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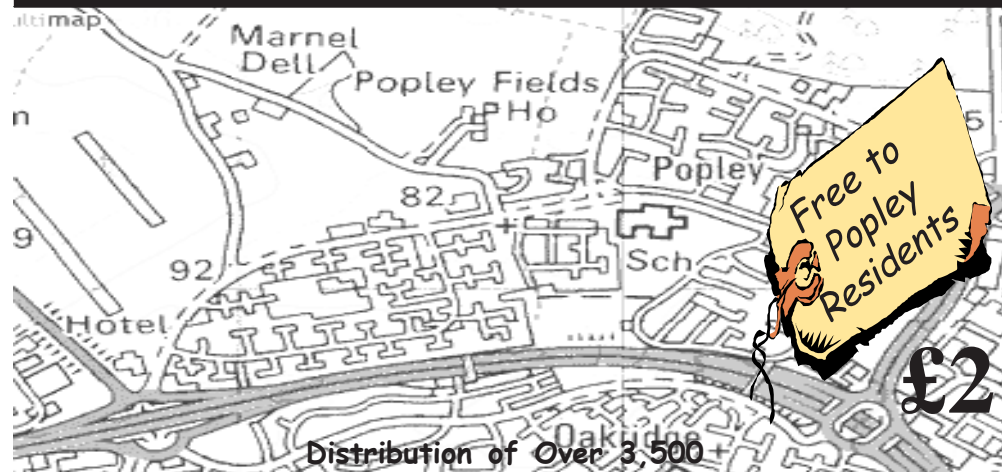
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

June 2006

Issue 52



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-06-06)

Message From the Editor

Here I am writing Popley Matters message for the month of flaming June as the rain lashes down and the wind whips up a storm through the rustling trees. Paul and I have just got back from Popley Festival with mud up to our ankles. However we still had a great time meeting friends that we only get to see on occasions like this. There was still a surprising number of people that came to our Festival, and we still picked up a few good bargains. The report is on page 3.

The Mega Jumble Sale in Melrose Community Hall was also a success and a good sum of money was raised for Neighbourcare and Feed the Children. Paul bet me that I would buy something as I said there was nothing I needed, but as usual with all the good bargains about he won and I bought a few things.

Popley Fields Community Centre holds its 10 years celebrations this month and there is a very full range of entertainments on the 24th. Have a look at the events that are advertised on page 10

The double center page spread is the results of the public consultation on regenerating the Maldive and Faroe Close area with a photo of the £100 voucher winner.

We say Goodbye to PC Matt Deery and Steve Bate one of our Community Wardens. It has been a privilege working with them but I suspect we may see both around Popley sometimes.

Our Old Codger has been unwell and been in Chertsey Intensive Care and into Basingstoke twice. I know he is feeling a bit better because he gave instructions to "Her Indoors" to edit and send the article he was writing when he was taken ill. You can't keep us old ones down! Old Codger is on page 18.

Also Archie Martin is in hospital. Many of us know Archie from the varied work in the Popley community, from Bingo in Popley Fields and Melrose Centre where he has been on the committee for many years, get well soon. *Jane Frankum*

Hits on popley.matters.org.uk website for month of May 2672

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:– Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke.RG24 9EL email editor@popleymatters.org.uk The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. Or the members of the committee of Popley Forum/Matters.

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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; Being a responsible dog owner I always carry several nappy sacks with me when I walk my dog so I can clear up any mess she makes. The nappy sacks aren't expensive and have a scent to them which helps eliminate some doggy smell. I do get annoyed when I see dog mess around, and the other day a woman wearing jeans and a bright pink top, blatantly ignored the fact that her dog had done two poohs along the embankment on Popley 4. The dog was a chocolate Labrador and she called it by the name of Dillon. Maybe she will read this and be ashamed enough to clear up after her dog in future! Signed A responsible dog owner!

Editor's reply; Most dog owners are responsible and I agree that it is anti social, illegal, and indeed dangerous to leave the dogs mess all over the estate and park areas. It is a shame that a few owners can be so irresponsible, and the more people that complain the better so that we can stop the practice of leaving the mess. I get cross when it is on areas that other people walk or children play on. As long as you wrap the mess up securely it can go in any waste bin.

Dear Editor; I am fed up of playing hunt the dustbin every Wednesday. I dutifully put my bin out right on the edge by the road at the end of my garden as we have been requested to do so. I have my house number in foot high numbers clearly marked. So can someone please tell me why I have to go along with my neighbours playing this silly and infuriating game of hunting our bins EVERY week. Abbey

Road resident.
Editors reply; You have my sympathy it does make the estate look a mess and we have complained bitterly about it, and been told that the "binmen" should put the bins back where they picked them up from. One week my bin was so far away that I phoned and reported it stolen. I asked for a replacement bin and two days later my bin appeared. They had found it and returned it. Could you imagine the time that would have to be spent if we all reported the bins missing? Mmmm.

Dear Editor; This is short as I just want to know is it true that Popley Matters is going in with Chineham?

Editors reply The answer is even shorter NO!!

Editors Appeal: I would love to get more of your letters and thoughts on Popley Matters and Popley. Here on the committee we often wonder if our efforts are read and what you all think of the magazine. Are there things we should be including, have you any ideas on how we could improve what is your very own community magazine. How to contact us is just 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 can not accept letters that are sent anonymously.

**Please send your letters to :
 The Editor, Popley Matters,
 405 Abbey Rd, RG24 9EL or
 email: or phone 819924
editor@popleymatters.org.uk**



Moving On

Having been a Community Warden in Popley since the launch of the Service in December 2003, the time

has come for me to move on. Due to the expansion of the Community Warden Service, we will now be patrolling 5 more patrol areas, and I will be one of the wardens responsible for Winklebury.

This change brings not only a little sadness, but also the excitement of a new challenge. It's a privilege to help build a strong and safe community in Winklebury. Sarah will be staying in Popley and will be joined by a new colleague who you will meet very soon.

I will of course still be around in Popley from time to time.

Our offices are still based at John Hunt School, so I will still feel part of the community here, and the people of Popley will always have a special place in my heart. It's been a fantastic community to work with, and thank you to everyone who has helped us as community wardens and encouraged me in my role.

I will of course be back for the very important Proud of Popley Award Ceremony on 4th August, so I'll see all of you who have either nominated someone or been nominated for an award.

Please look after Sarah and her new colleague, and I'll see you around. Stephen Bate

Hello everybody! I hope you're enjoying the odd glimpse of sunshine and making the most of it. After all, the World Cup is about to kick off, so I expect to be able to smell the lovely aroma of barbecues wafting over garden fences as I go about my daily patrols across Popley. And, of course please feel free to offer me a burger (if only to test that it's cooked properly!).

It was great to see you all at this year's highly successful 'Popley Festival', and to hear of your views, ideas and problems. After all, everybody can be a Community Warden, so please continue to look after your neighbourhood and do not hesitate to give me a call or e-mail me with any ideas or concerns you may have on **(01256) 845508** or sarah.ratcliff@basingstoke.gov.uk.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of those who have volunteered some of your spare time in to the 'Popley Gardening Project'. We're looking for more volunteers so if you fancy getting involved please contact me using the details above.

It saddens me to tell you that Stephen has recently been re-located as the new Winklebury community warden as part of the extension of the scheme to other parts of the borough. It's because the scheme has been so successful that it has been extended and it's the communities like Popley that have helped to make it work. And this development of the warden team means Popley will have a brand new warden working alongside me. So we will both be out and about patrolling together very soon and you'll all have the chance to meet your new warden over the coming weeks. Rest assured we'll be keeping up all the good work of the community wardens. Take care of yourselves and I look forward to see you all out and about.

All the best, Sarah Ratcliff, Popley Community Warden. sarah.ratcliff@basingstoke.gov.uk



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Popley Festival 2006

Well the weather forecast said it would rain, and they weren't wrong. It tipped it down for most of the day, and as we expected the numbers would be way down, but, remarkably, people came out. While we didn't get the 15,000 we had last year, it was still an impressive turnout and we estimate about 4000 plus people attended over the space of the day.

A gang of stalwarts were encamped outside the live stage, complete with raincoats and umbrellas. Most of the acts went ahead as planned. It takes more than a few drops of rain to stop the Popley Festival!

The John Hunt Parents Association burger stall attracted long queues from 12.30 onwards as a brief gap in the rains attracted people to the field.

There was also free food (and healthy food at that) available from the H3CS and NHS joint stall. H3CS is responsible for the catering in Hampshire schools and last summer launched a new range of nutritious school foods. There were cooking demos with stir-fries and they were giving away free fruit kebabs all day.

The Police, Community Wardens, Accredited Community Safety Officers and Neighbourhood Watch all shared a tent which funnily enough was closest to the beer tent. Perhaps they had reckoned on it being thirsty work if it was as sunny as last year. They were giving away free footballs as part of a penalty shoot-out competition.

It was very good to see the Popley Conservation Volunteers again who reported brisk trade inside the school. Nature conservation is an important issue at the moment with the new build: the new tunnels are now in place under the access roads and it is hoped that the great crested and other newts will use these to "commute" between Popley ponds and the ponds at the Vyne. The Conservation Volunteers are expanding and taking on nature conservancy work in the woods behind Carpenters Down.

The architects for the new John Hunt School were also inside and reported about 150 enquiries. They are now able to show pictures of the new school being built. The new school should open in Sept 2007.

There were Firefighters, funfair. Karate, information stalls, craft stalls and a magnificent performance of John Hunts famous Steel Band. The boot sale carried on regardless too.

All in all a very good festival, especially considering the obvious handicap of the weather. We had people say it was the best in spite of the rain. Our thanks go to Suki Binning, the organising committee, the various stallholders and volunteers, plus the staff and pupils of John Hunt school for all their hard work.

Basingstoke & District Railway Society

The Society was privileged in April to receive a presentation on the many railways of New Zealand, as well as a wonderful portrayal of one of the most scenic countries in the world. The presenter, Colin Brading, explained that NZ is a long way from anywhere, but is certainly worth the effort or going there as his photos, selected from a collection of over 2000 taken during a tour in the early part of 2002, showed.

As is usual for most tours of NZ, the presentation commenced in Auckland and following visits to a number of small narrow gauge lines in the area the expedition took the North Island Main Trunk 3'6" gauge line 680 kms. south to Wellington. Here again a number of private railways and museums were visited as well as the cable railway and transport systems of the capital.

Crossing the Cook Strait to Picton, what remains of the passenger system on the South Island was traversed, first down to Christchurch, followed by a trip on the Tranz-Alpine line to Greymouth where gradients as steep as 1:33 are experienced over Arthurs Pass. Then followed a road and boat journey down the scenic west coast, over to Queenstown and south to Dunedin where the main line station is the NZ equivalent of London's St. Pancras. Returning to Christchurch a number of interesting private railways were visited before heading back to Wellington and Auckland.

This was a fascinating evening of wonderful photography, and if you have an interest in railways, the B & D R S meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Wote Street Club. Telephone Peter Tran on 01256 326096 for details.

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Other volunteering opportunities in the Popley area

Mocktails Bar at Popley Fields Community Centre.

Help wanted to design and build a Caribbean style shack ready for the "One Beat" music festival.

Festival volunteers needed.

Youth Committee members needed for the Local Youth Service.

THE PAPERCRAFT PROJECT

I am starting a paper craft project at Bermuda Community Hall on June the 8th. Do you enjoy making cards, scrapbooking and would like to meet like minded people? Would you like to learn? Would you like to share your experience in papercraft? Then why not join me. The format will be Demonstrations (if needed) with Weekly or fortnightly project. to include one or two of the following. card, giftbox or giftbag, bottle or flower wrap, scrapbook. childrens party packs, notelets, and stationery, envelopes, moneylopes, gift tags, toppers, etc: All papercrafts techniques will be covered, except parchment work, as I hope to get a demonstrator to come along for this. We will have Card of the Week competitions. Make something at home and bring it with you. Everyone will get one vote and the one with the most votes wins a craft prize. There will be a book, magazine, and also an equipment swap. (so people can try out new ideas at home without buying something they wont use). Planned visits to major craft shows, (the first one being at Newbury in July) A well earned break for tea/coffee or juice and biscuits. All ages, beginner or experienced will be welcome, so if you're 15 to 95 come along and join in the fastest growing craft in the country. **ALL MATERIALS SUPPLIED AND YOU TAKE HOME WHAT YOU MAKE** If you are interested call Liz on Basingstoke, 326678 to book a place. This project will be non profit making. and the cost will be approx £3.00 depending on the number of people attending. The cost is to cover the, hire of hall, materials and equipment etc: I have only lived in Popley a short while and found there is little organised for the over 55s. So I would also like to start the same type of group for the over 55s in the afternoons. If anyone is interested please contact Liz on Basingstoke 326678.

Popley Gospel

On Saturday 13th May, the Aria International Gospel Choir performed for the second time at Popley Fields Community Centre following their well received performance in January. From the attendance, it was clear that the word had been spread about just how good the choir were with many in the audience returning with friends in tow to experience the music.

And what an experience it was, from the first song it was clear that everyone in the audience was going to enjoy themselves and they did. The choir performed a number of new songs alongside songs which are fast becoming old favourites for those of us who have seen them more than once.

Through the songs and the words spoken in between, the choir members expressed the hope that is associated with the Christian Faith and encouraged us to work together in partnership with each other to demonstrate this hope to our community. There were many 'special' moments throughout the evening, which was filled with great performances by the choir and the soloists.

Speaking to the choir afterwards, they explained how they hoped that their music would bring people closer to God and to each other. It is clearly very important to them that they sing songs, which have a message of hope and encouragement for everyone.

The good news is that the choir will be returning to Popley Fields Community Centre on Saturday 23rd September 2006 for another great evening of uplifting music. Once again, admission will be free and all will be welcome.

Graham Owen

Pastor - New Testament Church of God

www.ntcog.co.uk