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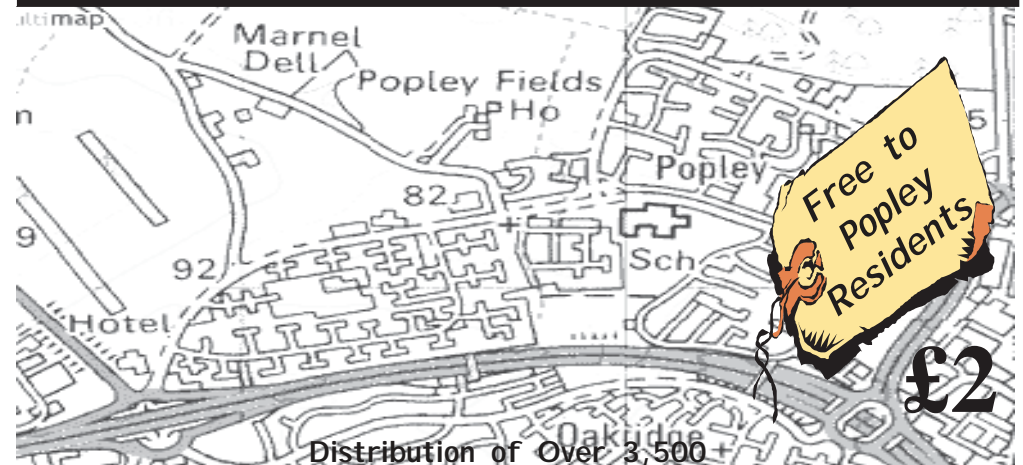
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

August 2007

Issue 66



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20–08–07)

Message From the Editor:- I must start by saying how proud I am of Popley and its wonderful residents, especially the children and how they came together when some of our grassed areas have come under threat of being built on. You can read the report on page 24. We are already seeing big changes with the new school opening in a few weeks. Marnel Schools being updated and expanded by six classrooms. Chineham Park School will house the new and exciting Childrens Centre, you can read about what Childrens Centres do on pages 26 and 27.

The police reports are on pages 8 and 19, and our Community Wardens have written of many places and things to do over the long school holidays and these can be found in the centre pages 14 and 15. For those lucky enough to go on caravan or boating holidays there are two pages of good advice from the police PCSO Rapley on page 19 and our beat manager PC Dan Carter on page 8. There are some more events to go and do on page 11 for those aged between 11 to 16.

Marnel Park, Speckle Wood and Merton Rise though in the ward of Popley are also in the parish of Sherborne St John, I attended their last parish meeting and have invited them to write a page in the Matters, I hope they take up this offer next month. In the meantime they are looking for someone who would like to do 6 hours a week as litter picker ideal I would have thought for a sprightly retired person, if you are interested contact Mrs Clover Morgan on 851003 for further details.

What would you like to see in your Popley Matters? We are always open to suggestions and love to hear from our readers. We welcome letters, articles and advertisements especially from our residents and local small businesses.

Perhaps you have an hour a month to spare to help us deliver your Popley Matters, as always you can contact us by phone: Jane 819924, Iris 411113 or Paul 472496 email editor@popleymatters.org.uk or via the website www.popleymatters.org.uk

Hits on www.popleymatters.org.uk website for month of July: 3331

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

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Acting Treasurer/Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;
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Youth Volunteers; Joseph Duran, Matthew Stokes.;

More Volunteers Welcome

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Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor, Speed Limits on Popley Way
I realize that in the atmosphere of today's Nanny society, a certain ilk seem to take huge satisfaction, calling for a ban on any activity they do not participate in themselves. We should discuss this matter realistically rather than emotionally.

The reasons given were there were two schools, two old folks homes, two churches and pedestrians on the road, but for decades this has been the case, so, why have we not witnessed mayhem and catastrophe during the last 30 to 40 years?

Please do not reply in droves detailing every accident over the last 3 or 4 decades you heard about or nearly happened. In my youth, my landlady was disabled as a child in 1893 by a horse and carriage. That was before the age of the motor car. Accidents happen they always have, and will! It is a part of life! We do what we can to minimize the chances, but what we do must reflect the age in which we live.

The "New School" is no longer in Popley Way, having had a new road laid just for itself and thereby depriving us of an alternative route to Sherborne St John, Bramley, Tadley etc. which also relieved some of the pressure on the main routes.

Popley Way is the main artery through Popley and we are currently spending millions of our tax payers money on re opening it to access from the A33. It is not an estate road like Abbey or Shakespeare, it is our main thoroughfare. To suggest or even contemplate 20MPH is ludicrous. I also took exception to the term "rat run". We have absolutely no option but to use Popley Way every time we leave or enter our homes. Does this make us rodents? Please let us have a rational debate and less emotive phrases.

I believe 40MPG which has served us well in the past to be acceptable on a road as wide and straight as this one, but in deference to the protest brigade I would accept 30 MPH but really 20 MPH for our main artery? Get real – No way.

Please note, I am not a boy racer, I have driven for over 50 years and covered over one million miles and never had an accident beyond minor scrapes, so my objectives are based solely on the desire to reach a sensible compromise. Mr W. Popley Abbeys

Editor's reply; "Rat run" is a term used at peak times, usually a residential road used by drivers at busy times to avoid the heavier traffic on nearby main roads. The road across the top is not just for the school there will be other buildings there. The children will still have to cross the road to get to the school as will residents and people going to the twelve shops and their homes. Surely the main road is the dual carriage way to the areas you quote? As for accidents there are constantly accidents, thankfully no deaths in the last few years. As for 30 to 40 years it has been so? Magnolia Court has recently celebrated its first decade, one church not even its first year! I know you are not a boy racer and as a Taxi driver must have some experience. However I believe people's safety comes before the saving of possibly a few minutes of a journey. I hope we do get a reasoned debate and would urge residents to write in.

Dear Editor, **Farewell to George.** George lived in Selby Walk and most days he could be seen walking over to the shops. George always had time to stop for a brief chat despite being in poor health. Several of us commented that we hadn't seen George for some time and later discovered he'd died in hospital.

We will all miss George walking to and from the shops and stopping for a natter. I'm sure all of my neighbours will join me in extending sincere condolences to his wife.

Terry Jones.

Editor's reply; I was sorry to hear of George's death and would like to extend our condolences to his family.

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

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



A new sewer for Basingstoke

Dear Resident

We are approaching the end of our sewer construction work in Popley.

In August we will be opening more sections of Shetland Road. By the end of the month, we plan to have the whole road open to through traffic.

The new sewer pipe will be put in use later this year.

On behalf of both Thames Water and Murphy, may I thank you for all the patience and support you have given us over the past 11 months. It has been much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Nigel McClatchey
Project Manager

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What benefits do centres provide?

The Sure Start children's centres programme is based on the concept that providing high-quality integrated services (health, education, family support and care), particularly in disadvantaged areas, leads to positive effects for children, families and their communities, including:

- Improved educational outcomes for children and parents
- Enabling parents to study and work
- Helping lone parents to access work and training opportunities
- Reduced crime rates
- Improved health outcomes
- A reduction in child poverty

Children's centre to serve the wards of Popley East and Popley West

A full core offer children's centre is to be developed on the Chineham Park School site. As a full core offer children's centre, this centre will be required to deliver the following services as a minimum to achieve full service designation:

- An access point for the community providing information and signposting to a range of services for children and families
- Early Education integrated with childcare open 10 hours a day, 5 days per week, 48 weeks of the year, with 0.5 fte Qualified Teacher Input
- Child and Family Health Services
- Family Support and Parental Outreach Services
- Links with Job Centre Plus

Although this list provides overarching titles for services, this is because the specific detail around what services will actually be delivered will come out of consultation with the local community, practitioners and partners.

How can I find out more?

If you would like any more information about children's centres or to find your nearest children's centre, please contact:

Children's Centre Services
Children's Services Department
Hampshire County Council
Tel: 01962 847291
Email: childrenscentres@hants.gov.uk
Website: www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-centres

For information on the different childcare and early education options and to search for available childcare in your local area, please contact:

Hampshire Children's Information Service (CIS)
Tel: 0845 602 1125
Website: www.hants.gov.uk/childcare

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Children's centres

Sure Start children's centres aim to deliver better outcomes for young children and families. Children's centres bring together local services within the community and these may be all under one roof, or in alternative venues nearby.

The children's centre approach is targeted at the needs of children under five years old. However, centres may also offer services to a wider age range where possible.

Children's centres will be open a minimum of ten hours per day, five days per week and 48 weeks per year. They provide a range of services which could include:

- Access to integrated early education and childcare for children under five years
- Links to extended services, out-of-school activities, holiday play schemes, etc
- Links to local individual and networked childminders services for children with special needs, including specialist support
- Home visiting service
- Information about family support services and activities
- Parenting support and advice
- Access to child and family health services
- Links with Job Centre Plus, further education
- Opportunities and links to other training providers
- Drop in sessions including parents' /carers' /childminders' groups.

The level of services offered will depend on the needs of the local community.

All local authorities have been given responsibility for the delivery of children's centres. Services will be developed and delivered in partnership with a range of partner organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Children's centres will include parents and carers in decisions every step of the way to ensure that they are truly meeting the needs of each individual community. Local consultation will take place on a regular basis with families and the local community.

Hampshire's children's centres

Children's centres within Hampshire have been based locally, so there should be one already established, or plans for one near you. It could possibly be at your local Primary School, Community Centre or Health Clinic.

Seven centres were created in Phase I, providing services to a total of approximately 5,026 children under five years of age. The second phase of centres in Hampshire will be developed during the period ending 31st March 2008, providing services to a further 42,599 children under five years of age.

The Government target is to establish a children's centre for every community, with the expectation of Hampshire's remaining under fives being provided with services during the period 2008/2010.

You are warmly invited to Worship with us

Sunday morning 10.30 to 12.00 noon

Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down, Popley
Basingstoke
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Councillors Page: It really is getting exciting now for our children with the expansion and upgrading of facilities in Marnel schools and just a few weeks to the new Everest Community College opening. Chineham Park School had a wonderful report and is getting some great facilities from Bramley Frith. Well done to all our schools staff, pupils and governors.

I have asked for the 40MPH signs to be removed along Popley Way as it has caused such confusion that drivers were nearly prosecuted for doing 37 MPH in a 30MPH zone. The signs had been covered but someone decided it was fun to remove them! I am on the scrutiny panel looking at exclusions and how to reduce them in our Hampshire schools. If you have any thoughts or comments you would like to make you can contact me Jane Frankum County Councilor Basingstoke North ☎819924 or by email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: Paul Frankum ☎472496 Hampshire County Council have cut the subsidy to all the bus routes. Among the cuts to affect Popley residents are:- no service on route 5 after 7-15pm weekdays and Sundays, Route 3 will have no service after 7-15pm on Sundays and a cut to the number 9 hospital bus at peak times. There are cuts to bus routes in all areas and this will affect the most vulnerable of residents in the whole borough. You can be assured that we will be fighting this all the way. Your Popley West councillors are on the panel for the Popley Project and one exciting proposal is to set up a Credit Union there is a good chance of the use of one of the unused retail outlets for a year while a Credit Union is set up hopefully in the town centre, so that it can be used by all the people of Basingstoke. We will of course continue to keep you informed in Popley Matters.

Popley East. There was some extensive flooding after the flash storms and the drains and sewers were certainly tested. The play area in Bermuda Close was so deep that the children were literally swimming in the water.

On the subject of flooding and water, the new sewer pipe works are due to finish very soon and there are many residents who will sound a sigh of relief as they get back to a form of normality. I think the residents have been very patient.

All the Popley Councillors were horrified to see the extent of the proposed cuts in bus services and we will be making representations to get the vital bus services to stay. We need to expand the services and not cut them. It is time the services were run to suit passengers and not shareholders in Stagecoach. Stagecoach made over £162 million profit last year it is obscene and unfair. Mary Brian ☎322108



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No to In-Fill in Popley

It certainly has been a very busy time in Popley. Sentinel sent out a letter with plans for five sites in Popley East and West. They were proposing to utilize "underutilized garages" and build social housing in Popley East and West. The plans included:-

- two houses and two flats in Pitcairn Close/Falkland Road,
- eight houses and two flats inbetween Falkland Road/Gilbert Close,
- one house, four maisonettes and six flats in Jersey Close/Guernsey Close,
- eight flats in Abbey Road/Melrose Walk,
- six houses and four flats in Abbey Road.

The letter gave the impression that the plans were firm and that it was a "done deal" in the eyes of many of the residents that received them. Residents galvanized into action with mass protests. Letters were written, emails sent and phone calls by the score. Meetings were held on the green areas in both Abbey Road sites, and residents from all over Popley came to say how they felt about losing some of the few remaining informal grass areas where our children and grandchildren play. My sons, both now in their mid thirties had played on both of them. A petition was started by residents Nicki and Jo and hundreds of residents and friends and relatives signed it.

The most amazing and wonderful occurrence was the way the children got involved when they heard their grass play areas could be lost. They drew pictures and did artwork worthy of any professional artist. They made posters and banners and they set up a table with drinks and biscuits for anyone who wanted them at the meeting. They gave good solid reasons why their play areas should be left alone just as they are now.

The residents of Magnolia Court contacted me clearly distressed that their grandchildren would not be able to play safely near their homes. Rev Arthur Botham spoke to me about the phone calls he was getting from really upset and distressed people.

Officers in the Regeneration and Planning departments were contacted and asked how they can give away what is after all our land, the people who live in Basingstoke. It is part of our history in Popley and our children's heritage. Assurances were made that no land had been promised to Sentinel. At this point the Chief Executive of Sentinel was contacted and at last we were listened to. We had an apology from him and Sentinel because it was only supposed to be asking people what they thought of the possibility of building these social houses. At a small demonstration outside Sentinel House while the board were meeting inside we were approached by the Chairman and Chief Executive and asked if we wanted to come and speak to the board. I was nominated along with Iris King. We told them how we felt and that there is a waiting list of a year in Abbey Road. Hardly underutilized or unused garages. The grassland is not theirs to build on. It is our leisure land, our children's play areas, and as much as we agree that social housing is needed we in Popley would have delivered 600 social houses in the next few years for our people on the waiting list in Basingstoke. Enough is enough. We told them leave us our last few bits of playable green. The board listened and from this meeting there is another meeting with Councillors and residents being arranged in a few weeks time. I think we could save them a lot of time as I think our thoughts have been well represented in the press and by the residents and children.

If you have any comments you can contact me Jane on 01256 819924, Nickie on 07909806303, or Jo on 07890911824. You can also email notinfill@popleymatters.org.uk


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Things that fly in the night

Popley Conservation Volunteers

National Moth Night

11 August is National Moth Night. Popley Conservation Volunteers will be holding a moth trapping evening. On the same evening they will also be conducting a bat survey using bat detectors.



The distinctive Poplar Hawk Moth.
Photo taken in a Popley garden

Perhaps the only time we really take much notice of moths, those mysterious night time insects is when they come into our houses at night and start fluttering around the light and we end up doing various gymnastics trying to catch them. Moths are less familiar than butterflies but in some ways even more fascinating. Many are as beautiful as butterflies but are rarely seen because they are only active at night.

Unfortunately like so many other forms of wildlife many moth species seem to be in decline.

Catching and recording is very

important in order to monitor the state of the populations. On the National Moth Night records of catches from all over the country including Popley will be pooled and added to a national database.

You can find out more about National Moth Night on:

<http://www.nationalmothnight.info/>

Bats

No less fascinating than moths is that other night flying creature, bats. Since the introduction of bat detectors this is another animal about which more is being understood all the time. Popley Conservation Volunteers are fortunate in obtaining the services of an eminent bat expert who will be present on the night, with bat detectors, to tell us more about these intriguing animals.

The moth trapping and bat surveying will be organized by two experienced ecologists. There will be a limited number of places open to non members so if you are interested and would like to come along or would like more information please ring 01256 429663.

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

- Containers should only be decanted or opened in a well ventilated area.
- Containers should always be secured by a safety strap or quick release device.

Cooking

- **Never** leave a cooker or appliance unattended.
- Hatches and portholes that may cause a through-draught should be closed.
- Keep spare/empty containers in the open air.

Leaks

- Stop the engine and extinguish all naked flames.
- Put out cigarettes, do not operate electrical switches.
- Turn off petrol, shut off cock and gas cylinder valve.
- Ventilate the affected space as much as possible, consider use of bilge pump.
- Tie up or anchor at a safe distance from other craft.
- Evacuate the vessel.
- Warn others in the vicinity.
- Call the Fire Service '999' and Coastguard on 'VHF Channel 16'.

General considerations

- Avoid smoking below deck.
- Check bunk cushions conform with fire retardant material.
- Consider fitting a domestic smoke detector.
- When evacuating due to a fire, ensure all crew are wearing life jackets.

- Never allow fire to block your exit.
- Call the Fire Service '999'.
- Call the Coastguard 'VHF channel 16'.
- Give your location exactly as possible.

For further information on safety, either on the water or at the beach, visit www.mcga.gov.uk

Fires in caravans & tents:

- 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.
- Do not take risks.
- Get out, call the Fire Service out, stay out.
- Find out what the fire-fighting arrangements on the campsite are and where the nearest telephone is.
- Keep a torch handy for emergencies. Don't use a lit candle.
- Fit a smoke detector in your caravan.
- Keep caravans and tents at least 6 metres apart.
- Don't smoke in tents.

Useful contact points and further information:

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

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



Making Hampshire Safer



Boat & Caravan Fire safety.

In the event of a Fire on Board a boat:

- Act quickly and make for the nearest landing.
- If you have one, use a fire extinguisher, if not use water from over the side.
- Get everyone not involved in fighting the fire off of the boat.
- If the fire is close to a gas cylinder, turn off the valve, disconnect the cylinder and remove it to a safe place.
- If the fire continues to grow leave the boat.

Equipment you need to fight a fire

- All firefighting equipment must be maintained in good condition and kept readily accessible for use in an emergency.
- All vessels must carry specific firefighting equipment:
 - Dry powder extinguisher.
 - Foam extinguisher.
 - CO₂ extinguisher - do not operate in an occupied cabin.
 - Nine litre bucket.
 - Fire blanket 0.75 m x 0.75 m.

Gas cylinders

- Make sure that the valve is switched off **before** you disconnect the cylinder.
- Make sure that any new cylinder is properly connected **before** you switch the valve on.
- Make sure the full cylinder is securely fixed into position.
- Make sure the LGR regulator is compatible with your appliances.

Before taking on fuel

- Stop the engine.
- Turn off all heating, cooking and lighting appliances and extinguish all naked flames and smoking materials.
- Close all hatches, doors and portholes.
- Ensure the tap between the tank and engine is switched off.
- Avoid overfilling, check the tank with a dipstick.

After taking on fuel

- Secure the tap tightly.
- Ensure that fuel has not overflowed or leaked.
- Mop up any spillages.
- Ventilate thoroughly before starting the engine or using naked flames/lights.

Spare fuel

- Petrol should not be carried on board in portable containers if at all possible.
- Where containers cannot be avoided only containers designed for this purpose should be used.

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The Pride of Popley.

On 15th July, we held our 2nd successive Popley Pre Season Tournament at John Hunt School, sponsored by Sentinel. The rain held off right till the end, until we were packing up, typical!

Popley's U7s Spurs and U8s Tornados reached the final for the 2nd year running. Both teams were defeated in the final, but a great achievement never the less. Heartbroken and gutted both teams stepped up to receive their runners up trophies with pride. Well done Boy's and Ellie.

The U9s Renegades needed 1 point to reach the Finals but missed out when Chineham Tigers beat them 1-0 in the last game. They beat Tadley and Sherborne, 3-1 & 4-0, which is a great improvement from last year, when they lost every game.

Popley had an U10s representing for the 1st time and went down 3-0, 2-0 and 1-0, which amazes me, because this was the 1st time they had played together and it was the 1st time several of the players had even played in a match. Well done to the boy's and Adam.

As some of you are aware I asked for a small donation from every team to go towards a day out for the Nash family, Samantha plays in goal for our U8s Whirlwinds and fell ill losing weight and hair in a matter of weeks. The family had an agonizing wait of 6 weeks for results, obviously thinking the worst. In this period Samantha still played and gave her all, and for this, she is the bravest little girl I have ever met. The Nash family were given the results and overjoyed to find out that it is a rare case of alopecia affecting the thyroids. There is a 60 percent chance of her hair growing back, which is great news considering what could have been. We received **Three Hundred and Fifty Pounds** from the majority of the teams and for that I thank you.

What Samantha does with the money is up to her, but I will let you know about it in the near future.

We also had Player of the Tournament trophies which were allocated by individual managers who picked a Man of the Match for the opposition. Finley Judd and Jack Lyte took the honours for the Tornados and the Spurs. Well done.

And well done to all the supporters and cheerleaders (Mary" the splits" Ging) of MFC Popley, you did us proud, even if one of you did go to the KFC and didn't bring me one. Thanks Chubbs, you know who you are!

Thanks for your support. Lee Austen

Tel: 07810444995 Email: mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

Page 7



Hello Folks,
 It's been another busy month on the Beat in Popley. One of our priorities this month has been to conduct regular patrols of the schools in Popley. We have had a mixed bag of intelligence and incidents involving the schools. John Hunt has suffered criminal damages and a drugs needle was located in Merton Infant's school. More information on these incidents can be located online

at www.popleymatters.org.uk.

I am in the process of creating a PRIME for the Glastonbury Close area in Popley. Prime stands for Problem Resolutions in a Multi Agency Environment.

I will work with the Popley Safer Neighbourhoods Team along with other agencies to combat youth nuisance in that particular area. The need for this has been highlighted due to the predominantly elderly population coupled with the location i.e. 'near to the shops off Abbey Road. There have been several reports from the community. These range from underage drinking to low level drug use.

This PRIME will also be known as the Festival Project and PCSO RAPLEY has submitted a web blog highlighting the details. If you can't get on the computer to view this and would like further information then please get in contact with one of the team on 0845 045 45 45.

Despite our best efforts people are still leaving valuables in cars. This is like candy in a sweet shop to some villains! Please take the extra time and effort to remove valuables from harms view. Sat Vav cradles must be taken out of view etc. Last week a car was in Fountains Close was broken into and a Satellite nNavigation system stolen.

There have been a number of positive things in Popley of late and one of these was on 14th July.

I attended St Gabriel's Church off Popley Way when the Church along with Arthur Botham hosted a 60's theme fete. The day was very enjoyable and I got to wear my old style police uniform. As always I have pictures of the event and if you would like digital copies of the event then let me know.

Please get in contact with my team if you would like to discuss any of these issues or indeed anything that you would like to let us know! We are community officers and specifically deal with issues/events etc in Popley.

All the best
 PC 20686 CARTER
 Popley West Beat Manager
 Contact: 0845 045 45 45



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- 01256 478058

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Gardening Tips.

To keep your bedding plants flowering longer, pinch out all the dead heads you can find. This stops the plant forming seed heads, so it throws out more flowers. The same applies to vegetables like runner, french, and broad beans.

Cut back early flowering perennials once they finish flowering. It keeps the garden tidy and snail hidey-holes to a minimum. You may find they will flower again in the autumn as a bonus.

Many garden centres and DIY stores sell off their seeds at half price and less this time of year. They will keep good for a couple of years, so grab the bargains. Some seeds can be planted during the autumn for earlier flowering next year, such as pansys and violas.

If you need to water your patch, try and do it first thing in the morning rather than in the evenings. This is something my Grandad told me when I was a child. Slugs and snails prefer to come out in the evenings, after the sun has gone down. They are attracted to damp areas, and so will happily munch on your plants all night if they have been watered just a few hours before. If you water in the mornings, the slugs and snails will already have gone into hiding for the day, and as your plants dry out during the day, they are less likely to be breakfast for them.

Rather than using tap-water for your plants, try and collect rain water. You will find that those that get mostly rain water will be much healthier than tap-water only plants. Try it and see for yourself!

If, like me, you grow outdoor tomatoes and squash in large pots standing in watering trays, remember they can rot from the roots up if they don't get chance to dry out a little between waterings. This is especially important if we have several days of rain. Empty out excess water when necessary.

Have you heard the saying 'one year's seeding, seven years weeding'? If you don't keep on top of the weeds you will be looking at many many more next year. Weed seeds can lay dormant in the ground for up to seven years - hence the saying.

Stake up the tall flowering plants like gladioli and oriental lilies, and tomatoes to stop them falling over and breaking off. Make sure the tops of the canes will not cause any damage.

Which reminds me - those pretty scarlet beetles on your lilies are a major pest! They lay eggs on the under side of the leaves, which hatch into grubs that can decimate your plants in a matter of days. The grubs are not difficult to see, although you would not recognise them. They carry a ball of their own excrement as disguise, which also deters birds from eating them. Pick them off and dispose of them carefully. This is a pest which has been imported on plants and is now becoming troublesome across the UK. Most pesticides do not kill them.

If you have a spare patch of patio, why not plant up a grow-bag with salad items? Lettuce and radish are fast growing and will do OK in these. You can enjoy fresh picked leaves, and at a good price if you got the seed in the sales!

Encourage children to grow seeds too. Cress grows really fast indoors on the windowsill and tastes good in salads or with egg mayonnaise. Use old yoghurt pots with holes in the bottom, put a layer of cotton wool in the bottom and sprinkle the seed on top. Keep it damp but not swimming, and it will grow in no time.

Make grass heads out of old tights filled with a handful of compost and grass seed. Put the seed in first, then compost, stretch the fabric tight, and tie a knot to keep it all in, cutting off the rest of the fabric. Get them to paint faces on and stand on a saucer (they do have a use) knot side down, keep it damp and watch the hair grow.



Citizens Advice Bureau is a free service for use by everyone that needs it.

You can talk to an Advisor in confidence about a variety of issues that maybe worrying you. Don't leave things to get worse – come and talk to us.

Whether your query is about Benefits, Debt, Employment, Housing, Consumer Issues, Family and Personal Matters or Immigration and Nationality - we can help.

We give impartial, objective advice. You can visit us in the bureau or simply call us on the telephone.

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.



We *are* looking for families to join our PEEP (Peep Early Education Partnership) group, every Friday from 1.45pm to 3pm at Merton Infant School in the Playgroup room.

The PEEP course focuses on appropriate activities for you and your child to do together to enhance your child's development.

This is like a parent and toddler group, for parents/carers with children from birth to 3 years, but with the added benefit of acquiring a qualification from the Open College Network (OCN) at the end of the course.

If you are interested in joining our group or for more information please contact Wendy Pope on 01256 324507 or just turn up on Friday September 7th

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Dear residents,

Hope you are all well and I'm glad to report the summer is finally here. Its such a pleasure riding through Popley when the sun is out. I'm sure many of you will be jetting off to the Spanish Costa's or even further abroad to enjoy a well deserved holiday.

If you are so lucky to have a break, can I remind you that home/vehicle bulgulary doesn't have a holiday. Please make sure if you are going away that you leave your home secure at all times with no obvious signs of vacation. Please try not to advertise your absence as this only encourages crime. Also please be vigilant towards homes/addresses that you know are vacant and if you see or hear anything suspicious please continue to report these to the Northern Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The schools have now broken up which is great for the youths as they too have worked hard all year and deserve a nice break. During the last break Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, Community Wardens and ACSO's were busy dealing with criminal damage, Graffiti and nuisance youths on the school grounds. Can I remind you that if your children, or any children you know are found trespassing on any school grounds unless authorised, will be removed and issued with a yellow C12 form and put on the Police records.

With regards to youths we have been busy with youths on the building sites around Popley and please remember building sites are dangerous and you should not be entering these site unless authorised.

I hope you all enjoy your summer and thank you for your continuing support and cups of tea,
Kind Regards

Phil Rapley
Popley PCSO
PCSO 13284 0845 045 045
Old Basing Police Station 01256
843506
54 Bellevue Road
Old Basing
Hampshire
RG24 7LG



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Computer Courses:

Great news! We will be resuming the popular computer courses this September with a good selection of subjects to choose from. You will be able to choose from the traditional computer subjects such as the internet, e-mail, word processing, desktop publishing and more. Or you can choose to learn computer skills in connection with another subject such as 'Genealogy', 'Parents Guide to GCSE and SATS', 'Job Readiness and Confidence Building' whilst also improving basic skills in English and Maths. Learning will be flexibly organised and taught in a friendly and relaxed setting.

If you would like any more information or have more specific needs, please contact us on **01256 414494**.

POPZONE Youth Club:

The Youth Club will continue to operate every Monday during the summer except for the Bank Holiday. We have split the groups to make numbers more manageable and this seems to be working very well. If you are interested or want to know more details, please call us.

POPZONE HOLIDAY CLUB:

This summer we are offering holiday care from 30th July to 24th August for 8 to 13 year olds. If this is a success we hope to extend this in future holidays from 5 year olds. So if you need to get rid of the kids for a few hours or days in a safe and fun environment, we may have some spaces and availability, so give us a call.

Get with Summer Activities:

This summer we have also linked with Sentinel to offer a range of free activities through the holidays for 10 to 15 year olds. Pre-registration is essential, so contact us for details and availability.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have also organised some 'Street Sessions' on some summer evenings. Details are available at the Centre! So there should be lots going on for young people in Popley.

Popley Car Boot Sale:

These continue to be held every week and are still the cheapest around at £4 a car! And the fruit and veg van is back – please help us to encourage them to stay by supporting the event – it's free to buyers and starts at 9am every Sunday.

Popley Festival:

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Popley Festival such a success back in May! What a fantastic event which you should all be proud of whether having helped or simply attended. And next year we hope it will be bigger and better!

Call 01256 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com for more info on any of the above or to let us know what you would like to see held at your 'Community Centre'.



If you are between 11-16 years old there is no excuse to get bored during this summer holiday! Sentinel Housing Association are organising loads of free activities for kids as part of our Get With programme.

There will be a range of activities to suit everyone, including kick boxing, fishing, photography, music and much much more!

The scheme will be run at Popley Fields Community Centre throughout the school holidays and is free of charge on a first come first serve basis.

Programme of events:

Wednesday 1 August	Fishing	9 – 5
Tuesday 2 August	Circus Skills	10 – 12
Friday 3 August	Kick Boxing	11 – 12
Monday 6 August	Art Workshop	9.30 – 12.30
Tuesday 7 August	Photography Workshop	9.30 – 12.30
Wednesday 8 August	Fishing	9 – 5
Thursday 9 August	Circus Skills	10 – 12
Friday 10 August	Art Workshop	9.30 – 12.30
Tuesday 14 August	Photography Workshop	9.30 – 12.30
Wednesday 15 August	Fishing	9 – 5
Friday 17 August	Kick Boxing	11 – 12
Monday 20 August	Circus Skills	10 – 12
Tuesday 21 August	Music Workshop	1.30 – 4.30
Wednesday 22 August	Fishing	9 – 5
Friday 24 August	Get With party @ Fort Hill School	

For more information and to book your place please call Popley Fields Community Centre on **01256 414494**. Please note that pre-registration for sessions is essential.

Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

Group Scout Leader: Jerry English 07921 107 359 / 01256 331175

www.base2000.co.uk Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 - Jan or Pete Saunders 01256 410514



'3-D 2007'. Basingstoke and Silchester Scout's Activity Day at Park Farm in Oakley on 14th July was blessed with a beautiful sunny day with plenty of fun and action for all sections. The Pulsar Laser Dome, 'superjumper' and high ropes course proved very popular with older members whilst the Beavers enjoyed trying out climbing for the first time and the Noah's Ark Bouncy Castle. The Cubs too were busy with archery, air rifle shooting thought the 'superjumper' was a bit too high for some! Flying displays in the arena from 'Eagle Heights' were much enjoyed as were the English Mongrel dogs from Preston and the do-nut eating competition - well what can we say! !

Next the Group is off to Hampshire Scouting's Centenary Camp H007 at New Park the site of the Hampshire Show in the New Forest. The kit is packed; the coaches are booked; the menu is checked; the food is ordered and Cubs and Scouts are all eager to leave. Over 120 young people from eight of the Scout Groups that form Basingstoke East Scout District will gather to catch the transport from Base 2000 on the morning of Sunday 29th July. Twenty-five of them will be members of the Air Scout Group and they will be joined by the Beavers for Sunrise Day on 1st August so the younger ones too can join in the fun and celebrate Scouting's Centenary Year.

Following the Annual Meeting for Parents last month we are pleased to announce the appointment of Pete Scanlon as Group Chairman; Roland Martin as Group Secretary and to welcome a new member to the committee, Claire Vockins, and the return of a familiar friend in Jan Saunders. Other members of the committee are Mike Mullender (Treasurer), Sue Keetch, Sue Shillito and Beryl Mullender. The Group Scout Leader and Section Leaders are ex-officio to the committee which is responsible for finance and administration of the Group.

Jan and her husband Pete have agreed to take responsibility for bookings at Base 2000 with immediate effect. Telephone number 01256 410514; jan.saunders1@ntlworld.com or 9 Orkney Close, Popley RG24 9AR. Thank you Helen (and Pat) for all your efforts with bookings and enquiries over the past two years. The Group is most grateful. We will still see Pat and Helen around at Boot Sale from time to time.

Unit meetings have now finished for the summer and will restart week commencing 10th September. 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 Karslake 410559

needs of people and keep gardens looking good.

Now fellows, how come that if a wedding comes up in the family the wives always says they have nothing to wear? How much room do we have in all the wardrobes in the house compared to hers? They do it in a way that you can't say no. They will bring something out of the wardrobe and put it on the day of the wedding. You say to her "I have never seen that before"? The reply is "Oh I have had this for ages" then when you go to empty the bins, the price tags are in it. They must think we are all stupid (sorry they do think we are). I say all of this because my son gets married this month, and by writing this I just want to say how much his new wife-to-be is the type of young lady anyone would welcome into the family. And she makes a good cup of tea. Her family are also great people. It is important for them both to get off on the right footing in life. I have told my son how to handle her, but it is too late for him now she is the boss! So now we have a younger version of Her Indoors. God bless them both. Her Indoors and I wish them great happiness in their married life.

It's been a bit of an off and on summer so far, and the birds are still feeding in the garden. Usually at about this time of the year they are fielding as all the crops are near ready for harvesting. However there are now less areas around Popley for them to go and fatten up for the winter. The finches we see need thistles and teasel to feed on so it would not be a bad idea for the local council to get the Environment Department to seed areas for this. That way we know that these birds can survive the winter months. We can help by keep feeding them the right bird foods. I did see the other day that people are moaning about rats because people feed birds. If people were to just do good husbandry this won't happen. Sweep up any seeds each day, buy seed that is not wasted by birds, get a good quality feed, feed tubes can now be fitted with trays under the bottom of them to catch any seeds that are not wanted by one bird but another will eat it. If you have a bird table, get a bit of plastic drain pipe cut it down one side and fit it to the up right, then re glue it. The rats can't climb up then. All of these things will keep the rats and mice away. I must stress, please do not put bread in the back garden, it is no good for birds. The best bird feeder in my opinion (and I feed the birds from it myself) is from the R.S.P.B, or you can get them from garden centres and part of the money goes to the R.S.P.B.

Her indoors is shouting so I will have to finish,.She wants me to try my suit on. That's going to be fun, I have put on a few pounds from the last time I had it on in 2000. Still that's ok for us fellows. Her Indoors will patch it rather than me getting a new one! So she can buy that new hand bag to go with the new outfit she has not bought. Till next month The Old Codger.

DIARIES FROM THE OLD CODGER

Her Indoors and I were talking the other day. Now I know that sounds strange but I have to talk to her now and then; it makes her feel wanted. I said that our Anderson shelter in the back garden was a great camp when we were kids. Our dog, well it was my granddad's dog, was a Great Dane, and I could sit on his back and ride him, no problems. After the war I don't know about other areas in the country, but the siren would go off at least once a week and Mick the dog would be first in tourshelter. During the war he would be in the shelter even before the sirens went off! Now can you imagine my Nan, Granddad, Mum and five kids plus this dirty Great Dane sitting in this shelter? It was great fun as far as the kids were concerned! Mick would not come out of it for at least an hour after the all clear. Now and then he would poke his head out to have a look round, but that was all. Granddad used it as a cold store as well. It did keep the food fresh down inside it, that and with his old kitchen sink sunk into the ground for the meats and dairy products.

Health and Safety would cringe nowadays if we did this.

Everyone keeps going on and on about waste, and the amount that we have nowadays. I can remember even when we came to Basingstoke we had "proper" dust men. They would come in the garden and take away a small corrugated dustbin. Now people have large black bins plus the green bin, what for? Where do you get it all from to put it in your bins? One way is junk mail tons and tons of it each year. Her Indoors and I sit down at the weekends with all the pre paid envelopes. We stick other companies junk mail in the others envelopes and post them off. It costs them a lot of money to pay for these pre paid letters. If everyone were to do it boy, look how much just from the Popleys. If enough people did this and stopped the amount, look what would be saved over a year. Another way is to leave packaging that you get from shops inside the shop. Take your unwanted wrappings off and leave it with them. I will give you a point to go on, most shirts come in wrapping, ask for the shirt to be un-wrapped before you pay for it. If they refuse, go to a shop that will! Little things like this will cut your output of rubbish. If you fill your green bin with paper and plastic for recycling then you should get points, just like you get when you go to any supermarket or DIY store. When you have enough of them you can exchange them for recycled compost that they sell to the public in Wade Road. All of this can help the conservation of other wildlife areas that peat has been removed from to satisfy the



CHICKEN RICE AND PEAS

Want to learn how to cook this exotic Jamaican dish? Well let me give you a mouth watering taster! The rice is cooked with cream of cocunut, the chicken is cooked with certain herbs and the peas are deep red and tasty!!

One Sunday night we are going to have a free "Cook and Learn" session and the outcome will be eaten!

Date: Sunday 2nd September. Time: 6.30-8.00pm Place: Melrose Hall

Anyone, including budding chefs and chefesses are welcome. No charge but we need to know the numbers so please contact Evadne on 462351 for registration.

So what's this got to do with Jesus?! Well, He liked Barbecues and good food, so why shouldn't we? At the same time He said (in a roundabout way) "Life is more than just about eating – it's about Life in me and my Word"

Remember, He turned water into wine and fed 5000 (although we can't cater for that many so we're hoping that not everyone from Popley will turn up!)

Look forward to seeing you

Rue, our Youth Worker, is going to uni in September for 3 years. Thanks Rue from us and the kids at Friday Club for all your hard work and crazy enthusiasm!

No Friday Clubs over the summer hols. See you again on the 7th September.

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



Hello to our Popley residents and visitors this summer.

We thought we'd take this opportunity to give you an idea of some of the fun activities you can get involved with in Popley during the

summer holiday.

All activities are being run by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in partnership with Kingfisher Housing Association and Hampshire County Youth Service and are FREE!

Street Sessions, summer evenings running from 23 July to 23 August:
For more information, contact the community wardens office on 01256 845508, e-mail info@basingsstoke.gov.uk or log onto www.youthlife.co.uk

Tues 7 August – Popley Fields and Base 2000
Football and DJ Workshop
Age 11-13, 18:00-19:30
Age 14-18, 19:30-21:00

Tues 14 August - Popley Fields and Base 2000
Basketball, DJ Workshop, Cheerleading
Age 11-13, 18:00-19:30
Age 14-18, 19:30-21:00

Tues 21 August - Popley Fields and Base 2000
Rugby and Break Dancing
Age 11-13, 18:00-19:30
Age 14-18, 19:30-21:00

For more information on 'What's on' around the borough, check out the 'What's On – Summer 2007' guide or 'School's Out' at www.basingstoke.gov.uk or alternatively call 01256 845508. Or alternatively contact the organisations opposite.

Basingstoke Town FC
01256 327575
www.btfc.org.uk

Parkour – The
Basingstoke
Sports centre
www.sportscentre.org.uk
01256 326331

Basingstoke and Deane Sports
Development Team
01256 844844
www.basingstoke.gov.uk
info@basingsstoke.gov.uk

DJing – Fairfield's Arts
Centre
01256 321621
www.fairfields.org
enquiries@fairfields.org

Hampshire Sports Clubs
Database
www.sporthampshireiow.co.uk

Basingstoke Gymnastics Club
01256 352858
www.basingstokegym.co.uk
www.activelifecentre.co.uk
info@basingsstokegym.co.uk

Basingstoke Rugby Club
01256 323308
www.basingstokerfc.com
basingsstokerfc@btinternet.com

Reading Rockets
0118 9263040
www.readingrockets.co.uk
gary@readingrockets.co.uk

Basingstoke Wolverines
Cheerleading
danceandcheerguild@yahoo.co.uk

All the best for the summer,

Sarah and David, Popley
Community Wardens.
01256 845508

