Housing and others.

Activities were organised for the youth throughout the week and these included a climbing tower and urban street dancer workshops.

Prior to the CREW week agencies had conducted environmental visual audits. Then during the week the agencies tackled the issues highlighted within the visual audits. These included graffiti, juvenile nuisance, vehicle crime and fly tipping to name a few.

If anyone would like to know more about the CREW week and the impact it has within an area please get in touch. Tel: 0845 045 45 45. Regards PC 20686 CARTER, Popley West Beat Officer



PC CARTER with a seized car in Popley West.



The police stand in the Popley Fields community centre.



PC THORNE issuing a driver a summons to court for driving without valid insurance.

# Report on the Popley CREW – by PC Paul Green

I hope you noticed the difference that the Crime Reduction Environment Week made, which was held in Popley from 19 – 24 March 2007. I believe there were a lot of positives from the week and that they will benefit Popley in the short term and long term. I would like to thank all the people who took part in the Popley CREW, which includes staff and most importantly the people who live and work in the Popley area. A lot of resources were put in by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire County Council, Sentinel Housing Association, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services and other key agencies.

I would like to highlight some of the successes of the CREW week:

**Youth Activities** - The youth evenings that were held on the Monday and Friday were very well attended and the activities put on included a mobile climbing tower, basketball with Reading Rockets, a DJ workshop, streetdance, circus skills, a percussion workshop and a disco. It was good to see children and teenagers having a fun time. It was useful in that they managed to speak to some of the CREW staff, especially the uniformed officers. Leaflets and important information applicable for young people was available for them to take away.

**High Visibility Patrols** - There were a lot of positive comments about the high visibility patrols by the police, Community Wardens, Accredited Community Safety Officers and Police Community Support Officers. This provided extra reassurance and many people said that they felt safer and that it made a difference by reducing some of the low level crime and anti-social behaviour. What is good to point out is that I am still receiving comments from some residents that they continue to notice uniform patrols and that they appear to have less problems than they had before CREW.

**Environment** - There was a lot of work done on cleaning up the environment. Streets and pavements were cleaned, lots of rubbish and fly tipping was removed and dealt with. A good amount of graffiti was also removed, including the play area in Ascension Close, a bus shelter in Shakespeare Road and the removal of lots of tags in the Shakespeare Road and Melrose Walk area. Work on graffiti is ongoing and more will be cleaned up over the next few weeks. Graffiti is criminal damage and if you know who is responsible for some of it please report it to the police. Anyone caught fly tipping may be prosecuted and the fines can be extremely high! Please report any incidents of this to the Streetcare Department at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

**Enforcement** - On the enforcement side of CREW 9 vehicles were seized for no car tax and 2 for no insurance. Over 150 process forms were submitted including vulnerable vehicles, stop and account, stop and search, vehicle offences and fixed penalty notices. There were 6 arrests made, which included 3 for burglary, 1 assault and 2 warrants. The

Education Welfare Service organised a truancy sweep and 8 children were found truanting from school.

**CREW Base** - The CREW base was at Popley Fields Community Centre and a good variety of displays and surgeries were available to visitors and user groups. Complaints received at the base were followed up and dealt with by CREW staff. This included loud music and noise at night, criminal damage, parking problems, speeding, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, rowdy behaviour, football in no ball game areas, dog mess and youth problems. Survey forms were completed on the public perception of crime and anti-social behaviour. These are being looked at and the results of these will be published in due course. These are still available for Popley residents to complete and you can pick up a form from Popley Fields Community Centre or you can contact PC Paul Green. They are important because they will give a good insight into what local residents in Popley feel about the area.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - Popley currently has only 2 neighbourhood watch schemes, operating in Lawrence Close and Shakespeare Road. Neighbourhood Watch is a very useful voluntary organisation that aims to build stronger safer communities, working with the police and partner agencies to reduce crime and fear of crime. Neighbourhood Watch was promoted during CREW it is hoped that further schemes may be starting up in Falkland Road, Abbey Road and Fountains Close. If anyone would like to know more about Neighbourhood Watch including how to set up a scheme and what support it gets please contact PC Paul Green.

**Public Meeting** - The public meeting that was held at John Hunt Community School during CREW was well received and the people who attended were able to seek answers from the panel of experts about crime, anti-social behaviour and the environment.

**Schools** - Junior Schools, Primary Schools and John Hunt Community School received visits from the police about CREW and the issues that it looks to reduce and prevent. The Park Rangers from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council delivered an environment activity session and there was a tree planting at Chineham Park Primary School.

Although the Popley CREW has finished, work continues to make Popley an even better place. To achieve this it is important that we all work together and that you report any problems or issues of concern. In an emergency please phone 999. For non emergency incidents you can phone 101. If you wish to remain anonymous when you call you can also consider phoning Crimestoppers on: 0800 555 111

To contact PC Paul Green: 01256 – 845316 or paul.green@basingstoke.gov.uk