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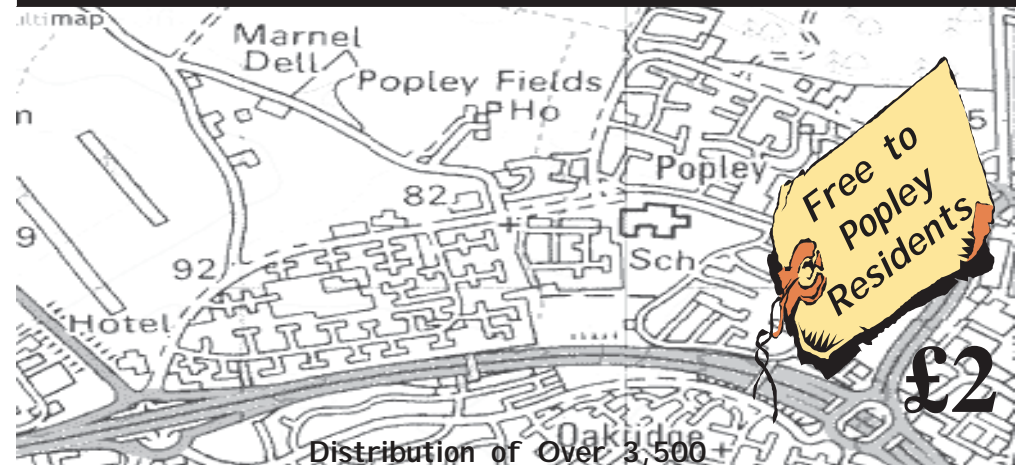
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

September 2007

Issue 67



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-09-07)

Message From the Editor:- This month brings another milestone in the history of Popley with the opening of Everest Community College. As you can imagine we have articles from several people, a report from the Head teacher on page 1. And one from the project team with lots of interesting news for all on Pages 25 and 26. In the report from Popley Conservation Group there is sad news of vandalism that may affect the flora and fauna for years. All for some stupid act of vandalism. The report is on page 6. If you have any information please contact the police on 08450454545. The police are also appealing for witnesses on page 19 for an incident on August 17th evening near the Popinjay pub, and Abbey Road shops the number to call is the same 08450454545.

With the new law on smoking the Citizens Advice Bureau have written an article on page 9. I went on a rare night out with friends and I must say it was really pleasant not to be chocking on other peoples smoke, or getting sore eyes. I was a heavy smoker in my younger years, perhaps we are the worst at moaning about the smoke, and the smell? But at least I appreciate how difficult it is to give up smoking.

I am looking forward to the ice hockey season starting this month. Most of the team have been signed up and it looks really impressive. I support Basingstoke Bison and Basingstoke Buffalo. It is a fast moving and entertaining sport and I love to see the families there, often three generations of them.

Sorry if some of you tried to get through on the website we had a problem with it and it took phone calls and emails by the dozen, but it should be OK again now www.popleymatters.org.uk

Again we are looking for people to deliver Popley Matters if you could help with an hour a month I know it would be hugely appreciated. Contact Iris King on 411113. To advertise contact Jane on 819924.

Hits on www.popleymatters.org.uk website for month of August: 620

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.



not be filled in as they are constantly flooded and also used as dumping grounds for all sorts of items, including cars and motorbikes with some being set alight too. I also remember one Mum writing and telling us that she was accosted in one of the underpasses as she was pushing her children in their pushchair. Many of the residents of Abbey Court and Magnolia Court have told me that the underpass nearby is too steep and difficult even in a motorised buggy.

People will still need to cross the road to go to school or work, with 12 new shops there will be some new employment. The shops in Popley do a good service but there will be a choice of more varied types of shops.

Magnolia Court has been there for 12 years. St Bede's new church for less than a year. There was a need to build a separate new church as their numbers were swelling and it is always a pain having to lay out the seating etcetera. Now there is a new church and they don't have to use the school. The CofE church started as I recall in a caravan in Dryden Close (come on historians pleas tell me if I am wrong). Paul was Christened in it well over 30 years ago.

Most people who have contacted me have said they would not like to see the speed limit go back up to 40. Readers what do you think. You can contact us at editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone Jane on 819924 or Iris 411113 you can knock on my door at 405 Abbey Road or post a letter too.

Dear Editor, Having made a great effort to tidy up the corner of Carpenters Down adjacent to the new developments, putting in no parking fences, I wonder can this be continued round to Montserrat Road. Cars that park on this corner churn up the area, and create a blind spot for those leaving Montserrat.

Haulage lorries leaving Merton Place leave a trail of mud and stones on the road down to Falkland.. Vehicles leaving such sites are meant to have their wheels etc washed off before going onto the highway. This isn't being done, the drivers are on a bonus. A wash off, costs them time and money. Who ever thought of putting a bus stop at the entrance to a roundabout next to a traffic island on a blind bend? The bus stops, so does the traffic. You cannot pass because of the island and the

bend. We know why, there was a stop there before the round about and nobody thought to move it back some.

Are we ever to get rid of the stupid calming islands at the end of the road?

These along with a road junction in the middle have been nothing but trouble since their inception. How many accidents do we have to have before some body sees sense? They only create a jam coming from the A33 and don't serve a useful purpose. It has now become a chicken run in the mornings as no one wants to give way. Just stand there and watch for a few minutes and you will see what I mean.

Thank you, I have got these off my chest, lets see if any action can be forthcoming. Mr M.

Editor's reply; I think we need to set up a meeting with: officers, yourself, Councillors and residents

Dear Editor, Having just read the long letter from Mr W in Popley Matters, I would like to add an opinion to the speed limit debate. Popley Way is the main through route from one end of Popley to the other, but I don't think the term "rat run" applies to Popley residents - more to the people from outside the estate who use it to avoid the ring road. I have cause to drive both ways at various times from my home in Abbey Road. I think the 30mph limit is the best for this road - it is no longer the wide and straight road that Mr W refers to in his letter, with the addition of a roundabout and several sets of traffic lights - and the lower limit may turn it into more of an estate road and discourage the through traffic. Traffic is going to increase dramatically, once all the new houses are occupied, more people will be trying to cross it.

Editor's reply; I would be interested what other residents think details of contacts are below.

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**



Everest Community College

If you have had chance to look at the Basingstoke Gazette website, you will have seen the pictures showing the inside of the new College. The pictures are not able to do the building justice. Every time I show someone round, the word they keep repeating is "wow". Inside really does have a 'wow' factor, it is a fantastic building with learning spaces that are light, spacious and will stimulate learning. Once up and running the ICT facilities will be state of the art. During the summer break a small army of ICT specialists have been installing equipment and getting everything ready for the start of the new term.

However, it is not the building that will make Everest Community College an outstanding school – the people who are involved and the people who should become involved in the life of the college – the students; parents; staff; local community; local businesses, will make the difference.

I formally take up the post of substantive Headteacher from January 2008; I remain in a seconded position from September to December. I feel very privileged to be in this position, having the opportunity to lead a brand new school on its upward journey to become "outstanding" in the learning and teaching provision it will provide for its young people.

I want the young people who walk through the main entrance on their 1st day at the College to believe that they deserve to have the best school, to have high aspirations and during their time at the college develop a lifelong love of learning.

There has been a great deal of change at the old school, and this pace of change will continue at the new building. Necessary to ensure that the boundaries are pushed, to allow young people to develop the skills, attitudes and knowledge they need to succeed.

It is important the Everest Community College becomes a genuine comprehensive school with children from all backgrounds within the local community. We have a unique opportunity here to set expectations high, to enable young people who attend the College to "be the very best they can", and we need to have the courage to do things differently.

Julie S Rose
Headteacher
Everest Community College

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Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor; I was quite amused by the editor's reply to my letter on the extreme speed restrictions proposed on Popley Way. That reply was a fine example of the politician's art. Omissions, implications and distortion of facts resulting in a package promoting party dogma, thus weighting the argument rather than prompting open debate. I accept you "hope" for a reasoned debate but the tenor of your reply points the way you want the debate to end. That is the party dogma element. "Rat Run" is an abusive term and you say the route to Bramley, Tadley etc. is on the main A roads. You omitted to tell me how I reach these A roads without using Popley Way and that makes it a main artery. Another fact you omitted to mention.

— The new-road may well have other uses shops, residences etc but we already have excellent shops in Abbey and a Tesco in Carpenters, so I can't see too many people crossing the road to reach what is, after all just a local-shopping area, an implication yet to be proved Do we not have an underpass right by that junction? Do we not have underpasses the whole length of Popley Way? The fact is we have no less than 6 of them, so why need anyone risk life and limb crossing above when they can cross below totally traffic free. Freedom of choice is a fast disappearing feature in our lives but why should the whole of society have to give way to those who choose a risk but do not choose the consequences of that risk.

You quote detailed years that an OAP home has existed but only quote "a few years" since the last RTA fatality Nobody wants fatalities or even minor accidents but your last comment of "putting peoples safety before saving a few minutes journey time" was both superfluous and implied that I did not, putting into peoples minds an I'm good, he's bad attitude.

You have distorted fact by putting your own "spin" on the length of time facilities have existed by stating that Magnolia Court has only been there ten years and one church less than a year but failed to point out that the RC church is a replacement for the RC church held in St. Bede's for the last 40 years and Abbey Court has been there now for 20 years. The C of E church has always been there but in 4 locations. So once again you show bias in

your comments.

Journals like the Mirror, Mail or Telegraph can and should have editorial bias, they set out their stall to attract readership and the public buy the papers that best fit their own convictions but the PM is not in that category, it is a parish mag. and political persuasion should play no part in it. I realize that with such a heavily weighted Labour dominated editorial staff that it is difficult but you really should take care to sit firmly on the fence on editorial matters or the PM will become what I already suspect it is, a mouthpiece for the Labour Party(editorially that is!) One final more personal point, were you being particularly provocative with the address you printed? You know full well my feelings on dividing Popley into areas yet you put me down as Popley Abbeys despite me giving you my correct postal address. Also, personal acquaintance with me told you I was a taxi driver, not my letter. To bring that up was a clever move by you knowing the publics general opinion of cab drivers driving habits you have now craftily pigeon-holed me into that category. Just for the record I have only been a hack for a minor part of my life most spent as an area manager covering the UK. As a chauffeur I have carried many powerful people in entertainment, politics and commerce, hardly the type most people associate with the cab on the rank. It was quite late in life that I transferred to cabs and a good life it has been too.

Well now I really have had my belligerent head on today. However as free speech is another element of our life rapidly being taken away from us lets go for it while we still have it. As it says in the post office, use it or lose it. Mr W Popley

Editor; In the interests of debate and being as fair as I can be we have printed your letter as you sent it. Let me take some of your points, I edited this magazine before I came into political life in fact it was one of the reasons I decided to "have a go" and become a fighter for Popley. I don't much like stereo typing people and to make remarks about cab drivers habits was not fair as you seem to be the one with the chip on your shoulder. You will not have heard me criticising cab drivers, they are professionals and I use private hire and Hackney cabs on a very frequent basis. It was to show that you have extensive experience of driving.

Now for some of your other points: The future of the underpasses is uncertain and they may or may



Summary of Accommodation

Community College

- 38 classrooms suited into subject areas within three curriculum wings:
 science/technology wing;
 languages/ICT wing and maths/
 humanities wing.
- An assembly hall located adjacent to the drama/
 teaching space – the combination of the two areas

to provide a proscenium theatre space.

- Administration, conference and office facilities.
- Learning resource centre.
- Dining and associated catering facilities.
- Internal street circulation with associated campus forum space.
- 4 badminton court sports hall.
- Gymnasium.
- Enhanced community provision funded by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, including a health and fitness suite.

County Youth Service building

- Dance/drama area.
- Cyber café.
- Sound recording room.
- Steel band percussion space.
- District youth office and Connexions office.



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Councillors Page: At last, after all the years of campaigning and planning Everest Community College will open this month. The buildings look impressive and the facilities for the pupils and community are second to none in Hampshire, probably in the country the measure I will go by will be the chances and opportunities it will bring to the whole community. It has taken 10 years nearly from the first demand for better educational facilities for our children in Popley to seeing this new magnificent community college. I am only sorry that Don Allen never lived to see the dream we all: Rob Donnelly, Paul Frankum and myself fought so hard for.

Another great piece of news is the start of the facilities for the Children's Centre in the grounds of Chineham Park School. A purpose built building will be built to house all the facilities for the children and their families and residents may be able to use it as well. I know it will be good news for many people especially in Popley Poets as they have not had good facilities for the community since Dryden Hall closed. The name chosen was pebbles , very apt as Popley means pebble

Well done also to the County officers and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue for their prompt and professional actions in the Foot and Mouth scare that could have affected us all, instead of a small part of Hampshire near Aldershot. Jane Frankum County Councilor Basingstoke North ☎819924 or by email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: Congratulations to Melrose Hall and the volunteers and team who have been awarded a grant to help to tidy up the landscape around the Hall. I hope that all their hard work is appreciated and respected by everyone. We were pleased to back their bid.

There is a meeting early this month with representatives of residents, Councillors, Council officers and Sentinel to talk about the opposition to the proposed planning applications to build 48 more new dwellings on 5 sites of garage/leisure land in the Popley area. There has also been quite a few more applications to change 3 bedroom family houses to be developed into flats as if we don't have enough parking issues already!

It was certainly good news to hear that Alders old store will at last not be left empty. We had hoped for an indoor market that small businesses could get a start from and we could have lots of local produce and Arts and Crafts made by local people.. However that was not to be but at least with a large popular outlet like Primark taking the site it can only be good news for all the residents.

One sad note was the devastation to Popley Ponds by some senseless people that dragged 18 very large bean bags that are filled with polystyrene and emptied the contents into the pond it could take months or years for the habitat to return to normal. If anyone saw what happened please contact the police on. 08450454545. Paul Frankum ☎472496

Popley East. At last we are nearly back to normal with the sewer works at long last finished and soon the grass will show through the barren ground. It was disappointing that we could not have been able to leave at least some of the slip roads onto Shetland Road but they were only temporary and had already started to brake up. The one nearest the school was really useful.

After lots of consultation and some fantastic ideas from the residents of Popley Poets the regeneration of Longfellow Parade and near area will begin soon.

The consultation process has also started on the regeneration of Maldive and Faroe.

We are still working on improving the area and underpass to Oakridge. The landscaping needs a lot doing and the underpass could do with a lick of fresh paint.

Two trees that have been causing damage are to be removed one in Marlowe Close and one in Malta Close.

The Boot sales that have been held on a Sunday morning by Popley Fields are to have the times moved to start in the afternoon. I hope this will make it as popular as it used to be on the old John Hunt School site. Mary Brian ☎322108

Everest Community College

The new Everest Community College and Youth Service Building will be opening in September. The College provides a fresh start for the existing John Hunt of Everest School and offers state of the art facilities and a stimulating and inspirational environment for staff and pupils and the wider community. This opportunity has been provided by the Merton Rise development, sale of the existing school site, funding from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and developer contribution.

The new college is designed around sustainable objectives, maximising low energy design, natural ventilation and lighting.

The campus is comprised of curriculum teaching and support areas for 750 pupils (expandable to 900) linked with internal circulation. The scheme also provides substantial community accommodation, a new Youth Service building and a focus for the Merton Rise Urban Extension.

Access to the main college and community spaces is gained from an internal street which is revealed at the entrance as double height glazed elevation behind a deep overhang that provides both shade and shelter. On the more rural northern side the three wings of classroom accommodation linked together with landscaped courtyards lie parallel to and step down with the natural contours. Each wing contains suited curriculum areas located to create proximity of complementary uses. Shallow ramps, regularly placed internal vertical circulation including lift cores together with level threshold access will provide an inclusive and accessible environment.



The first piece of College artwork has recently been installed – a giant montage of photographs produced by local artist Linda Hasking, The Making, Hampshire County Council and year 10 students from the old John Hunt of Everest Community School. Artists from England and Wales are producing additional pieces for the school's buildings and grounds.

Dear Friends,

Here we are in September already, and what a disappointment the summer weather turned out to be. It seemed to hold so much promise back in April when we had temperatures in the 80's! I guess the unpredictability of the English weather is part of what makes our country such a 'green and pleasant land' and it is compared to so many other dry and arid countries. I hope that in spite of the weather you were able to make the most of your summer break and at least we can always hope for better weather next year.

Here at St Gabriel's we'll be busy getting ready for events to take place in the autumn. At the end of October we will be celebrating St Gabriel, the patron saint of diplomats and broadcasters. We'll also be preparing for our annual Bereavement Service taking place on October 28th as well as Harvest Festival on Sunday 7th October.

This month though we're beginning a new venture. Thursday 27th September sees the launch of our monthly film club. Each month we'll be showing a movie – free of charge – and the first will be Julia Roberts in 'Erin Brokovich'. The film contains strong language and is a 15 Certificate – so I'm sorry but no children allowed to this first one! The show starts at 7pm with refreshments available, please do come along and enjoy.

As a church we continue to grow and it's good to welcome the young families that have joined us. If you find Sunday morning retail therapy isn't working but adding to the stress why don't you try joining us for our service at 10.30 a.m. It's free and you may experience a saving! Look forward to meeting you.

Yours in Christ

Arthur.

Over 55's Forum VARIETY SHOW on the 29th September 2007 at QMC.
Everybody most welcome.

Doors open at 1.30pm

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.00 Basingstoke Academy of Dancing. | 3.45 The Basingstoke Tappers. |
| 2.30 The Oakridge Silver Singers. | 4.10 Sing-a-long with Jane Cole. |
| 2.45 Interval and Free refreshments. | 4.30 Raffle |
| 3.30 The Anvil Chorus. | 5.00 Event Closes |

Tickets £3 each and tickets can be obtained from
G.L.Merritt, 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS
with a stamped addressed envelope.

Cheques made payable to Basingstoke & Deane Over 55s Forum'
Our membership is growing daily and to date we stand at 342, and the trips are being supported very well.

Next Open Forum meeting and AGM will be on Wednesday 12th December 2007 at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke

Page 24

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loddonsherpas or
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471856
(answerhone).



Page 5

Major pollution at Popley Ponds

Popley Conservation Volunteers

Once again Popley Ponds has been attacked by vandals who seem intent on destroying this precious habitat.

Sometime over the weekend 11/12 of August the vandals once again attacked the local Nature Reserve. This time they managed to get into the Wimpy building site and drag over 20 polystyrene crash bales to the ponds where they apparently used them to slide down a steep bank and then split them open.

There are now vast quantities of polystyrene polluting the Nature Reserve.

Below is a sight you would not expect to see in Popley and not a sight we would hopefully ever expect to see again.



Come in number 13. Unlucky for Popley Ponds. Some idea of the size of the bales can be seen from this photo.

young people can wander around freely on a building site, taking some considerable time to remove the bales without being spotted or stopped? I am told that Wimpy were warned by a Popley resident that that there was a security risk.

Parents, is your child safe? It might be a good idea to tell them not to play on building sites.

Did anyone see the incident? If so why was it not reported?

Who pays? The clean up will be expensive and is way too big for Popley Conservation Volunteers to contemplate. Is it right that your council tax should be spent on the clean up, or should Wimpy pay?

Finally a crime has been committed, in fact several. From a conservation viewpoint it is likely that a crime has been committed under the wildlife crimes act. I am sure Wimpy would also be interested to know who stole the bales.

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

General Home Safety Precautions

- Use a stable step-stool when changing light bulbs. Do not climb on chairs and furniture.
- Make sure all the family know the escape plan for exiting the house in the event of a fire.
- Install a smoke alarm on each floor and test these at least monthly. Change smoke detector batteries strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Use guards with all fires and heaters, and keep clothing, furniture and curtains away from all heat sources.
- Have gas oil or solid fuel heating appliances professionally serviced every year. This reduces the likelihood of household fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Install and use restrictor catches on all upstairs windows to prevent falls from windows.
- Prevent bath-time scalds by running the cold water first and carefully testing the water temperature. Children should never be left unattended in baths.
- Clean up all spillages quickly.
- Never use electrical appliances with cracked plugs or damaged cables. Never overload electrical sockets with too many appliances.
- Ensure hallways, stairs and landings are always well-lit and free from clutter.
- Never take electrical appliances into the bathroom, and never touch electrical appliances with wet hands.
- To prevent burns and scalds always use the back rings on a cooker or hotplate first, and position panhandles so that they can't be pulled over.
- Keep hot drinks and food out of the reach of children.
- Store medicines and household chemicals out of reach of children, preferably in a secure, high-level kitchen cupboard.

Garden and DIY Safety Precautions

- Only undertake DIY jobs within the range of your skills, ability and experience to reduce the risk of accidents.
- When carrying out DIY repairs/projects plan the work in advance. Identify risks and hazards, and make necessary safety precautions. Plan emergency actions, so that you know what to do if an accident occurs.
- Always use personal protective equipment, including gloves, goggles, helmets, ear defenders, facemasks and safety shoes, as appropriate and recommended for the task.
- Always use the safety equipment strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. When hiring plant and equipment, ask the hire company what safety equipment is required and make sure operating instructions are supplied.
- Use Residual Current Device (RCD unit) when operating electrically powered tools and lawn mowers.
- Use power tools strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Always keep sharp tools and garden/DIY chemicals out of the reach of children.
- Make sure all garden paths and steps are level, stable and free from moss.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using poisons, adhesives and solvents. Never transfer them to alternative containers, as this could confuse and lead to poisonings.
- Provide adequate fencing around garden ponds or water features, or fill them in. Always supervise children when near water.
- Before using a ladder, always check its condition. Use the ladder at a safe angle (1 in 4), and if possible, secure it at the top.



Electric Blanket Safety.

Do you have an electric blanket?

Do you know an elderly person who has one?

Has the blanket been checked for safety lately?

Did you know?

- *Old or damaged blankets cause more than 5,000 fires a year.*
- *Each year 20 people are killed and 100 people are injured in fires caused by faulty electric blankets.*
- *Research has shown that electric blankets ten years or older that are still in use in homes in Britain are responsible for 99% of the fires caused by electric blankets.*
- *In the past six years over 4,600 electric blankets have been checked in Hampshire, approximately 45% have failed.*

Electric blanket safety checks:

Make sure you follow the manufacturer's guidelines regarding the use, maintenance and servicing of electric blankets. If you know of an elderly person who uses one, help to ensure that they do the same.

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



Myself and all at the club would like to send our condolences to the White and Lyte families, who have both had great losses over the past month.

Finley's granddad, Dexter, who was 54 passed away earlier last month and will be sadly missed.

Jack and Bradley Lyte's dad, I don't really know much about it, but I believe he was only 35.

Our hearts go out to both families and we are always here if you need any support.

Lee



Popley Community Boot Sale

NEW
TIMES

Every Sunday

NEW
TIMES

at

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

**Sellers and buyers from
12.30pm to 4.00pm**

*Indoor tables may be available
in wet weather.*

Call: **01256 414494** for more info, or
e.mail: popleyfields@hotmail.com

Cars	£4
MPV/4WD/Small Vans	£7
Large Vans	£10
Registered Charity Stalls	½ price

Free entry to buyers!

Held every Sunday and Bank Holiday all year round!

Popley Community Boot Sale is run by Charities in Popley for
the benefit of local organisations.

Reg Charity No 1052133

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Your Local Charity needs you.
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Call: 01256 332424

The demands on your local charity – Basingstoke NeighbourCare – are growing and growing.

Currently we have almost 150 Popley residents requesting and benefiting from our services. Some 1,600 people from across the borough are on our lists.

Every working day our NeighbourCare group contributes to the well-being of an ever-growing section of the local community and, as you can see, Popley is no exception.

Our service helps adults with a variety of important everyday tasks – including door-to-door transport to hospital, doctors, nursing homes; also shopping and befriending – it's our contribution to maintaining that neighbourhood spirit. We stay with people – provide valued assistance.

Can you help us helping others? Will you volunteer some time to provide assistance to those in genuine need – your Popley neighbours and the borough community?

A quote from one volunteer, “I can help, I can make the time. Those I'm helping are so positive, comments received really confirm their need and appreciation – it's enjoyable. I'm glad I made that call.”

Are you a driver?

Are you happy to receive expenses?

Can you make the time?

To join our team of volunteers call 01256 332424.

Please, Make that Call

Nigel Kirkland Charity Manager



Q As a smoker, can you tell me how the new smoking ban affects me?

A From July 1st all enclosed public places and workplaces became smoke free environments. This includes offices, factories, shops, pubs, bars, restaurants, membership clubs, public transport and work vehicles that are used by more than one person. This law also means that indoor smoking rooms, still common in workplaces, are no longer allowed. So anyone wishing to smoke will have to go outside instead.

No-smoking signs should be displayed in all smoke free premises and vehicles. Managers of smoke free premises have legal responsibilities to prevent people from smoking. If you are uncertain where you can or can't smoke, you will need to look for the no smoking signs or ask someone in charge.

If you don't comply with this new smoke free law, you will be committing a criminal offence and liable to be served with a fixed penalty notice or face a fine. People smoking in smoke free premises or work vehicles face a £50 fixed penalty or a fine of up to £200. There are stiffer penalties for people managing premises and vehicles.

Local councils are responsible for enforcing this new law in England. A telephone line (0800 587 1667) is also in operation to enable members of the public to report possible breaches of the law. This information will be passed to local councils to follow-up as appropriate.

For more information go to www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

For free, confidential, independent advice go to the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk or contact your local branch at:

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



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It's been another busy month for us in Popley. The end of last month saw the schools break up for the summer holidays and the old John Hunt School close for the last time. We have been in constant contact with the security guards on the site. They are doing a very good job protecting the site from the threat of vandalism, and as yet have only reported very few minor problems. We are pleased with the job they are doing and they have helped us focus on the other problems within the area.

I'm sure many of you are now aware of the public order incident on Saturday 11th August in the area around the Abbey Road shops and Popinjay pub. Positive action was taken by officers that attended the scene and three people were arrested. As yet investigations are still ongoing. If anyone has any information that may be of use don't hesitate to contact us on 08450 454545. Since then we have focused many of our patrols in the area. We have shown a highly visible presence through out the week to stop any further problems occurring. On the night of Friday 17th August we had four officers on and at least one of those officers was in the area solidly from 1800 – 2300. The night and the rest off the week passed off quietly.

Dan Carter is currently in the process of setting up a PRIME (Problem Resolution In a Multi-agency Environment) project to combat the ongoing problems of anti-social behaviour within the area of the Abbey Road shops and Glastonbury Close. The main culprits of the problems have been identified. We know its going to be a long road to resolve the problems in the area but it will be worth all our hard work.

Despite the recent weather we have enjoyed this summer working with you all and we are looking forward to the coming month when the new Everest Community College opens. We will be heavily involved

with the new school helping to keep the site secure and interacting with the pupils and staff. This is a bright new start for the youth of Popley and we are sure that they are going to enjoy the new facilities on offer to them. It is an excellent complex that can be enjoyed by all and adds to the bright future for Popley. PCSO Smith 13324



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Report on Popley Residents Meeting

Further to the open meeting held for Popley West residents, at which over 40 residents attended, on the 31st July, the first committee meeting was held on the 15th August.

Car Boot Sale

We have decided to move the start time of the sale to 12.30pm – 4pm every Sunday to avoid clashing with lots of other sales and due to lots of requests for an afternoon boot sale. We look forward to seeing you all at them during the coming months!

POPZONE Youth Club

Although quieter during the holidays the club finished the summer off with a successful party and plans are being put into place to run another residential trip next year!

Get With Summer Activities

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sentinel who enabled the kids in Popley to try lots of new activities. They were all very successful and we will have loads of pictures displayed for everyone to see how much fun was had. The fishing trips we ran were all great and lots of big fish were caught – parents who don't believe their kids that 'it was this big!' should come and check out the photo boards!

A huge thank you must also go to the very patient volunteers who gave up so much of their time to help with these activities!

Computer Courses

A new timetable has now been developed to better meet the needs of the residents of Popley. Debbie will be restarting courses in September so ring us now to register your interest in any of the wide range of courses on offer.

Forthcoming events

Over the next few months there is lots happening. We will be holding a family prize bingo session, we have a Halloween party planned for Saturday 27th October, a Christmas Tea Dance on Friday 7th December and a performance of 'Beauty & the Beast' on Friday 25th January. So look out for more information on any of the above in future editions.

And as always we are looking for people interested in volunteering in any way within the centre, at committee level, helping fundraising or just helping at events.

Call 01256 414494 for more information on any of the above.

The first item on the agenda was the election of officers and the following committee members were proposed and seconded and voted into office by those present:

Chairman Terry Jones

Vice Chairman Jo Micallef

Secretary Kath Gorick

A vigorous and robust debate ensued as to the aims and objectives of the "Action Group".

Whilst there was a consensus of opinion that the conversion of 3 bedroom houses into 4 or 5 bedroom houses and even conversion into flats, should be resisted due to the problems with car parking etc, that inevitability follow, it was decided that at this time, we would be exceeding our remit as expressed by the residents at the meeting of 31st July 2007.

It was formally noted that the "Action Group" will confine its activities to opposing the building of new houses, or flats, within the existing communities of Popley West.

The opposition to the conversions will be reviewed at a later date.

The next committee meeting will be held on 5th September.

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



'Hampshire Scouting's Centenary 2007 Camp on the (very muddy in parts) New Forest Show Ground was a real 'WOW' and everyone had a fantastic time. Twenty two members of the Group attended joining up with over four thousand other Scouts from all over Hampshire. The Group was pleased to meet up with scouts from Ghana during the week and 'swopped' badges and scarves as is customary on such occasions. I know the leaders were exhausted on their return and so were many of the youngsters there was so much to do and see and enjoy.



Still some fun to come as Centenary Year nears its close. So watch this space!!

Boot Sales at Popley Fields Community Centre continue on a regular weekly basis with Air Scouts taking responsibility for overseeing the event once a month. Poor weather has taken its toll on attendance some weekends. Booters can st up from 12.30 a.m.



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 Karlake 410559

their houses only to see them washed away. If ever we get a massive tidal surge up the Thames again due to rain Canvey will again be flooded. But this time it is so built up I can see many more people losing their lives on the plains. Can any of you remember the 1953 floods? The rain was so hard, and it went on all night with thunder and lightning. Yes it has been bad, but I can remember worse. The problems we are getting with all these floods now is because of over building in the wrong places. Yes it is sad when you see people on TV that have just bought a cottage or house by the river, and then they complain the river has over flowed into their houses.

Just going back a few years, remember the pirate radio stations well Caroline is opening up for a month for the people that remember them. My uncle was a producer of Radio Luxemburg it was produced in London, but then put out in Luxemburg. Good old Pete Murray he put on a great show each night. Many of our presenters of pirate radio went on to the BBC. They started the shows we have now and all our local stations. I still think back, and think then was the good days of radio. They were the rebels that wanted people to have a voice and not be told how we should be or do. I wonder who you think in your own life time you would look at and say that person was someone that I look up to. I have a few even up to the present day. I still look at people not just because they have international status, they could be just some one local and say yes he or she has given so much and worked hard for their achievements and I think I could be that person if I try hard. Then go out and do it, be like that person. Think of things you could do, even if people do not like it or have your convictions. Above all to me is our town and just how far it has come over the years. How hard people have worked to get it to that stage. You may say I am wrong but this is how I feel. We have a wonderful hospital, the police do fight crime and fight hard to improve our lives so we feel safe.

Now last but not least our Fire Service, they came to my house last month and went over it to see if I have all the fire alarms in the right rooms. They looked at escape routs, this bit did up set Her Indoors because if we had a fire she wants to get rescued by one of the strapping young men that came round. How could she when she has her own Adonis in me.!!! Well I can dream can't I. To say they were good is an understatement. We would like to thank them for all the advice they gave us. We would also ask you all if you are like me in the tail end of life or have small children get in touch with them prevention is better than cure.

Till next month
The Old Codger

THE OLD CODGER

When you read this my son will have been married, the Old Codger got over his hangover, and back to normal services. I will have kicked Her Indoors back to work. Oh by the way I said last month that I will have to put on my old suit, and yes it had to be let out a bit. WELL OK A LOT. But she did it no matter what, and of course you would never guess she did get the new handbag. Boy do I have to suffer for the woman in my life, the very woman I let go out to work and keep me in the life style I have become accustomed to. If we all had just that small bit of love in us by treating our loved ones the way I keep Her Indoors, then life would be great.



Last month we an invitation from the BBC to go to Lady's Day at the Newbury races, so I had to take her. No I did not have to fork out for yet another outfit, but she needed yet another new hat! What a great day we had. I had a little flutter as well This month I want to talk about a subject close to me, but it should be on everyone's minds. I do know not all of you will agree, but here goes. On T.V last month the government rolled out plans to get our black kids to study a role model and aim in that direction. Why isolate a group if it is not bad enough now, the schools should get all kids to aim at someone as a role model, not just our black kids. We need to teach kids that there are some great men and women in the past that they could study. When I was at school this was the normal thing to do. Many of us picked people from the past, and our teachers would oversee our work and guide us in the right way. We never had computers it was all bookwork. I spent weeks in our local library studying my subject. The person I picked was Mad King George. (no comments please). It was great fun, and I learnt not just about him but also of the way people lived back then. To sum up on this, the schools should not just pick out one group but unite the kids, by them all doing what they want to be and why. After all the floods across the country you would think in this day and age with the way our life style is, the engineering men and women, plus the wealth we have that flooding should not go on time and time again. Why is this not addressed and not just pushed away, saying we were caught out by the amount of rain, or the flood plains are not defended against this. People say it was as bad as the country has ever known. In fact hundreds lost their lives at the beginning of the last century in the Thames flood plains on Canvey Island houses were washed away, people hung onto the roofs of

STORM CHASERS IN A BROKEN WORLD

What a summer! Flooding here and in Asia, earthquakes, Hurricane in the Caribbean and so on. What is God doing? Wrong question. The right question is what on earth are we doing? And no, the answer is not global warning! If we're going to talk about climate change you need to go back 5000 plus years when *THE* flood occurred. Enough to say that our planet cracked open like an egg shell, water poured out of massive underground reservoirs, a water canopy in the atmosphere collapsed, fault lines (earthquake cracks) appeared as they are today, a single land mass started to break up into the continents as we know them now and if that wasn't enough, the earth was knocked off it's axis creating a different magnetic and true north and 5 ¼ days were added to the year because of a disruption to it's orbit around the sun. Sunamis were created that makes the ones today look like small waves. Wow! All because we wanted to go our own way. I enjoyed watching the film "The Day After Tomorrow", especially the scene where super freezing occurred in seconds. Guess where our ice caps and glaciers came from!

Another series of films I enjoyed watching were the ones to do with storm chasers where they get as close as they can to tornadoes to try and forecast the next one. That's difficult to do in a broken world. That's like trying to predict what a corrupted programme is going to do the computer. The thing is, God created the world in a perfect state, a tropical paradise worldwide with no storms and other nasties. And mankind has to go and mess it up! We're not doing much better today are we?

All I can say to that is – Thank God for Jesus. He was part of the creative force in the beginning and demonstrated His continuing power by telling the storm on Lake Galilee in Israel to behave itself. Having a rough ride? Is your ship going down? Never mind about storm chasing – get to know The One who chases storms away. He'll bring peace and a purpose to your life.

CHICKEN RICE AND PEAS

We've had a good response to those of you wanting to learn how to cook this exotic West Indian dish. Sunday 2nd September 6.30pm Melrose Hall. Learn the secrets and enjoy the food! All free. Register with Evadne on 462351 or 428795

HOORAY! (well for the parents anyway) back to school which means...

Friday Clubs for the youth! Every Friday during school term time. Is there one near you? Melrose Hall, Bermuda Close, Base 2000 (behind Popley Fields) and Oakridge Hall4All. Infant/Junior school age 6.30-7.45pm. Secondary School age (Melrose Only) 8-915pm

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Meets at Melrose Hall, Off Abbey Road, Popley (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



Wow! What a busy summer we have had here at the hall! I hope you all enjoyed the summer break. We had a play scheme running in August and much fun was had by all. We have three new user groups that have joined us now so there is something for everyone to enjoy.

MONDAY:

9.30-12pm Friendly Café - Don't sit at home feeling lonely come along for a cup of tea, bacon sandwich and a good chat. We have members of all ages from 0-100! We also have a

hearing aid service clinic and a Chiropodist. Contact Iris for further details on 41113.

NEW!

5.00-7.00pm Dynamic Baton Twirlers - This is a group for beginners to learn individual routines, for ages 6-14, Sessions cost just £3 pay as you go. You will have the opportunity to train for national competitions too! Contact Mel Haymon on 0794 7766225 for further details.

7.30-10.30pm Peregrine Healing and Holistic - This group meet for meditation, reiki, crystals and much more every week, as this is one of our more popular groups there is a waiting list for the main group. Also on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th week of the month between 7.30-8.30 20 minute healing sessions are available for the general public at £3 a time. Contact Gloria on 417429 to find out more.

TUESDAY

4.00-7.30 Petite School of Dance - from beginners to experts this dance school teaches ballet, tap, modern, acrobatics, lyrical. For ages 3 and up Sessions cost from £3.50 pay as you go. Work towards Grades, medals and shows. Speak to Sharon on 335024 for further details. Also on **Saturday**.

WEDNESDAY

10.00-11.30 - Popley Little People are our resident Carer and Toddler group, anyone caring for under 5s are welcome to join.. A programme of activities are planned in advance with subjects such as play dough, painting, cooking, bubble time and many more.. They also have weekly song time and story time a dedicated baby corner and bike corner. Just £1 per family including refreshments. We are also one of the few groups in Basingstoke that continue through the school holidays. Contact Helen on 07765524049 or Ali on 07932931317.

10.00-11.00 Quit Smoking Clinic - This Clinic is provided by the NHS, practical advice and devices to aid quitting are provided on prescription. Contact Christina on 312341 for more details.

12-2pm Oasis Lunch club the club is run by the Popley Action Churches Together Group.

THURSDAY

9.30-12PM Friendly Café - See Monday for details.

NEW!

4.30-5.30 Young Scientist Club. Come along and try you hand at a few experiments for ages 8+. Contact Jurie on 07765997456.

6.30-8.30 Weight Watchers Free registration in September. Contact Mirium on 077903703542 for further details.

NEW!

6.00-9.00 Jakes Cards - Jake sells both a selection of cards he has made himself and all the products you will need to make them in the comfort of your own home, he is also on hand to give tips and advice on card making.

FRIDAY

10-3 Together - Social club run by a mental health charity, membership strictly by referral only.

6.30-7.45 Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years

8.00- 9.15 Youth Club - age 11 plus. Contact Eve on 462351 for further details.

SATURDAY

9.00-12.30 Petite School of Dance - See **TUESDAY**.

SUNDAY

Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.



The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Thursday 27th September

9.15am-12noon

All Funds Raised for Cancer Ward

Why not take this opportunity to visit the Melrose Community Hall and see what is available for hire

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.**