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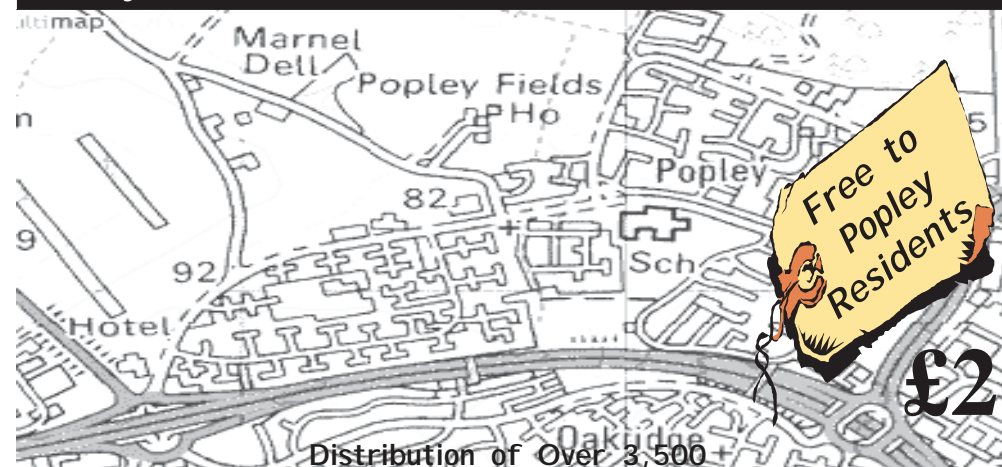
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

July 2007

Issue 65



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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

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

**Message From the Editor:-**What chaos with the traffic over the last few weeks. I looked out of my kitchen window and the traffic was queuing up as far down Abbey Road as I could see. By 8am I had already received three phone calls. Have a read on page 18 to get an explanation. The Popley Matters team and Councillors do try to keep you informed but I must admit some things happen so fast, and without warning. We had two major instances in the last days of June. The road works at one end of Popley were running late (by six weeks) and at the other end by the Aldermaston roundabout the electricity company was digging up the road to lay new cables. One day there was an accident involving a car and a motor bike and even more chaos reigned. Lets hope that it is sorted now!

I love reading about the history of Popley and enjoyed reading Puzzled Popley-ite on page 28. Though there are aspects of it I don't agree with. The new developments in our Popley ward are welcome and I well remember hearing and saying it will be like having new neighbours. I have always found that you're more likely to make and remain friends if you are welcoming. There are quite a few families that lived in good old Popley and are so happy to have their own homes and still be a part of the area where they grew up or lived in for many years before.

There is some sound advice once again from the fire service on page 23 as the summer holidays start in earnest. We have reprinted the article we did previously "What is anti social behaviour?" as we felt it might be a timely piece of advice at the beginning of the summer season.

We always welcome your articles and even though we may not share the opinions we try to reflect the communities' views and appreciate if you want to write back if your views are different. We can not accept anonymous ones but do respect your privacy if you ask us not to print your name or address. Write to Editor, Popley Matters, PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG or drop your articles in 405 Abbey Road or 55 Tintern Close, you also can email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk) Jane Frankum Editor

**Hits on [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) website for month of June: 1882**

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 Karslake, Simon Leadbetter; 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;** Joseph Duran, Matthew Stokes.;

**More Volunteers Welcome**

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In issue 63, Soapbox questioned the reasoning behind the numbering of different parts of Popley. These numbers were for the convenience of the building contractors' deliveries as many of the houses were part pre-fabricated and it was essential that the correct parts were delivered to the correct sites.

Incidentally, Abbey Road was designated Popley 4 but in 1969 the interiors were re-designed so the rest of Abbey was designated Popley 4B to ensure the revised fabrications were directed to the correct site.

During the 1960's the town was covered in yellow road signs directing deliveries to the various sites like Oakridge 6 , Winklebury 3. Buckskin 2 etc. Throughout the 70's and 80's people would say "I live ON Oakridge 3 or Popley 2" etc but thankfully that has now died out and they simply say "I live IN Popley or Winklebury" or whatever.

The numbering then bore more relevance to contractor of building than geography, hence the difficulty in following the pattern.

As for the idea of giving modern Popley different names for different areas, I don't care much for it. I see Popley as part of Basingstoke in it's own right. We don't have different names for segments of other areas so why in Popley? In London we have the borough of Southwark or Wandsworth say, which is just part of London. I think of Popley in this way. Popley is just the name for our part of Basingstoke. We are all Popley-ites, not Popley poets-ites or Popley Island-ites.

However a good point was brushed upon by the question of the new development. It is quite true, it is part of Popley, our Popley, and I truly believe it should be recognised as such. So why the fancy names? It is divisive, and does put a lot of people into Popley but not part of Popley! So how come ?

Well, a fancy name removes it from the stigma of an old council estate and by divorcing from Popley it will add £20,000 to the buying cost of each dwelling.!

Don't believe me? Check it out for yourself! Take a 3 bedroomed in say, Abbey Road, and compare it to a 3 bed terrace in Chineham. The Chineham house is smaller. has smaller rooms, often a smaller garden, often no garage, yet has a bigger price, constantly about £20000 above it's equivalent in Popley. Such is the power of private over council, and this despite the fact that the majority of homes in Popley are nowadays owner occupiers, thanks to the foresight of Mrs.Thatcher and her Conservative government

So with this development we had a wonderful opportunity to remove some of this stigma by incorporating the new into the old and calling the whole area Popley. We would no longer be the "estate of" but the "district of" Popley.

Our representatives implore us to be proud of Popley. Are they proud enough to ensure we become one large family or are they content to see us divided, in Popley but not part of Popley, in Popley but not called Popley?

Puzzled Popley-ite



Welcome from the Community Wardens  
Sarah and David

There is an ever increasing amount of work to do around Popley, especially with all of the development work currently taking

place around the area.

One of the areas the Community Wardens have been involved in is working with ecologist, Gogi Sandhu from Ecological Sustainability Ltd, and Alan Wilkinson of the Popley Conservation Volunteers to relocate the pond life from the current John Hunt of Everest School site moat to a new pond area which has been built on the site of the new school.

The project lasted three weeks, and we're pleased to tell you that 95% of the pond life, which included 403 smooth newts, 5159 frogs and tadpoles and many other types of pond life.

In addition to this Popley was the venue for a regional Community Warden Conference and Awards Ceremony. A total of 400 wardens from the South East attended to share best practice on how to run a warden service and to find ways of supporting the community further.

The event saw Community Wardens Stephen (North Team Senior Warden) and Nicky (Community Warden Scheme Manager) from Basingstoke and Deane give a talk on winning the Beacon award for preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour, and what it means for this borough.



As always, if you have anything you'd like to talk to Sarah or David about, please contact them on 01256 845508 or e-mail [communitywardens@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:communitywardens@basingstoke.gov.uk). Alternatively if you see Sarah or David out on patrol, feel free to stop to talk to them.



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## What you can do to help us

Please help us by reporting anti-social behaviour as follows:

### Crime and Disorder

- In an emergency always ring **999** where there is the likelihood of immediate injury, damage to property, fire or for crimes in progress.
- If you have information about a non-emergency crime, want to discuss problems with anti-social behaviour or to pass information to your local Beat Manager call **08450454545**.
- If you wish to report information about a crime anonymously then this can be done through Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

### Anti-social Behaviour

- Problems to do with noise nuisance, flytipping, graffiti and abandoned vehicles can be reported to the Council's Environmental Health Team on **01256 844844** – simply ask for the duty officer.
- For information, support or action on problems that you have identified or experienced to do with anti-social behaviour, call the Anti-social Behaviour Team on or **845245** who is available to work with you to resolve the problem. You can download information at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community). Information will be treated confidentiality and measures are in place that can ensure your identity is protected when reporting anti-social behaviour.
- Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs) also patrol Basingstoke and Deane and are available to respond to problems with low level anti-social behaviour. The ACSOs can be contacted on **0845 6001747**.

YOU CAN NOW REPORT PROBLEMS 24/7 TO THE NEW SINGLE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 101

Remember services can only tackle problems that are reported to them by the public. If you do not call then no record is kept of the extent of the problem

# What is anti-social behaviour?

The government says anti-social behaviour is 'acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause; harassment alarm or distress to people...'

Anti-social behaviour affects different people in different ways. For some people it means living next door to nuisance neighbours, for other people it is about graffiti, litter or abandoned cars on the street.

In Basingstoke and Deane we include other nuisance activities such as:

- Vandalism · Harassment including racial or homophobic harassment · Street drinking · Reckless or dangerous riding or motorbikes and scooters · Fly tipping · Noise nuisance · Abuse and intimidation

The Council works closely with a range of agencies to support local people tackle anti-social behaviour. Basingstoke and Deane will not tolerate anti-social behaviour.

## What we are doing about it?

**The Council and the Police, work with other agencies such as Housing Associations, and Community Safety Officers**

We are aware that local residents are concerned about some people's lack of respect for where they live and the people living around them.

We take your concerns seriously and can use a range of interventions and powers to resolve these problems with you to make Basingstoke and Deane a safer place to live.

The powers that can be used to deal with anti-social behaviour include:

- fixed penalty notices and on the spot fines · prosecution · seizure of equipment and vehicles · termination of tenancy agreements · issuing of Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) · Mediation · Closure Orders (Class A Drugs) · Dispersal Orders



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Play Group

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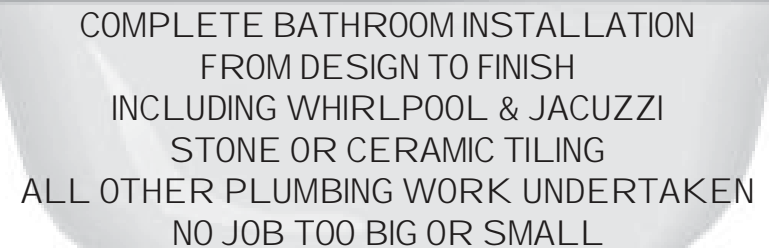
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**Councillors Page:** Paul and I went to the celebrations of 10 years of Melrose Hall. A great time was had with the bouncy castle, face painting, raffles tombolas, mocktails, café, tasty beef burgers and live entertainment into the night. Thank you to all who worked so hard.

I am still fighting along with others to keep the Hearing Impaired provision for our Basingstoke children in Basingstoke as I believe it is a much needed service and madness to move to Farnborough. Little children from 4 yrs old should not have to be taxied so far from home.

Traffic chaos at the Aldermaston Roundabout causing serious jams at peak times was largely due to the utilities, (electricity this time) doing some upgrading work. It was not helped with the scheme at the other end of Popley Way being 6 weeks behind. And just to rub salt in the wound Popley Way, Abbey Road and others were being used as rat runs. Jane Frankum County Council Basingstoke North ☎819924

**Popley West:** The white lines have been refreshed and new disabled parking put nearer to the Abbey Road shops. These disabled bays are used frequently as people need to use the pharmacy and Post Office. Please try to keep them clear for the disabled they will be subject to enforcement. 20 bins from 50 houses were removed by the council. I agree that bins should not be left on narrow paths as it does cause a hazard, but I also sympathize when residents have to go looking for their bins every Wednesday, known for some time now as "hunt the bin" day. Mini motorbikes are still a problem and we are working with the police to catch them.

The complaint about the grass cutting has been passed on to the Council.

If you have any information contact Paul Frankum ☎472496 or the police on 08450454545

**Page 4**

**Popley East.** There has been a delay of 6 weeks so far in finishing the road work's near MFI. But they should soon be finishing. The new sewer works are at least on target.

The rubbish around the shops in Carpenters Down has been getting a lot worse and we are calling on the shops to pick up their rubbish around their area, and for people using the area to drop their rubbish in the bins or take it home. Most people do but there are always a few that need reminding.

All four Councillors have spoken to the Parks and Leisure department as we have had lots of complaints about the poor quality of grass cutting and the speed of the motorized lawn mowers. We are also concerned that the weeds in the pathways do not seem to be getting removed in Popley. Mary Brian

☎322108

## You are warmly invited to Worship with us

Sunday morning 10.30 to 12.00 noon

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

For more information call: Graham or Barbara on (01256) 363692

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### Forthcoming Events

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and Deane

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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)



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# The Golden Club Issue 65

The closure of the old John Hunt of Everest School has meant a move for our Popley North Golden Club. The club has been in existence for 32 years, 30 of them being in the Community Wing of the school.

The club was formed in November 1973 when the then headmaster Mr. Rowe of Marnel School approached some of the senior citizens and he offered them a classroom that was empty on Thursday afternoons. Mr. Rowe organized that they all had a lovely cup of tea, which was greatly appreciated by all.

As the estates grew Mr. Rowe had to explain with great regret that the club would have to find other accommodation as he now needed the classroom for all the new children.

Fortunately John Hunt of Everest Community School had built a Community Wing and the club moved there in 1975. The club consisted of around 50 members (which was our full capacity).

The club's aim was to run a successful club so that its members could meet each week and have a pleasant two hours having their tea and enjoy themselves. The committee arranged outings to coastal resorts two or three times a year. All members receive a birthday card, Christmas card with funds permitting a little cash gift at Christmas. There is also a Christmas party and hot cross buns at Easter. A raffle, that some local businesses donate prizes to help pay for these.

My involvement with the club started in 1980 when I moved into Popley. I was soon voted on to the committee, and a little later became the secretary. Slowly numbers have dwindled over the years but we still have many stalwart and loyal members left. The club continues as a friendly social club keeping up the traditions of cards etc.

I will sadly be standing down when the club moves to St Gabriel's Church Hall, but I have so many happy memories.


I wish the Golden Club all the best for the future.

Alma Scott

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## Snakes Alive In Popley

Popley Conservation Volunteers



Grass Snake somewhere near Popley

Hi my name is Alan. I'm a member of Popley Conservation Volunteers. Our group is interested in all aspects of flora and fauna, not only in Popley but Basingstoke and indeed all of Hampshire.

It was while working with the group in 2006 in the Local Nature Reserve, the White Horse Pond in Tobago Close that I first came across some white, rather leathery egg shells in the reeds just on the edge of the waterline. I later confirmed my suspicions by identifying them to be those of a Grass Snake. A short while later on another task, myself and a few other group members found a dead snake by the side of the main pond. Exciting and intriguing as these two things were they were not proof that snakes were resident in the White Horse, what we needed was to see a live one.

That day came not too long later when myself and another member of our group were walking through the White Horse when we stumbled upon a small snake basking in the sunshine. She graced us with her presence for all of 5 seconds before slithering off into the undergrowth, but that was enough. That made our day and confirmed the Grass Snake as a resident species of the White Horse.

This year, in early May, I was lucky enough to photograph a Grass Snake in much the same place as our first sighting. This one though was keeping well out of the way, as it was about to shed its skin.

Then, just recently, while walking through Basing Woods (Carpenter's Down) doing a bit of photography I spotted not one, but two Grass Snakes in different parts of the woods. The first one was about 30 inches long and looked as if it had been around a few years, I managed to get some good photos, the second one was about 24 inches but was a lot quicker off the mark so I wasn't able to photograph that one, but was very pleased to see it none the less.

They really are beautiful creatures and I am glad to say that there seems to be a reasonably healthy population of Grass Snakes in Popley. If any reader has any sightings of snakes in Popley, or indeed anywhere in Basingstoke they might like to forward any information to us, as this would be very useful in helping us build a better picture of how big and widespread the population is. If you decide to go looking for these remarkable reptiles please treat them with respect and do not handle or harm them, they are easily alarmed and will emit a very foul smelling odour that is extremely hard to remove from clothes or skin, just observe and enjoy them.

If you have made any sightings please contact Alan; 01256 334062 or email our secretary. If you would like to know more about Popley Conservation Volunteers or join us in any of our work, contact our secretary, Lee Roth [lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk) or 01256 330738



Making Hampshire Safer



## Water Safety.

- ✓ **Spot the dangers:** Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. Learn to spot the dangers and keep away from them. Remember, you may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but cold water outdoors will drain your energy very quickly!
- ✓ **Do not risk tides,** if you do not know the times, ensure you are aware of tide times before you visit a location.
- ✓ **Always take extra care** around the water's edge, quarry faces and open mudflats.
- ✓ **Take safety advice:** Always follow the flags and notices that may warn you of danger (Red flags on the beach mean it is unsafe to enter the water).
- ✓ **Don't go alone:** Young children should **always** be accompanied by an adult, an adult can point out dangers or help if somebody gets into difficulty.
- ✓ **Always tell someone** where you are going and what time you expect to be back.

**Learn how to help:** You may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency - if you see someone in difficulty, tell someone or go to the nearest telephone and dial 999, ask for the Police at inland water sites (Lakes, ponds & quarries etc) and the Coastguard at the beach.

## Did you know?

- Drowning is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common cause of accidental death among under 16s.
- Young people are often victims of misjudgment of their swimming ability.
- A river or a lake may look a tempting means of cooling off in a hot spell, but cold water can have an effect on stamina and strength.

### **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)





Thank you to everyone who came to our Fun Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. Luckily the rain held off. The day was a great success and I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as we did. The Mayor was in attendance as was the Basingstoke Gazette. We had a bouncy castle and a fire engine, a fancy dress competition which was won by Daniel and Joshua dressed as strongmen and, the Community Wardens brought along their Mocktails bar. Elvio was busy making balloon models for everyone. The BBQ was a big hit. We had entertainment from Petite School of Dance and the Friday Youth Club. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped to make the day possible.

Our toddler group, Popley Little People had a great time on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June when we had a sing, clap and play session from Hurrah Hurrah. This group is held every week from 9.30 - 11.30am and anyone caring for under 5s are welcome to join.. It is just £1 per family. We are holding our AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 7.30pm Everyone is welcome.

From the beginning of July we will be starting a new Street Dancing Class on a Wednesday evening. Please ring Vicki in the office for further details or to register your interest.

Weekly programme of Events:

Monday:	9.30-12 Friendly Café.	7.30-10.30 Healing and Holistics.
Tuesday:	4.00 - 7.30 Petite School of Dance.	
Wednesday:	9.30-11.30 Popley Little People, Parent + Toddler.	12-2pm Oasis.
	9.45-11.30 Quit Smoking Clinic	
Thursday:	9.30-12 Friendly Café	6.30-8.30 Weight Watchers.
Friday:	10-3 Together.	6.30-7.45 5-10y 8.00-9.15 11+ Youth Club
Saturday:	9-12.30 Petite School of Dance.	
Sunday:	10am Melrose Christian Fellowship, 6.30-8.00 MCF.	

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.



# COMMUNITY BEING THE WORD

On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 we were supposed to be playing our tournament at Popley Fields **Community** Centre. Everything was arranged last year with a member of staff, who said that Popley Fields **Community** Centre would get it booked in with the council for the 15<sup>th</sup>, and even put it in their annual year planner, so there were no excuses. So it was an absolute shocker when we were told by Popley Fields **Community** Centre that the tournament can not go ahead due to staff being away on that weekend, **all of them!** Even though it has been in their planner for 9 months, plus it was such a success for Popley as a whole. As far as I'm concerned they're letting the kids down, **BIG TIME!**

But it was alright for me to put myself out when popleyfields **community** centre asked me to run a football tournament for the Popley festival. 6 weeks I was sorting that out and a £70 phone bill to go with it. Thanks for your help Popley Fields **Community** Centre. **WHEN IT SUITS!**

We have 2 options left, one option being that John Hunt School are going to ask the caretaker if he can open the grounds for the day, fingers crossed. or Ian Harris of the Council is going to try his best to find us a venue, close to Popley.

I have got high hopes for all our teams this up and coming season and will keep everybody informed to how well the U9's/ U10's and U11's get on with a monthly update of their results.

Lee Austen.

Any info contact lee on: 07811167791 or 01256332124



Hello Folks,

On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 Travellers moved into the green area behind the Apollo Hotel. The Travellers were removed from the site by 1600 hours that same day. The event was a well coordinated response to an ongoing issue. I am also aware that members of the public had been bitten by dogs on this site and the previous sites in Old Basing. To view the Blog I posted on The Popley

Traveller site and all Blogs relating to Popley please visit the Popley Matters website. To view the site, go to [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) then onto the message board. The site is an excellent way of keeping up to date with events and issues in Popley and I urge you all to join the site and have a voice on what matters to you in Popley. From the site you are also able to send private messages to members of the site including myself. On the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2007 I attended the Melrose Hall Community centre to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The event was well received and fun was had by all. I have photos of the event and other events in Popley, and if you would like to see these, then join the Popley Matters website and request them from me giving your email address! One issue that I raised on a Blog was called "Local Beat Officer". As you will see by the topic it is popular opinion that the Neighbourhood team for Popley be based in Popley. I am hoping that this will be the case in the near future especially since office space is getting smaller as more PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) join the team in Basingstoke.

I am also hoping to have access to Melrose Hall and this would enable me to hold beat surgeries. I was involved in the last two street surgeries which were well attended. Please give me some feedback as to whether you would be interested in or would like to attend a regular beat surgery. The surgeries will include update information from me and other agencies on what is happening in Popley and particular Popley West. It would also be a great opportunity for you to tell me what you think of Popley and what would you like to change etc. Anyway let me know on 0845 045 45 45. or members of [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) can contact me direct.

I know the weather is getting nicer but please be wary of leaving valuables in your cars and of leaving your property insecure, windows open etc.

If you are worried about your property and would like a home security check then let me know and we can arrange a visit.

Regards

PC 20686 CARTER  
Popley West Beat Officer.



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**Tel: 01256 410119/07971864304**

Dear Friends,

I was sitting in the pub with a mate of mine having a pint and our conversation went something like this:

“So when are you coming to church then?”

“Well” he says, “I believe in God an’ all that - but church? Nah, it’s not for me. Besides, you don’t have to go to church to be a Christian do you!”

“Fair comment” I say, “except ... have you ever seen a brick lying by the side of the road?” He looked at me with a puzzled expression on his face, so I continued.

“We’ve all seen the odd stray brick lying around and a brick on its own is just a brick. It will never be anything else *except* a brick! But a brick that’s part of a wall can rise up to become a home, or a cathedral, a palace or a kingdom. A brick left lying by the road usually ends up getting crushed to dust!”

“Hmm.” He said, thoughtfully, sipping at his pint. “I get your point - but church? Well, it’s all a bit naff init? I mean, singing all those boring hymns an’ stuff”

I laughed and said “So when was the last time you went to church then?”

“God!” he says “I haven’t been since I was a nipper. Mind you it was a bit different then. We used to do loads of good stuff – and it was fun!”

“So what’s changed?” I asked him.

“Dunno!” he says looking down into his pint.

So I said: “Did you know that in the Bible Peter describes us as *‘living stones being built into a spiritual house?’*” Church is where you find family and friends; someone to share the good stuff with and find support when the going’s tough. A bit like all your family going round to your Dad’s place on a Saturday afternoon for tea.”

“Yeah!” he said “we still do that, and I wouldn’t miss it. It’s always cool to meet up with the family and catch up!”

“And that’s what church’s like” I said

“Hmm” he said again “okay, I might give it a go. But what if I don’t know anyone?”

“You know me” I said “and you know God, so that’s a good start and you might just be surprised who else is there. Don’t come to church expecting everyone to be perfect! We’re just ordinary people. You know what families can be like.”

“Tell me about it” he says! “Alright then, I’ll give it a go, can’t do any harm can it. Who knows, I might even like it! So then – your round is it?”

Sound familiar? You know, I have this conversation so often and yet I still come across so many stray *‘spiritual’* bricks lying by the side of life’s road just wanting and waiting to be part of something bigger than themselves. God is really into long term relationships, but that relationship will struggle to blossom unless it’s within His family.

So if you think you might be something of a brick (I mean that in the nicest possible way) why not come along to St Gabriel’s on a Sunday morning at 10.30 and see what it’s like to be part of God’s family – who knows, you may become part of a great building! Go on, give it a go! You know you want to!

God’s Blessing for a warm and peaceful summer break.

Your Vicar  
Arthur.



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Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau, The Library, Town Centre, Basingstoke. Telephone 01256 322814

Opening Hours: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 10.00 to 12.00

Thursday 09.30 to 11.30. Appointments by arrangement

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



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Open Monday to Friday from 8.45 to 3.15 including breakfast and lunch clubs (packed lunch or school dinner) during term time.  
After school club to begin shortly.

Currently full but a waiting list is held, and we do have sessions available from September 2007.

Please feel free to call anytime to arrange a visit, or for further information and a copy of our Prospectus contact:

Chineham Park Pre-school

Shakespeare Road

Basingstoke, Hants., RG24 9BP

Tel: 01256 464750/412720

Email: [chinehampark.preschool@ntlworld.com](mailto:chinehampark.preschool@ntlworld.com)

Website: <http://www.communigate.co.uk/hants/chinehamparkpreschool>

Registered Charity No: 1030396

## Recent Travel Chaos in Popley

Cllrs Jane and Paul Frankum asked for a response and update on all the road works that have been causing such a disruption. Below is the reply received from Hampshire Highways.

With all the development going on in the North of Basingstoke there have been many pressures on the road space to upgrade all the services to the development areas as well as the County Council undertaking a major road improvement at the A33. We have been trying to manage all these demands but in this last week the Scottish & Southern Electricity (SSE) works on Aldermaston Roundabout have made things difficult. Unfortunately, if there is any tailback on the A33 works, motorists try to avoid this by using Carpenters Down and Popley Way which, with the traffic restrictions on the Aldermaston Roundabout, has caused the congestion. The SSE contractor should now be finished on the Aldermaston Roundabout so hopefully the traffic situation will improve significantly. We apologise for the delays we have been trying our utmost to minimise the situation.

You also asked for an update and warnings of any other works planned in the new future.

The following is an up-date of the situation. Thames Water (Murphy) will be resurfacing Shetland Road, up to base level, from Carpenters Down to the school in the next few weeks. They will be closing the first two temporary link roads once this section of Shetland Road is open. Although all the major excavation is complete, the tidying up works will be continuing with a completion date of the end of September. Whilst most of the Scottish and Southern Energy (electricity) works are completed, there is still a missing link, so a cable is to be laid along the complete length of Abbey Road. Unfortunately, this will cause some disruption in Abbey Road. A programme for this work is not available yet. Also, an electricity cable is to be laid along Popley Way shortly from the subway near Chineham Lane to Linden Homes in the Sir John Hunt School site. Hampshire County Council will be testing the traffic signals on Reading Road Roundabout with a view to them becoming operational week commencing 2 July. Although the signals will be working, they will not be completely effective until the traffic flows have been monitored. Some fine tuning will follow to optimize their efficiency. Popley Way may be open for 'left turn only' traffic during week the commencing 9 July but this is only provisional. The Popley Way / A33 junction should be fully operational by the end of July. It is possible that the major scheme on the A340, Aldermaston Roundabout to Priestley Road, will commence around November time. Prior to that, South East Water has to lay a water main along the A340 to serve the Merton Rise site. Lastly, we have heard that the gas company have a considerable amount of work to do in various parts of Shakespeare Road to replace old gas mains and services. A programme for this work is not yet available.

Note:- We would like to thank the Hampshire County Council officer for his reply and for the work we know that he and his department have put into trying to minimise the disruption. Unfortunately the "utilities" also have to juggle complex renewal and replacement programmes and this can make life difficult for both them and Hampshire Highways when trying to coordinate and plan ahead.

St Gabriel's Summer Fair 2007

# Flower Power!

Remember the 60's  
at A Packed Family fun event!



Skittle alley  
Bouncy castle  
Stalls & Displays  
60's Music  
Barbeque  
Cafe  
Tombola

Why not Come in fancy dress?

Saturday 14th July

1-4pm

Tewkesbury Close, off Popley Way

## Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734



The Group Annual Meeting for Parents was deferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> July to enable sections to complete the Group Environmental Award. Sections will tell parents what has been achieved to complete the award, and badges will be presented. A copy of the Annual Report and agenda has been distributed to all parents who are urged to attend. The meeting will start at 6.15 p.m. and finish at 7.15 p.m. 'Join-in-Centenary' and 'Bring a Friend' Centenary Badges will be awarded during the evening.

Twenty five members will be attending Hampshire 007 Centenary Camp on the New Forest Show Ground at the end of July and ten Beavers from the Group will join them for Sunrise Day on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Every member of the Group taking part will be given a special Centenary Scarf and Centenary Camp/Sunrise badges.

The Cub Pack held a very active 'sleepover' (?) at the beginning of June to complete work for the Group Environmental Challenge and to celebrate Centenary Year. For some of the younger members it was their first experience of being away from home and began preparations for them to go 'under canvas' later in the summer. The Scouts have been practising knotting and pioneering skills and erected a rope bridge in the woods one evening. Beavers enjoyed working on gifts for Father's Day and will be making a visit to Eastrop Park later in the month.

Robert and Simon accompanied by 'The Captain' will represent the Group at Hampshire Scouting's Festival of Flags in Winchester Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Sadly, the Beaver section will not attend as the timing is felt unsuitable for a mid-week event in term time.

The Group's website at [www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk) has recently been updated and improved to be more easily accessed. Why not take a look next time you are 'on line'? It contains information about Base 2000, the sections, uniform requirements and costs, details of events and general information.

The Group is still looking for a new Bookings Secretary for Base 2000 and is looking to develop on on-line booking facility.

New recruits welcome in all sections. Contact the leader or just come to Base 2000 one evening for a visit.



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



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



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

they were all fresh. Now they call this food organic and charge inflated prices. We could go over the fence and get eggs out of Granddads garden. He fed the chickens on kitchen scraps and what they could eat in the garden. In the breeding season. Dad and I would eat our pigeons eggs. They were always golden and a great taste. So I should imagine many of you can think back on the things you cooked or your gran's food. I was thinking, what about you dropping me a line telling me about it and if we can get enough recipes together make up a small booklet for the Popley residents to try out? We all need to eat healthily and the only way to do that is by looking at things we can cook. Don't forget a small treat in cakes and dumplings or Yorkshire puds they do not hurt. Yes thinking of Yorkshire pud, cold with home made jam. My dad would do bread and jam fritters, two slices of bread buttered and spread with jam, put them together then batter them and deep fry them. Oh boy were they great. It makes me cross that organic food is so high in price when we had it all the time. I remember the race for the first person out the door with a bucket and spade if the horse cart came down the road, or like us we raced pigeons the best manure around for the veg plot. Any veg left over, ok not much, was used for the pigs and chickens they would eat it all. Nothing was wasted. What was left over on Sunday became Bubble and Squeak fry up on Mondays.

I would like to thank the person in Tadley for the card they sent on my birthday and the very kind words in it. This makes writing this page each month worthwhile because I know at least one out of 3,800 people reads it, even if sitting in the loo to pass the time away!

Well, as I have said, I was 60 last month and at the party I was presented with the "Big Red Book" but it was different. Inside the book was a letter to say that the proof of my children's stories will be sent to me in the next 21 days followed by the publication of my first children's story book. I was very, very choked as you can imagine after all this time of doing stories for children. My 13 year old niece has done the cover drawing and some of the sketches inside the book, as well as some by my 7 year old grandson Jamie. He was the inspiration in the beginning to start writing when I could not talk. When he was little he would hide and jump out and I would say "boo" so he became Boo the Owl. I was also pleased to talk about the book on Radio Berkshire on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of June as this was the actual date of my birth. Yes the same year our Queen got married in 1947. Well that is all for this month. I have had a great June and it has taken its toll on me and Her Indoors. She worked so hard with her sister and my daughter to set me up, and the work they put into the party.

Till next month  
The Old Codger.



## Diaries from The old codger.

Well yet another month has gone by. It feels the older you get, time goes faster. We have been talking about food on the Popley Matters website. Now this is one of my favourite subjects. I do not mean the junk food that is stuffed down children's throats because of convenience, I mean real food. Stick a potato in front of some Mums and they go into panic mode. They do not know how to cook it. Even an egg is hard for them. OK maybe a bit over the top but you get my gist. I can remember foods that came out of the ground not out of a freezer; cabbages, peas, cauliflower, runner beans, etc. If you put these sorts of foods in front of them they leave it on the side of the plate because it's green. As for meat you went to the butchers, not a supermarket and to get a bit of meat pumped full of water so when it is cooked, it shrinks like a jumper washed on hot water and it fits a baby. The meals were mostly meat and at least two veg on the plate. Fish was popular, we would have that most Fridays. You never left any food on your plate, that was taboo. You had to sit at the table till it all went. Mind you it all went anyway as you never had a lot of money. What food you had you got it down quick just in case one of your brothers or sisters grabbed it. I could tell you that we were that poor, when we went to the park, the ducks fed us! I can remember when one day just a few years after we got married, (we had two kids by then), it was Thursday, Her Indoors cooked macaroni cheese. I got it out of the oven and dropped it on the floor smashing the dish. We sat and had a plate of chips out of the few potatoes we had. Back before that when I was a kid, Mum and Dad would often go without food in order to feed us five kids. Now let's think of some of the food, steak and kidney puddings, as that would fill up your belly; stews were a mix of everything you could put in a huge great iron pot on the back of the stove. It could last two or three days. My dear old Nan made the best stew anyone could eat. She made dumplings the size of footballs. Sundays were the best day of the week. Most Sundays we could get a roast, even if we went out to Granddad's garden and knocked off one of his chickens. We would eat pigs heads and trotters. Then the best of the week, winkles cockles whelks, crabs, eels and even sometimes oysters all on the table we would sit with pins in our hands getting out the winkles and putting them in a sandwich, a bit of salt and pepper on and a touch of vinegar, absolute nectar. Going out to the coast for the day we would get bucket loads of cockles. We always had stacks of fruit in the house and we would eat stacks of it. The thing is none of these foods had chemicals,



## ***Have you found the Road Map yet?***

I was reading a bit from Psalm 139 this morning. Here's what some of it it says:

13. "You are the one who put me together in my mother's body and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me..."

15. "I was secretly woven together deep in the earth below (the womb) but with your own eyes you saw my body being formed"...

16. "Even before I was born you had written in your book (all the plans you had for my life)"

These days, with scanning, we can join with God in seeing the babies being formed and look on in amazement at the wonder of life taking place.



God has a blueprint or plan for every one who is conceived (and even before conception!) and it has your name on it! You might say, "I don't feel as if my life is going according to plan". However, God gives us a choice; follow our plans (be like Frank Sinatra - "I'll do it my way") and get it wrong or find God's road map (the one He has got just for you) and follow that.

How? Start where you're at now. Hand the steering wheel over to Jesus Christ and He'll make sure you'll get to the right destination and along the way fulfil good plans in your life.



\*\*\*\*\*

***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) 8-9.15pm

## Fostering in Hampshire

Fostering is about looking after someone else's child or children in your home when their parent/s cannot look after them. Children who are fostered are in public care, and need to be fostered for a wide range of reasons. The aim, for the majority, is to return them to their birth families as soon as possible.

Fostering is about having time and space in your life for a child and understanding how that child feels when their life is not going smoothly and he or she cannot live with his or her family. It is about enjoying being with, and working with children and feeling you have something to give.

Fostering means working with the children and their parents and with other professionals such as schools, therapists and social workers to optimise the outcomes for that child or children. That means keeping them safe and healthy, helping them to achieve at school and socially, make a contribution to their community, and economic wellbeing.

Fostering is a family undertaking which involves every member of your family including your own children, and it is important that they are included in your decision to foster. They will be sharing their home, toys, parents, grandparents and even their bedrooms; they will foster as much as you will.

Our foster carers tell us that fostering is one of the most challenging things they have ever done – it is also one of the most satisfying and rewarding. Knowing they have helped to create good memories of childhood and to improve the life chances of a child helps them through the difficult patches, and generates real job satisfaction. How many people can say that at work today I made a real difference to a child's future?

We particularly need foster carers to look after teenagers, children and young people with disabilities, special and complex needs, and for siblings so that brothers and/or sisters can stay together. We are especially keen to keep children who are fostered in their local area so they can stay at the same school and keep in contact with their friends. This means we need foster carers in every part of the County.

You can be single, married or in a partnership, a parent or grandparent, working, on benefits or retired. All sorts of people are foster carers. Foster carers receive an allowance for each child to cover the costs of looking after that child or children, and for those with experience a skills fee. We also provide training and professional and personal development opportunities.

### **Hampshire**

- \* We are aiming to recruit an additional 65 fostering households in 2007.
- \* We particularly need carers for children of
  - \* 12 and over
  - \* sibling groups of three or more children
  - \* teenagers with disabilities
  - \* unaccompanied asylum seeker children.
- \* We have 560 approved carers
- \* About 670 children live with foster families.

### **Types of Fostering**

There are many types of fostering:

- \* Respite - where children are placed for a day or so, usually planned.

- \* Emergency - where children have to be placed urgently and with little or no notice.
- \* Short term – this refers to when the plan is for the child to return to the birth family rather than a length of time.
- \* Long term - for whatever reason the child is likely to be fostered until independence.
- \* Care leavers - those approaching independence (16).
- \* Mother and baby - pregnant mothers and mothers (or fathers) with babies who both live with a fostercarer to learn parenting skills.

All of these can and do change according to the changing needs of the child. The guiding principle in all cases is that the child's needs are paramount and as circumstances change either for the child or his/her birth family so will the care plan.

In addition to the types of caring above there are different 'groups' of children: babies, teenagers, sibling groups, children with disabilities, children with behavioural problems, children from specific religious, ethnic or cultural groups.

### **Some myths about fostering** – you can be a fostercarer if:

- \* You haven't got any children
- \* You are retired
- \* You are divorced
- \* You are a single man
- \* You are a wheelchair user
- \* You live alone
- \* You rent your house
- \* You have a criminal conviction from when you were young
- \* You had some health problems a couple of years ago
- \* You've still got four children living at home
- \* Your partner is away from home for long periods
- \* You live in a flat
- \* You are on benefits
- \* You both work full time
- \* You live with your partner
- \* Your partner and you are gay
- \* You are any age
- \* You are unemployed

There are lots of reasons why you may not be able to be a fostercarer, but none of the above will prevent you.

Hampshire County Council cares for all sorts of children, from birth to eighteen years, with a wide range of physical, behavioural, educational and social needs. We need Fostercarers from all types of cultural, religious, ethnic and social backgrounds to care for them.

For more information or to discuss fostering for Hampshire 'phone 0845 6011895 or visit the website: [www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk](http://www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk)

For more general information about fostering the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) and the Fostering Network websites:

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

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

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