

# POPLEY MATTERS



April - May 1998

Volume 2, Issue 7

## The Popley Forum

The Forum meeting was a good and lively meeting with several invited speakers. It would have been better if a few more residents had come too. It was and is your chance to say what issues you are most concerned about in Popley.

The first guest was Blanche Miles Litter Warden for Basingstoke she explained the new re cycling scheme. The most common remark was that the dustmen just throw all the rubbish in the back of the van together. Blanche explained that the carts are divided so the rubbish is separated. Blanche is also responsible for leaf clearance and it was agreed that it had improved on last year but that there was still room for improvement.

PC David Page then told us that the "beat" now covered Chineham as well as Popley and introduced us to WPC Emma Beattie we now have three Bobbies the third one being PC Oliver. It was interesting to find that the level of crime was very small, there are however problems with the lighting over the bridge from Popley Abbeys to Oakridge and reports of harassing the more vulnerable people who live in Popley.

Bob Young, Crime Reduction Officer was our final guest he told us about himself and what his job entailed. Bob said that crime prevention was a multi agency responsibility. He spoke briefly about Neighbourhood Watch. In the discussion that followed an appeal was made for a co-ordinator for the Popley area for the Neighbourhood Care scheme Phone 332424. Do you know anyone that would be interested. Jane Frankum said that she had not heard from Stephen Bryers, Jane was eager to show him the lack of play areas, in particular at one side of Abbey Road. Jane also wanted to press for The Aldermaston Open Space to be developed as a leisure amenity that families could all enjoy. Blanche Miles said she would pass on the

## Can you help?

Do you have any ideas for the 5th Popley Festival or could you help. We are looking for volunteers, ideas and attractions for our very successful festival. It is to be held at John Hunt of Everest Community School on 17<sup>th</sup> May from 11am to 5pm. Contact Christine Little by phone 465303 or by post to The Popley Festival Committee, John Hunt of Everest Community School, Popley Way, RG24 9AB.

Please include your name and where we can get in touch with

## WHAT IS COMMUNITY SPIRIT?

It is NOT hearing that an elderly member of the community, who has a disabled husband and is not fit herself, has been mugged, as she came away from collecting her pension. It is that the very same lady is one who gives voluntarily of her time to help deliver this newsheet to you the residents. We at Melrose Hall and the Popley Matters wish to encourage all people to look out for each other, whatever their age, it costs nothing to be friendly and polite and it makes for a happier and safer environment. It is up to you and me as ordinary people to make the place we live in what we would like it to be, not to let what we do not like carry on, because we can't be bothered or are to scared to do anything. The police can not be everywhere at all times - but the community can, if you see anything that is not quite right or looks suspicious then report it, your local police can only function well with all our assistance. Not everything will seem as if it is being sorted immediately, but with your help a picture can be completed to finish a puzzle in any enquiries. I hear you saying to yourself it's easier said than done, but who said life was easy! NEXT time you or your family could be on the receiving end of whatever crime, petty or otherwise. This time it was someone I knew, and who did not deserve this traumatic experience, and I am angry, angry because I can not stop this sort of thing happening again.(Iris

message to Stephen.

Note it worked, a report of the meeting is in this issue. The next Popley Forum meeting will be 20th April at 7-30pm at Maderia Hall, Popley Islands and we will have speakers on caring in the community and the new Health Centre. Invited guests include Nursing Professionals, Social Services, Fire service, Age Concern, Heads of local Schools, Youth Leaders, Oakfern

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Sunday

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12pm - 2pm & 5pm - 10:30pm

**Tuesday Closed**



## Letter to the Editor

I would like to thank the person or persons who thought up the idea of issuing Travel Tokens from the community centre at Carpenters Down. I personally found it very good and stress free. The council staff were all geared up and very polite and friendly I was in and out in a few minutes, compared to queuing at the Council offices. I would recommend it whole-heartily it brings into prospective what Community Centres are all about. "Working for all the Community". Thank you.



The Boys Brigade  
6<sup>th</sup> Basingstoke (Popley) coy.

**Anchor Boys Aged 5½yrs-8yrs**  
Monday Night 6-15pm to 7-15pm

ROOM R12 Rosla Block

**Junior Section Aged 8yrs-10½yrs**  
Monday Night 6-15pm to 7-30pm  
Main School Gym

**Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs**  
Monday Night 7-30pm to 9-30pm  
ROOM R12 Rosla Block

All Sections Meet at John Hunt School

## Judo

We are involved in the "Festival of Sports" with our German twin town of Euskirchen, and this year some of our members will travel to Germany to participate in the sports competition and stay with German Judo players families, it's great fun and we have made many new friends. We have 2 fully qualified Instructors, our club is fun, it's not all hard work, if your not competition minded you don't have to go, if you are, we'll get you there! So, if you like the sound of our club why not come along and have a go, have some fun, bring your friends, the first session is FREE! !

We are in the Gym at the John Hunt Centre on Friday evenings, there are 3 sessions:

6.30 to 7.30pm Beginners aged 6 to 9 years

7.30 to 8.30pm Players of all abilities 10 years & above

8.30 to 9.30pm Adults of all abilities. (New class starting)

Prices after the first free session are:

-  
£2 per session for Children



## BASINGSTOKE NEIGHBOURCARE

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Hampshire, RG21 7QT  
Telephone/Fax: 01256 332424  
Registered Charity Number 1067729

Basingstoke Neighbourcare is a registered charity that offers assistance to anyone who needs short term help and cannot afford to pay for professional assistance. Volunteers undertake all the work. In Popley, there are five Neighbourcare volunteers. We would welcome further offers of help, especially from anyone who may be interested in becoming a voluntary local co-ordinator. This person is the vital link between the volunteers and the people requiring help.

Anyone who requires further information about Neighbourcare or who may need assistance should telephone

## Loddon Alliance Network Melrose Hall

Loddon Alliance gained the contract to run the old "Drop in" on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1997, The aim is to create a friendly welcome and opportunity to share and support ideas views and interests with others. This is open to any person who has any mental health needs, no referrals are necessary.

Call in any Friday between 10am to 3pm We will be pleased to see you.

## Treasure Island Play Group

At  
Popley Fields  
Community Centre  
Mon-Fri 9:30am - 12:00pm  
Now Thurs 12:30pm - 3:00pm  
Parents & Toddler Group  
Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30pm

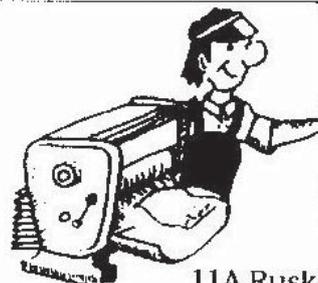


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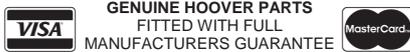
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**Wednesday's & Saturday's**

*We are looking forward to meeting you.*

**4:30 pm to 8:30 pm**



**JOHN HUNT  
STOP  
PRESS.**

Book now for the Woodwork and Carving class starting on Tuesday 21st April or the Yoga beginners/intermediate class starting on Monday 20th April, there are still a few places available.

Don't forget the Popley Festival on Sunday 17th May 1998. The 5th Festival will take place at

John Hunt Community School from 11am - 5pm. We want this to be the biggest and best yet so if you wish to participate in any way do please contact Christine Little on 465303 or call into the Community Office at John Hunt. We are also taking bookings now for the bonanza table top sale which will be one of the festival attractions!!

Plans for the children's summer holiday activities at John Hunt of Everest are now being finalised please contact the community office for details.

Get into trim for the summer book a place on a fitness coaching course and then tone up in the community multigym at John Hunt of Everest details on ☎465303.

**Indoor Car Boot Sale every Second Sunday of each month  
At Melrose Community Hall, Abbey Rd.**



**From 1:30pm to 3:30pm**  
**Tables Available from £4each** ☎420676

**Play Area Report**

I met Stephen Bryers on Thursday 19th February in the afternoon, he showed me the proposals for play areas in Popley. I was impressed but however I still felt that one side of Abbey Road was not being served as well as the others and it is no secret that I have, along with others wanted the Aldermaston Road Open Space to be developed as a family leisure park. We took a walk around the areas and Stephen said he was open to ideas as long as it was properly considered and there was always public consultation.

I invited Stephen to come and look at the "Art in the Landscape" project that the community and youth of Popley are achieving at the old site by the new Melrose Hall. He was indeed very impressed and spoke to the artists and the team. Iris King spoke to us about the need for facilities for the youth in Popley. Iris also said she felt that the Aldermaston Open Space was under used and with the help of the project team showed some really amazing plans of projects that could be used in Popley. We know that all these things seem to take forever but I felt very positive about the future of play areas on our estate.

**Bob Douglass**

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## From Popley to Moscow

Young people from Junction 6 Youth Arts Centre in Popley are preparing themselves for a rather exciting exchange. Last summer Junction 6 Theatre Company worked with two professional theatre and music directors and created Petrushka - a percussive physical theatre project based on the Old Russian folk tale.

They first performed it at the Haymarket Theatre and so well was it received they later toured the county and now will take it to Moscow in August.

Between now and then we will all be busy rehearsing and raising money for the trip, so if anyone can offer any help or support please contact Clare Hobbs on ☎(01256) 359596.

## Melrose Art in Landscape update

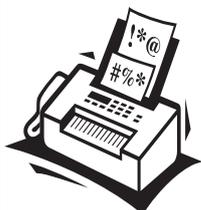
Some of you will have noticed over the past 2 weeks, that with the help of local youth, the contractors have almost finished the landscape garden and path. By the time this copy goes to press, the lawn area will also have been laid and the path cleaned to show the artwork of "Popley artists" to the best advantage. Congratulations to all of you who took part in this project, without you, the Popley residents, this project would not have been able to take place. To those of you that did not get your design into this path, DON'T be too down hearted, there were so many designs but not enough paths! ! ! But Charlie Carter, the artist, will be back for more workshops to be arranged later. So come on all you artists, Old and Young, pop into Melrose Hall and give us your idea's of what you would like to see or do. WE ARE PLANNING A "DO" to celebrate the completion of this project. So

watch out for details in the next few weeks at the centre. IMPORTANT this garden/path is part of your living environment and will only improve and stay looking nice, if ALL members of the community respect and police it. DON'T THROW RUBBISH AND

## FASTFARE

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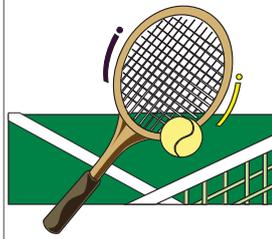
## A GARDEN FOR EVERYONE

Would you like to help decide what the Popley Fields Community Centre Garden should look like?

The garden is close to the community centre cafe and enclosed by a wall. It could be somewhere to sit quietly; it could be somewhere to play; it could be somewhere to watch wildlife; it could be somewhere to meet friends or have a party; or it could be all of these and more.

We need your help to design and build a garden, which we can all enjoy.

A garden group will be set up in April to start coming up with ideas. If you would like to be part of this group why not phone Margaret McGrath on 845407 to find out more.



## TINTERN CLOSE TENNIS COURTS

Discussions took place with Borough Council Officers in September to find out how Popley residents would like to see the tennis courts in Tintern Close developed.

Those who attended, produced a layout of what they would like to see, which included seating, a basketball goal and a dividing fence so that football may be played on one side of the fence and coloured tarmac.

The next stage is to test these ideas in the community prior to making any changes to the land.

Basingstoke College of Technology is hoping to assist the Borough Council in gathering opinions.

For further information please contact Stephen Bryer ☎01256 845607.

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