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# POPLEY MATTERS

September to November 1998

Volume 3, Issue 2

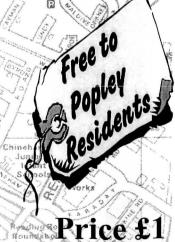
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# **Special Features**

Messages From
The New
Community Development Worker,
The Local Beat Bobbies
& Arthur Attwood

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Oru



Closing date to submit article adverts etc. (14-11-98)

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To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write or phone:

> Popley Matters Melrose Hall Abbey Road Basingstoke Hampshire **RG24 9ES 2**01256 420676

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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# The Boys Brigade

As usual, you're local Boys' Brigade Company has been very active during the summer.

**Anchor Boys,** have taken over a small garden at John Hunt School and are busy planning its up keep

**Junior Section** have been on a weekend camp at the Watership Activity Centre at Old Burghclere. A very

wet weekend, and the highlight must have been: - after a ramble on a wet Saturday morning, the boys returned, emptied their wellies and ate their lunch with water dripping from their socks, well it helped get the mud off the carpet.

Company Section has had an active weeks summer camp in the New Forest Activities, included mountain biking, canoeing, climbing, archery, ski bobbing, swimming, orienteering and sports. Best tent, was tent 1, lead by James Hood. David Seabrook won the sportsman of the week certificate, well done David.

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section, have had a visit from Blanch Miles, the Litter Warden from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Fund raising is going well, with the recycling of newspaper and magazines in the skips at the St. Gabriels Church and the Soldiers Return Public House The Brigade is now running regular CAR BOOT SALES at John Hunt School. The boot sales will be every other Sunday from 1pm also keep a watch out for the Jumble Sales starting in the autumn.

There are a few vacancies for boys to join. Why not come along and see what we do and how much fun we have. Pay us a visit and see if you want to join in with us, you will be made very welcome.

Please see our advert on page 9 for times and ages of meeting.



# New Play Area for Popley!



After consultations with residents on Popley Islands the need for a play area for the under fives was identified. The area proposed was between Maldive and Faroe. Planning permission is being applied for and if all goes well there will be a beautiful new play area in time for next summer.

Thank you to the council officers and the people who attended the meetings to help this project go forward. We at Popley Forum/Matters welcome projects like this to improve the facility for our community.

# Message From the Editor

I was very pleased to get such a good feed back on our first booklet edition. The Popley Matters team with the aid of Andy from Printwise have worked so very hard to give you all an interesting magazine that you would want to read. we are always open to constructive ideas to further improve Popley Matters and also give the residents of Popley a good informative magazine.

There has been some very exciting and new developments in Popley in the last three months, firstly our new Community Development Worker Tori Gosling has started working for us in the community. All the Popley Matters team, and myself are looking forward to some new and refreshing ideas to improve our leisure time and I know Tori would welcome your ideas.

Also we welcome the Little Miss Muffet Kindergarten School back into Popley at Abbey Court. It was hard work for the staff to get ready in time, some worked a fourteen-hour day but it was worth it. The residents of Abbey Court were outside in the sun watching the opening ceremony and one lady knitted a beautiful clown for the children. I have been told that one of the children's granddad lives in Abbey Court and is delighted to be able to see them every day.

A big welcome to Arthur Attwood who will be writing for us regularly. Arthur is known as Mr Basingstoke and is the person to go to if you want to know any thing connected with Basingstoke. The Local Beat Police will also endeavour to write on a regular basis the first article is inside.

Congratulations to Iris King who has been voted to be the Chair for Melrose Community Association once again, Jenny Bailey will assist Iris as vice chair.

Some of our readers will be contacted and asked if you will help to fill in a questionnaire so that we can give you the kind of magazine you want to read. Don't wait to be asked, if you have any comments to make, write or phone to us at Melrose Hall Abbey Rd, Popley RG24 9ES. 420676 (leave a message on the answer phone).

At previous Forum meetings the question of abandoned cars and parking have played a major part. We are still pursuing this problem and we are making slow but sure progress but any news will be added to the articles of Popley Matters. Finally I must emphasise that we can not answer or print your letters if we do not have a name and address. We promise not to reveal your identity if you wish. We will not entertain anonymous literature. (Jane Frankum)

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# YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AT POPLEY FIELDS AND LAND NORTH OF POPLEY

The Borough Council is arranging a community planning event in respect of the proposed new developments at Land North of Popley and Land at Popley Fields. The purpose of the event will be to discuss the details of the new development, such as roads, cycleways, footpaths, landscaping, community facilities, and details of general design, i.e. what the development should look like.

The event will be very informal with officers from the Borough and County Council being able to advise on any ideas you might have. It is likely that a representative from the developer will also attend.

The results of the event will be used by the Borough Council when it prepares its detailed development brief for the site later in the year. The development brief is the document that will be adopted by the Council and used as guide by the developer when submitting applications for development on the site.

The community planning event will take place at John Hunt of Everest School on:

Saturday, 19 September - 1.00pm start Tuesday, 22 September - 6.30pm start

It is proposed that after a short introduction the group will break into small round table discussion groups.

If you would like to attend can you please contact Carol Tuxford (845742) or Joan Rich (845418) stating your preferred day or just come along. For general enquiries about this event please contact Roger Tustain on (845743)

### **Competition Competition Competition**

# What Letter is Missing?

SMTWT S

Please send your answer on a postcard with your Name, Address, Telephone Number and age if under 16 to Melrose Hall, Abbey Rd, Popley Abbeys, Basingstoke RG24 9ES. There are two prizes one for an adult and one for under 16's. no later then Friday 2nd October. Winners will be drawn from a hat and notified within 14 days.



# HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Dear Readers,

In my capacity as one of your Area Beat Officers I have been asked to write a short letter outlining some of the

problems that are currently affecting the residents of Popley.

One of these problems are cycle thefts. Up to the end of July this year 140 cycles have been stolen, most never to be seen again by their owners, most of whom are the younger residents. This obviously causes a lot of upset to the loser both emotionally and financially. To help prevent this occurring the Police suggest that cycles are kept in either locked sheds or garages. Yes, a determined thief can still bypass a padlock, however a few pounds spent on a good padlock can increase the time a thief spends attempting to get into where your property is, and this is time a thief doesn't like to spend as it increases the chances of detection by the householder. As Beat officers we do try to also arrange days when you can bring your cycles either to the station or to a location on the beat where we can post code the bikes-this is another way of putting off the cycle thief. Such a date and venue is planned for the coming months.

Secondly, a number of older people have approached us voicing their concerns over suspect door knockers trying to sell goods. All official callers, Police, Gas, Council etc will have identification cards stating who they are. There is no problem with asking to see these or if they haven't got any phoning the company/organisation to verify who they are. Always remember to use a door chain when answering the door, and "IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE, DON'T LET THEM IN".

Popley is considered by many in Basingstoke to be a busy area crime wise, however over the last 18 months or so the level of crime has dropped, we still do have thefts from vehicles and garden sheds and damage to property but nowhere near the level of two or three years ago. Popley is a safe place to live and with the Police and the community and all the other agencies working together we should be able to make it even safer.

Police Constable 2364 D.Page

### POPLEY HISTORY

When I occasionally visit a Popley School I am invariably asked what is the history of Popley? As one who can remember the area at least 65 years ago, all I can say that from time immemorial Popley was part of picturesque Hampshire where farming had taken place for many centuries.

If you look on an Ordinance Survey map the only reference to Popley is Popley Fields, where when I was a youngster Mr Phillips a keen horseman lived at the house to the east of Marnel Dell and in his paddocks were many fine horses. The word Popley has an interesting derivation for the "pop" an old English word meaning pebble, being a shortened word of "popel". Ley means pastureland. Popley Fields was separated from the Oakridge area by the lane, which exists in part, going from the back of St Bede's School to the Sherborne Road. The lane started from the crossroads from the Reading Road and part also exists to the south of Chineham Park School. Along that lane in the proximity of the south part of Shakespeare Road was a chalk dell. A little further along some 300 yards off the road was a mushroom farm, this was taken over by the military during the Second World War to become a depot of the Royal Hampshire Regiment. Pershore Road has been built on the site, which after the war became a buffer depot where goods were stored for use in the event of an atomic catastrophe.

Where the woods are behind the scout buildings off Carpenters Down Road was a rifle range which I fired on as a Home Guard. The range was there long before the Second World War. I also as a member of Dad's Army visited Marnel Dell to throw grenades on a practice area specially prepared with a building which included a safety chamber. This was needed when a very short Home Guardsman failed to clear the parapet, with the grenade falling back at his feet. Before the seven second fuse could let off the bomb he was hustled into the safety chamber. A more modern look at the area which will include references to Chineham House and Chineham Farm and to industrial development will appear in a future article. (Arthur Attwood)

### Who is Arthur Attwood?

Basingstoke and the Gazette's historian, Arthur has been writing for the Gazette since 1947 and was a journalist on the staff from 1970 onwards. Arthur visited Hong Kong in the east and Washington and Toronto in the west to write stories. In 1989 made a freeman of the borough, an honour shared with Mrs Betty Holmes of Old Basing. Arthur has sung as a chorister in St. Michael's Church since 1928. As a crossword compiler Arthur has had thousands published.

We at Popley Matters are very privileged to have Arthur writing for us and are looking forward to further articles.



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# Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor

everyone else is who cares. It concerns of view on subjects concerning them. the grass cutters. When they have cut Unfortunately like other meetings it the grass there is no back up vehicle to was poorly attended if people have clean up the rubbish they leave all over something they want to talk about, or the pavements and it is worse on the something done about a certain sloping areas, especially when it is subject, why do they not come to the raining. I fell on grass cuttings and meetings and let their voices be heard, hurt myself, others could too.

Also it collects on your shoes and you outcome. drag it into your house. Not only that it These meetings are for ALL the people gives a bad impression on any visitors of Popley, and its up to them to have coming into the estate.

Also when they get the grass cut they People Power can do. leave big ruts in the grass, which is I found the meetings very friendly and never re-seeded.

estates.

Upset Resident

it helps to keep the moisture in the 7-30pm and pass on you views. ground so the grass does not dry out. Dear Editor

The Popley Forum I attended Abbey Rd, Basingstoke. RG24 9ES on 9th July was very interesting and We do need your name and address but informative.

I went with the idea of having my say I am very upset as I imagine also to listen to other people's points

you may be pleasantly surprised at the

their say, you will be surprised at what

the guest speakers from the Council I think these estates could do with a and other organisations are very keen complete overhaul, and then people to give answers and advice where may think twice about dumping possible. If they don't know what rubbish. The Council promote worries you they can't do any thing Basingstoke in bloom lets see it on our about it, and a lot of good can come out of the meetings in the long run.

Resident (Tintern Close)

Editor: After "Upset" wrote I Editor: I could not agree more with contacted the Council and they this resident. The more people contacted "Upset" and explained the attending and giving their thoughts procedure for grass cutting and why and ideas to improve Popley the they can't clear all the grass away, better. I hope more of you will come The reasons given were high cost to to the next Forum meeting on remove and also by leaving the grass October 8th at Madeira Hall at

> Please send your letters to: The Editor, Popley Matters Melrose Hall, will not print them it if you ask us not to.

# **Treasure Island** Play Group

Popley Fields Community Centre Mon-Fri 9:30am - 12:00pm Mon & Thurs 12:30pm - 3:00pm

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Painting and Drawing Level 2	30 Weeks	Wed 1900-2100	16.09.98	60.00	16.00R		RYL02
Silk Painting Level 1	30 Weeks	Wed 1900-2100	16.09.98	60.00	16.00R	10.00	RYL03
Jewellery Level 1	30 Weeks	Thurs 1900-2100	17.09.98	60.00	16.00R	10.00	RYL04
Pottery Level 1	30 Weeks	Mon 1900-2100	14.09.98	60.00	16.00R	10.00	RYL05
LANGUAGES							
Spanish Level 1	30 Weeks	Thurs 1900-2100	17.09.98	60.00	13.00		RYL06
French Level 1	30 Weeks	Thurs 1900-2100	17.09.98	60.00	13.00		RYL07
COMPUTING & BUSINESS STUDI	ES						
CLAIT RSA 1	15 Weeks	Fri 1000-1200	18.09.98	60.00	15.00E		RYL08
Book-Keeping for beginners	10 Weeks	Thurs 1900-2100	17.09.98	46.00			XLA101
Book-Keeping follow on	10 Weeks	Mon 1900-2100	Jan. 99	46.00			XLA102
PERSONAL & GENERAL INTEREST							
SREC First Aid	12 Weeks	Toes 1900-2100	16.09.98	55.00	+ exam		RYL09
Aromatherapy	10 Weeks	Wed 1900-2100	16.09.98	46.00			XLD103
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British sign Language Stage Level 1	35 Weeks	Wed 1915-2115	16.09.98	80.00	+ exam		RYL10
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Make Up	1 Week	Sat 1000-1500	26.09.98	24.00			XLE104
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Thai Cookery	1 Week	Sat 1000-1600	07.11.98	26.00			<b>XLE107</b>
Xmas Jewellery	1 Week	Sat 1000-1600	07.11.98	26.00			XLE108

For more information and enrolments contact the information office at anytime on: 01256 306484 People with impaired hearing can contact us by using our Minicom number 01256 841627 or enrol at the John Hunt of Everest centre on: Thursday 10th September 1998 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

# Popley Forum Agenda

Come and give your thoughts and ideas on the "Lay out" of the New Housing Development for the North of Popley.

Speakers invited are:
Roger Tustain (Council Planning Dept)
Stephen Bryers (Council Play Areas Officer)

Madeira Hall Popley Islands

at

7-30pm

on

October 8th

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See you there!



Dear Friends

Its that time again when we look back over the last three months and forward to the next three. Our Open Fun Day, was a huge success despite the efforts of the rain, many more people turned out. The Prize Draw, First Prize was won by Ron Rowe (well done). We were let down at the last moment by the Fair, however we had many other attractions and managed to make a modest profit. We are already preparing for next years event which will be on the 18th July 1999 so fix the date in your diary's.

Our play scheme run by the Play Council ran for two weeks and was very popular with the children and we hope to build on this for next year.

The next Family Disco will be on the 26th of September (Bar facilities and snacks available). Another date for your diary's is the 9th of October when we will be having our first Race Night, (Bar facilities and Snacks will be available) so all you racing fans don't forget to get your tickets early as we only; have limited space.

The Scouts based at Carpenters Down are having a tabletop sale inside Popley Fields on the afternoon of the 19th of September, Doors open from 12noon until 6pm.

Our AGM is coming up in October and this is a good time to come along and voice your opinion as to what events you want the committee to run in your building. Along the same lines your Community Development Worker Tori is available in the building on Tuesdays from 5pm - 9pm and Thursdays from 11am - 3pm.

For any information about the above do not hesitate to phone (01256) 414494 pleases do not be put of if you get the answer machine leave a message and we will make contact.

Yours faithfully Louise Tuck Office Admin Kenilworth Road Basingstoke Hampshire

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### ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES IN POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

First Aid	Tuesday	9.00-11.30am
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Intro to Astrology	Wednesday	7 00-9.00pm
	5 weeks	£20.00
Spanish Beginners	Tuesday	9.30-11.30am
•	10 weeks	£40.00
Dressmaking	Monday	9.30-11.30
for beginners	10 weeks	£40.00
Life after	Wednesday	9.30-11.30am
	10 weeks	£15.00 (crèche /small charge)
Art From the Start	Tuesday	1.00-3.00pm
	10 weeks	£40.00

Lots more courses running at Fort Hill Community School For Brochure and details of how to enrol Tele: 01256 354311







# **Melrose News**

Special vote of thanks to Ian Campbell, his wife and the Corp of Adventure Ranger's, not only for their cooking skills but for the help and assistance they gave the committee and helpers throughout the afternoon on our 4th July BBO If you missed it then you missed a fun

afternoon. Watch out for the next one.

Welcome from Melrose to: The new Community Development Worker -Miss Tori Gosling. We urge young and old to give her all their gripes of what they want/don't want in Popley.

The new committee members: Vice-Chair Jenny Bailey, members: Louis Tuck & Simon Goodier. Also there is a welcome return to Iris King to the chair of Melrose Community Association. We wish them well for the year ahead.

Forthcoming Events: Sept 12th BBQ Fun day 12pm-5pm (Joint effort with the Air Scouts, Popley). Stalls, Crockery Smash, Tombola, refreshments and many more besides.

Oct. 31st Halloween Disco's

Youths under 13's 3pm-6pm\_\_\_\_ 50p members 75p non-members Adults 8pm-11pm 50p members

£1.00 non-members

Price includes light refreshments Bar Available. THIS IS A SPECIAL OFFER PRICE.

Nov 14th Christmas Bazaar Afternoon to enjoy Father Christmas grotto, stalls, games.

Nov 20th Children in Need Evening, Climax to a week of fund raising activities by user groups, and general public. If you wish to organise an event at centre free of charge. contact centre on 420676.

### LET'S PROMOTE THE GOOD THINGS THAT ARE DONE IN POPLEY FOR A CHANGE.

Boot Sales: Resume in future on Saturday's 12pm-2pm. Further details will be available in the Gazette and on notice board outside Melrose Hall.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELF WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR CENTRE.

The Popley Forum Meeting was not too well attended and it would have been much better if more people who live or work in Popley had come. The meeting was however very interesting and those that had attended were able to ask the Council Officers many questions that have been concerning them. The officers were very frank and were able to help everyone that had put forward a problem

Jeff Irish (Lighting Officer) gave a presentation on lighting, how it works, how to report a problem or fault and the time that it takes to repair or install. Did you know that there are 17,000 fittings and it is growing day by day. It is important to report any faults especially if the door at the base is off a lamp post.

Tony Penrith (Highways Officer) told us that he was responsible for the area of the town centre and the sector north of the Waterloo railway line. An average of four accidents a month are reported and he investigates every one. Once a year he or one of his team check all the pathways and tries to keep up all repairs but because of the constraints of his budget he sometimes has to prioritise. Tony said that the water mains pipes are due to be renewed in Popley soon but to still report any faults. The question of overgrown flora on roundabouts was raised, The answer was that it was the County Council's responsibility Jane Frankum raised the problem of the state of the paving slabs outside the Melrose hall and expressed the view that tarmac would be safer as lots of people used the path there and Jane has asked Tony Penrith and Richard Wareham to come and inspect it with her.

Richard Wareham (Engineering Policy Officer) Spoke about the parking problems in Popley already extra parking has been done in Abbey Rd, Pershore Rd, Montserrat Road and Tobago Close also the next is to be in Tasmania Close. There are 300 sites being considered at the present time how many of them are for Popley we don't know perhaps if more people had come to the meeting the officers would have got a better idea of how badly the issue needs to be addressed. Jane Frankum said the residents are sick of spaces being tied up with dumped cars and broken wrecks that are a safety hazard. Richard said to let him know, as there are different agencies involved! So come on people let him know, phone the councils number and ask for Richard Wareham. Archie Martin asked about disabled parking in Tobago Close and this was taken on board.

The Fire Service came and showed us a video of how quickly a fire can take hold, just three minutes, so it is very important to keep the roads clear as

(Continued on page 13)

### Popley Two Residents Association

The Madeira Close Meeting Hall has been earmarked for possible demolition at the end of our lease in the year 2003. There will be no replacement unless we can justify full usage of the hall on most days of the week. There was a time when the hall was in use seven days a week.

At present we only have a bingo session once a week plus the odd booking for parties, meetings for Popley Forum, Popley matters in rotation with Melrose Hall and Popley Fields. Plans are in motion to start a Playgroup early in January. If we could also get a youth group going again we could even get a replacement hall. On the subject of youth clubs is there any one out there that is prepared to take on the responsibilities of youth group leader or even assistant leader. If you know of any social or activity group looking for a venue on a regular basis please contact our bookings officer, Mrs Webster on 460152 or myself on 417858.

On a lighter note our Bingo club went on their annual outing to Weymouth. A regular feature is the playing of Bingo on the journey. I wonder if Bingo is played as early in the morning anywhere else albeit only once a year. There were raffle prizes to be won and all in all everyone enjoyed themselves especially as the weather was so beautiful all day long. (Ron Rowe)

(Continued from page 8)

seconds count including parking on the fire hydrants so they can't get water. Basingstoke is the biggest and busiest single Fire Station in the county so another station is being considered for the area in the future. When calling the brigade please give as much information as possible. Setting fire to rubbish is a major problem in Popley especially in stairwells to flats etc. this can be very silly and dangerous

David Page one of our local beat Bobbies came and took questions among them were drug dealing, abandoned cars, children wandering late at night and caravan fires. David advised that the best course of action was to phone **Crimestoppers** (0800 555111) for the serious cases.

DOG Fouling is a problem that seems to effect most people and Blanche Miles told us there were 27 ways of describing dog fouling. More POOP bins were being considered but in the meantime you can poop a scoop into an ordinary litterbin. There is a £25 fine if people are caught not clearing up after their dog. (Jane Frankum)

		<u>T</u>
DAY	POPLEY FIELDS	MELROSE HALL
MONDAY	* Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Coffee Morning 9:30am-12:30pm
	Sam's Tone & Trim Aerobics 6:45pm-7:30pm	Kick Boxing 6pm-7:15pm
	Martial Arts 7:30pm-9:30pm	Jujitsu Kai 7:30pm-9pm
TUESDAY	*Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	2pm - 4pm Senior Citizens
	Mel's Kick Boxing 6:30pm-8pm	Petite School of dance 4:30pm-9:00pm
	Rosemary Connely Classes 6:30pm-8pm	
	*Youth Club 12-18 years 6pm-9pm	
WEDNESDAY	*Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Popley Little People 9:30am-11:30am
	Parent and Toddlers group 1pm-2:30pm	Petite school of Dance 3.45pm-7pm
	After school Kumon Math's 3:30pm-5:30pm	Adventure Rangers 7pm-9pm
	Low impact Aerobics 6:45pm-7:30pm	
THURSDAY	*Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Coffee Morning 9:30am-12:30pm
	Embroiders Guild 1:15pm-3:15pm	Kick Boxing 7pm-9pm
FRIDAY	*Treasure Island Playgroup 9:30am-12noon	Network Drop in Club 10am-3pm
	Knitability (fortnightly) 9:30am-12:30pm	Church Youth Group 6:30pm-9:30pm
	Senior Citizens Bingo Club 2pm-4pm	
SATURDAY	Kumon Math's Class 10:30am-12:30pm	9:30-11:30 Petite School of Dance
	Martial Arts 2:00pm-4:00pm	12-2pm Table top sales see papers for details
SUNDAY	New Testament Church 10:30am-12:30pm	Church 10am-1pm
	*= Not in School Holidays	Kick Boxing 4:30pm-6:30pm
FOR MORE INFORMATION	<b>2</b> 414494	<b>2</b> 420676
PECIAL EVENTS	Scout Event 18th Sept 12noon-6:00pm	Melrose BBQ 12th September 1pm-5pm
	B/stoke Music Festival 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1:30pm-6:30pm	Halloween Disco 31st Oct
	Pettite School, Dance Exams 1st Nov & 13th Dec	Melrose Christmas Bazaar 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov
	Family Disco once a month	Children In need 20st Nov

# Bob Douglass





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# You are warmly invited to **WORSHIP WITH US**

at
Popley Fields Community
Centre
Carpenters Down
Popley
Basingstoke
Sunday Morning
10:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information phone: Graham and Barbara on (01256) 410715

New Testament Church of God







The Boys
Brigade
6th Basingstoke (Popley) coy.

### Anchor Boys Aged 5½yrs-8yrs

Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:15pm Summit Dining Room

### Junior Section Aged 8yrs-10½yrs

Monday Night 6:15pm to 7:15pm Main School Gym

### Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

Monday Night 7-30pm to 9-30pm Summit Dining Room All Sections Meet at John Hunt School

Answer Phone for Information **2323564** 

# Introducing ... Your new Community Development Worker

Clearly Popley is an area richer than most in enthusiasm for community spirit.

It has achieved an enormous amount for itself over its recent history. A team of highly dedicated volunteers has provided residents with a broad range of activities in the local meeting halls, enjoyable family events such as the Popley Festival and Melrose Fun Day. They have also provided channels of communication, which ensure that you, as residents get your say in community issues, through the Popley Forum and Popley Matters.

However, it was felt that still more should be done to involve more people to cater for a greater variety of interests, and maybe raise a bit of money to plough back into the community.

To do this we need to provide community services that fit the needs wants and resources of local people. We don't want to offer only services, which we choose on your behalf, or which are easier to organise. WE need to consult the real experts **YOU**.

This is where I come in as the new member of a well established team. My job involves searching out local opinions, relaying them to various voluntary and statutory organisations that can help, and using local assets to match your requirements as closely as I possibly can.

I shall be out and about in the area annoying everyone with lots of questions please don't worry though! I'll keep the interviews short and as painless and I dare say, fun, as I can. And remember, this is for your benefit, so try to be as honest as possible and you may just see community activities, events, action which are more up your street very soon!

I've been asked to talk about myself a little bit, so that I'm not a complete stranger when we meet, and so that the interviews can be less cold and clinical.

So, here goes... My name is Victoria Gosling, but everyone calls me Tori - don't worry, it's nothing to do with politics. I'm 23 and, though I was born in London, I have lived in Brighton Hill since I was a baby.

I have recently finished a BA Hons degree in Sociology, and Media studies at Stirling University, up in Scotland. I've always been fascinated by the media and am a complete telly addict - I just can't resist soaps and catch

them whenever I can, pretty sad I know. I studied Sociology because I love people and discovering how they interact... some people call it nosiness! This means that while I always work hard, I insist on socialising and playing hard too, and am often out making an idiot of myself on the dance floor.

To fund my studies I have taken on all kinds of jobs, from waitressing and washing up dishes to answering phones, to cleaning toilets. I have also been heavily involved in voluntary work at my student union, working as a welfare adviser And an entertainment's officer, among other things.

To keep on top of these things I try to stay as fit as I can, I love aerobics, swimming, walking and running, and it is a good job to do because I am not naturally slim and I like the odd beer!

At the moment I live at home with my parents, younger sister and two cats, but I am hoping to move nearer into Popley with my boyfriend once I have saved some rent money. I recently became an aunt for the first time, which is great fun, though I think it will be a while before I am brave enough for motherhood. I can't think of anything else all that interesting to say about myself at the moment, but I'm looking forward to meeting you all in person at some stage for a bit of a natter.

I hope to see you soon in your school, workplace, club, group or home, or feel free to pop in and see me in either Melrose Hall or Popley Fields Community centre.

# Beware I am after your ideas! Cheers, Tori

Name
Address
Suggestion
Please post the slip to Popley Fields Community Centre,
Carpenters Down, Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9AE or just put the slip in the suggestion box at Melrose Hall or Popley Fields
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