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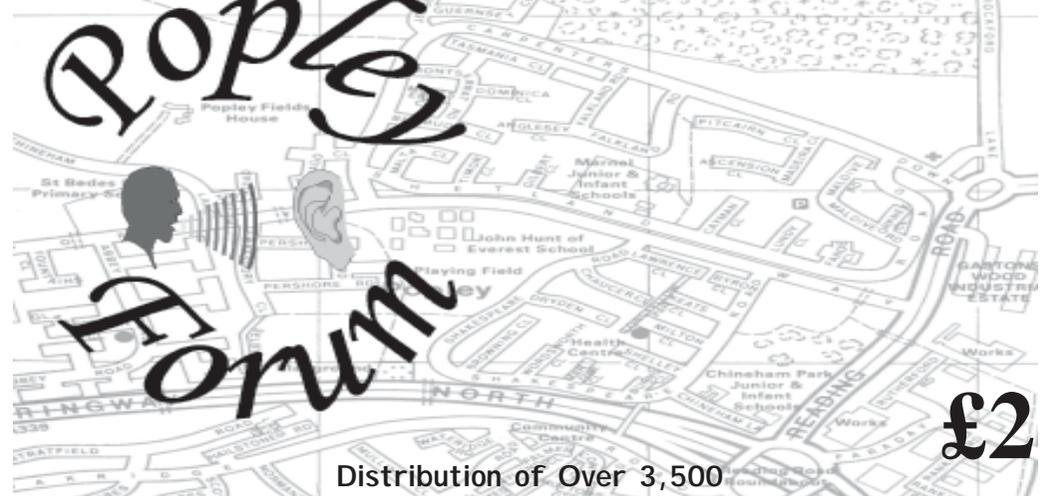
POPLEY MATTERS

OVER TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

June 2004 to August 2004

Issue 36

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Message From the Editor

The Popley Festival was the biggest and best I have been to since the first one some years ago. How many people remember the humble beginnings when it was a joint effort with The Boys Brigade and St Gabriel's Church and started in the church and car park? I was told that around 10,000 people visited the festival. The sun was really hot and I notice one of the longest queues was for ice-cream. I think just about everything you can think of was being sold at the boot sale from furniture to shoes. Read the report on page 14. I would like to say a big thank you to all the committee members and helpers it was a glorious day for all and many charities are better off because of Popley Festival

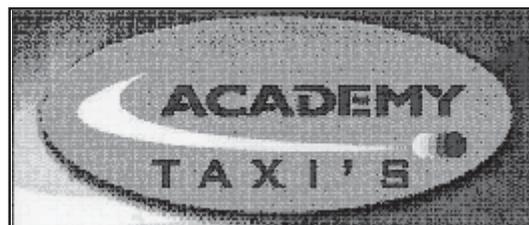
The sense of community at the Festival reminded me of the days when we would go over as families and have a picnic and play games like French Cricket over the road at Aldermaston Open Space before the BMX track when the area was flat. I remember we brought our rubbish home because there was a national campaign called "Keep Britain Tidy" and there were notices every where it was even on our carrier bags we brought our shopping home in. We could all help if we just took it home or put the rubbish in the bin.

Summer is always the time when your tolerance and patience is stretched with children out till very late, the ball always seems to finish up in a garden and the thud, thud on the bricks can give you such a headache. Then there's the music: some seem to be just a noise with no tune and words that sound like aliens, but to me they are the sounds of summer coupled with children's laughter and the smell of a BBQ. Of course if they are too loud and go on for hour after hour then it is a different story and it becomes intolerable, but I remind myself at least I am alive and can hear and see and living in a country where I am free.

I would love to have some stories from you about Popley whether you have lived here for a few months or many years like me 33+ I have seen so many changes and there are so many more to come, I hope my children and my children's children will have a good solid house like mine to bring their children up in with space to play in and jobs to go to. I wish for peace and a healthy life for every one. *Jane Frankum*

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke. RG24 9EL email: popley.matters@bopenworld.com 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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Distribution Team: Ann Allwright; Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Tony Frankum; Win Harris; Iris King; Kylie Humphries; Colin Karlake; Val Lye; Andy McCormick; Peter Moore; Ron Rowe; Brian Smith; Cathy Smith; Martin Stacey; Kim Taylor; Sue Toomer; Louise Tuck; Alison Walker;
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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; What possessed the Council to say they are going to put yellow lines all over Abbey Road have they gone completely mad. We can't park near our house now and my cull de sac has little parking space but plenty of cars. Where are we expected to park our cars? Concerned Abbey Road Resident

Editor; As a resident I too got the letter and it is a bit misleading there will be some double yellow lines at some of the T junctions and near the pinch points. Popley Forum has been fighting for yellow lines by the Abbey Road Shops for years. I know of at least two accidents in recent years.

Dear Editor; Why oh why cant we have a pharmacy in Abbey Road shops. We had one for about 30 years, we have Abbey Court and Magnolia Court where some of our senior citizens live and it is impossible to walk there for them and there are no buses. But worst of all is how long you have to wait (I waited 20 long minutes and all I wanted to do is get back home to bed). There was nowhere to sit as the two chairs are nearly always full. Then as I stepped up for my tablets I was told that they did not have enough and call back in three days oh no not that journey again! Oh well I can take me bugs back and infect a few more as we stand shoulder to shoulder. Customer Melrose Walk

Editor; Yes the application failed but I believe that Dev is getting an appeal ready if you have had any problems with the new surgery perhaps you could write or let Dev know. But you need to complain to the pharmacy itself first.

Dear Editor; here we go with the start of the summer and more rubbish being left all over Popley. Cans and sweet wrappers everywhere making it look like we have had one of those American paper parades. Please take your rubbish home or put it in a bin at least.

Disgusted Jersey Close

Editor; I think everyone would agree and it would be nice to think that the people of Popley will take the lead and make Popley look so much better.

Dear Editor; I would like to thank the Community Wardens for their help it is so nice to know that they are there when we need them. I was having so much trouble with some youths by my house with the banging of a ball thudding at the side of my house and talking into the late hours of the night. They came and spoke to the youths who had not really thought about how it was affecting the people who live there and they have stopped doing it and it is wonderful Grateful Browning Close

Editor; Yes they are doing a wonderful job and getting to know us Popley people and they do so much to help make us feel safer.

I will pass on your thanks

Dear Editor; I was worried to read in the papers that there is a new scam with an American company in Portsmouth employing 5000 people to cold sell insurance policy's on the doorstep. There was a warning to say do not be taken in as it could cost you a lot of money and the returns for 15 years is about the same as you started with they will be selling health policies. It sounds very good but you could be pouring money down the drain. George Dryden Close

Editor; Thank you George I would always say beware of buying anything on the doorstep and always ask for identity as well.

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,
Basingstoke. RG24 9EL

We do need your name and address but will not print them if you ask us not to.



Now that we have settled into our posts as Community Wardens, we have quickly become very busy people.

From taking school classes to dealing hands-on with anti-social behaviour there is a lot to keep us occupied.

We have tackled a really wide range of issues including fly-tipping, abusive behaviour, litter, nuisance behaviour and disputes between neighbours.

We have also been receiving a number of calls about youngsters playing football on the estate. We always support participation in sports and games but would like to remind everyone to kick a ball around the playing field and not the streets!

It has been reassuring to see some of our achievements, such as a persistent fly-tipping hotspot which has now been clean for more than two months thanks to a leaflet campaign to identify the offender, and the help of the Streetcare department.

With your help we really hope to be part of creating a cleaner and safer Popley. We want to turn anti-social behaviour into positive behaviour and encourage community development.

Please remember to say "Hi" when you see us out and about, and feel free to call our office on 01256 845508 if something is concerning you.

Stephen and Lesley
Community Wardens for Popley.



Treasure Isl and Play Group

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

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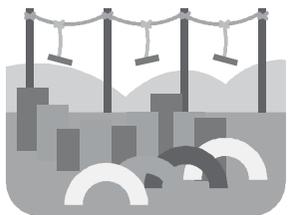
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Registered Charity No. 1030396 Manager: Ginny Bloomfield



Following consultation with residents, youth, youth workers, Police and Councillors in Popley. It is suggested that the new facility for youth be located adjacent to the ball courts on the western side of Popley Fields this was very much the proffered scheme.

The only houses that are remotely located near to the scheme are in Pitcairn Close. These however face side on to the playing field and so would not overlook or be overlooked. There is also a steep bank and tree planting that would also screen these houses which are about 90 meters away from the multiuse courts. The beat Officers Matt Deery and Paul Thorn say that they have not had any problems reported with residents complaining with reference to youths using the courts.

The next stage is to ask the play area consultant to draw up the final scheme which will have a shelter, Tarmac base, seating and litter bins.

WALKING THE WAY TO HEALTH

Following the successful trial of a Health Walk in the Popley area, we are pleased to announce that we will be continuing the Friday morning at 11 walks throughout the summer. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier! Get some fresh air and enjoy all the open spaces in Popley and the surrounding areas.

A "health walk" is a short local walk, normally about an hour in duration. The aim is to eventually encourage walkers to walk at a pace that will give maximum health benefits. The pace is one that will make the walkers feel a little warmer, breathe a bit deeper and make their hearts beat a little faster. For people who want to increase their exercise levels it is an ideal introduction! Any walking is better than none, and gentle strolling is a great start for people who are not used to exercise, it is also very sociable and a good way to meet people and make new friends. You do not have to commit to come every week, just turn up on the day! The walks are non-competitive, everybody is welcome and you can have a cup of tea or coffee in the community centre afterwards.

Meet us at Popley Fields Community Centre, ready to leave at 11am. Wear clothes and shoes suitable for walking. Bring a drink and a hat if hot. If Friday isn't a good day for you, we also have walks on Monday morning at 11am from Eastrop Park and on Thursday morning at 11am from the Walled Garden in Pack Lane.

If you would like further details about the Walking for Health Scheme" please call Jane Wilding on 01256 845574 or Marilyn Davies on 01256 845630.

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Basingstoke Air Scouts-Group Scout

Leader: Pat Brown ☎0774 609 1919

The lighter evenings and warmer weather is here once more so activities take on a more outdoor theme. The Group ran a BBQ at Popley Festival. The Annual Meeting for parents and supporters will be held in June.

Beaver scout section

The Beaver Scouts had a 'mini-olympics' evening recently and tried their hands at throwing the 'discus, javelin, jumping and shooting. Medals were awarded to the winners of each event. Twelve members attended the annual District St.George's Day Parade and Service in April and renewed the promise. The colony has also celebrated the birthday of the founder, Lord Robert Baden Powell; made Welsh flags and leeks for St. David's Day; planted sunflower seeds and had fun with science. Several Beavers embarked on a challenge to raise money for the Children with Leukaemia Appeal and have so far raised over £500. A variety of badges have been gained - Animal Friend, Faith, Creative, Explore and Experiment activity badges and quite a number of Beavers have completed the Friendship and Discovery Challenge. The Beaver section is open to both boys and girls aged from 6-8years Sadly the colony cannot take in any new members a present due to its popularity but to put your child's name on the waiting list contact Tracey Davey on 01256 575738 or the Beaver Leader Eve Alexander on (01256) 346510.

Cub section

Programmes at the moment are geared towards camping and outdoor events such as tracking and trails and exploring. The pack came 4th in the District orienteering competition recently thanks to the efforts of Penny May and Douglas Gowan. The pack has been working on the Fitness Challenge and will shortly start a course of Information Technology. The cubs will be joining with other cub scouts from the District at the District Cub Camp at Marwell at the beginning of July. All campers will have the chance to qualify for their Athletes Badge during the weekend as well as taking part in wall climbing abseiling, quad bikes and canoeing. Cub scout section is open to boys and girls aged 8 – 10½ years and there are currently vacancies in this section. Just go along to Base 2000 on a Tuesday evening between 6.30 and 8 p.m. or contact the Cub Scout Leader Elaine Devenport on (01256) 323453

Scout section

Whilst small in number the troop is high on quality and several members are off to Ferny Croft, the Scouting Activity Centre in the New Forest in June to take part in 'Get Activ' weekend. Cylo-cross, an assault course, disc golf, blindfold string trail and other challenging pursuits await them - not to forget abseiling, archery, cart racing and branding. It will be all go – go – go. The section is open to boys and girls aged from 10 ½ to 14 years and weekly meeting take place in Base 2000 on Monday evenings from 7 – 9p.m. but the troop is often out and about at this time of year so make contact with the Scout Leader Colin Karlake on (01256) 410559 to find out more. *Beryl Mullender (01256) 321596*

Message from Bianca of Junction 6

Its great to be back in Popley following my maternity leave. Little Flo is very beautiful and growing well! Thanks for all of the well wishes from local people.

Unfortunately Junction 6 has been closed in my absense but I m hoping to get things up and running again as soon as possible. We desperately need some new staff at the youth centre so if anyone is interested in part time youth work please contact me! It can be a varied, exciting and challenging role and experience is not necessary just a genuine belief in young people.

In the mean time I have been preparing an exciting Summer programme of activities in partnership with John Hunt of Everest School following the great sucess of last year. We will be offering the oppoportitiy for local young people to take part in some offsite activities as well as music, dance ,drama, and football workshops. These will all be supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, the Community Safety Strategy, NOF and the Childrens Fund. (11-16 year olds)

The June half term is action packed too with raft building, ropes course and sports activities (11-16 year olds) Some other projects in the pipeline include a trip to Calshot, and the Opera. Local young people can also become involved in Youth Service foreign exchanges happening this year. These involve France, Estonia, Norway, Wales and Belgium (14-25 year olds).

Clearly there are lots of great opportunities coming up for local young people and I look forward to working with them again.

Anyone who is interested in the above can contact me on 07939533630 or bianca.webb@hants.gov.uk

The Passion Of The Christ

If you would like to know more about Jesus and why He had to suffer as portrayed in this film we would like to invite to join us one Sunday morning or give us a call.

We meet on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Popley Fields Community Centre Carpenters Down

phone: Graham and Barbara on (01256) 363692

Email: information@basingstoke-new-t.freeseve.co.uk

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John 3 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. NIV

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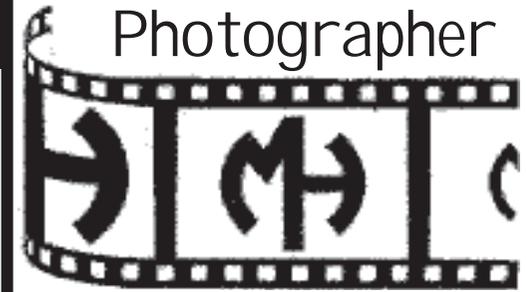
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A meeting of the Popley Forum was held at St Gabriel's Church Hall on Wednesday 19th May with three topics discussed: the new John Hunt school, the Abbey Road pharmacy application, and Community Wardens.

Louise Hague and Andy Pritchard of Hampshire County Council gave us a presentation on the North Popley development and new school. The new build is split into 3 sites:

North of Popley Way (land owned by Hampshire County Council),

Popley Fields (west of Carpenters Down, owned by David Wilson Homes),

The current John Hunt site (owned by Hampshire County Council). Outline planning permission for all 3 sites was granted by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in March. The School is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council and will go through their committee. It is hoped to be ready by 2007

The project depends on the existing John Hunt site being developed, along with contributions from Basingstoke. The school itself will cost £25m.

It is very rare for Hampshire to build secondary schools these days. This will be only the second secondary school in 30 years.

Once detailed planning permission is granted for the existing John Hunt site, part of it will be developed to free up funds to start on the new school. About £10m needs to be spent by Hampshire County Council on water mains, drainage, sewerage, power lines, gas, phone lines and roads north of Popley Way. Hampshire need sequential sales of land over the next 6-8 years similar to what happened in Chineham.

David Wilson homes will be moving a bit faster and hope to be on the Popley Fields site in Autumn 2004 with new houses being built in 2005.

Andy Pritchard then gave a presentation with architectural drawings of the new school. Essentially the school will be in one building with three wings, with a satellite building. There will be extensive community facilities such as a multi-use games facility and Astro turf pitches.

Nayna and Dev Vayas talked about the Abbey Road pharmacy application. The Primary Care Trust do not see the need for a second pharmacy in Popley, saying the existing one in Shakespeare Road is under-used. Residents say they are getting an inadequate service. A petition was presented to the chairman.

Finally, the Community Wardens did a brief talk on what they did, with a question and answer session at the end. The Community Wardens started on the 31st December. They are employed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council with partial funding from Sentinel and Kingfisher Housing Associations. They have been very busy in the community with football projects, visits to schools and youth clubs, plus dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour. They have only been in post a short while but have been very popular with residents and went home with a few extra cases to work on at the end of the meeting!

Clr Andrew McCormick

Dear Reader,

As guiders within the Popley area we are often organising local events and trips out into the community to meet local people. Unfortunately one of our Brownie Units will be unable to survive in the coming months due to their two guiders (who have been in the movement for a large number of years moving on). Our Brownie unit of some 20 girls is therefore trying to attract new helpers into their fold.

They carry out lots of exciting activities such as going on Pack Holiday, trips to museums and places of interest as well as events such as celebrating the 90th year of Brownies within guiding by playing lots of games and making lots of crafts. These are just some of the activities involved alongside which runs a weekly meeting where they do badge work, make crafts, help others and generally have a lot of fun and games.

We are writing to you to ask for help in our search to find these special people so that we do not have to shut down our pack. The 26th Basingstoke Brownies has been in Popley for over 25 years and it would be a shame to see its good reputation and development and support of girls in the local community go to waste.

If any of your readers would be interested in becoming a leader or supporting our Brownie unit in any way, please call me on 07778 301948 for an informal discussion. Lots of support and guidance are given and as a team of some 12 adults we always manage to have a good giggle and bit of fun ourselves.

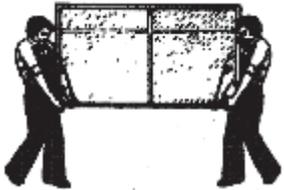
Thank you for your help.

Kind Regards

Sue Saunders
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The last few months have again been very busy at the centre.

We have recently built a small store which will help us relieve some of our storage headaches.

We have also recently had our heating system replaced, so we are looking to much warmer winter this year!

Youth Club: The Youth Club has continued to be bursting at the seams and the changes to the opening times have made a great difference - **all we need is more adult volunteers to help out occasionally** and any equipment such as unwanted board games/ playstations etc. in good condition suitable for the 8 years and above group.

Staff: We have recently been recruiting a new Centre Supervisor but we continue to look for weekend staff to help out at all our weekend functions. So if you are interested in some regular or 'as and when' hours mainly at weekends, ring the centre for an application form.

Forthcoming Events

Basingstoke Neighbourcare Fashion Show - Friday 18th June 7.30pm £3 a ticket . Call 332424 for info.

The Knights' Circle Psychic Fair - Sunday 27th June.11am to 4pm £3 a ticket Call 411630 / 413584 for info.

10th Anniversary Summer Tea Dance at the Anvil, featuring 'The Ross Mitchell Combo' Wed 4th August 2-5pm. £4 a ticket available from Popley Fields. Transport available £1.50.

Plans are also underway to organise a Summer Fundraising Evening at Popley Fields in conjunction with the Popley Conservation Volunteer Group - look out for further info soon!

Popley Fields is a registered charity and is run by a small group of committed volunteers.

We are keen to recruit some new volunteers who may be able to help oversee the management of the centre over the next few exciting months and years as it develops.

If you are able to spare a small amount of time, or would like to find out more about what is involved in helping to foster community spirit in Popley, please contact Mark Head at Popley Fields.

Councillors Page

There have been masses going on in Popley these past few months. Outline planning permission was granted for the New Popley developments which have been zoned into three sites: John Hunt, Popley Fields (which is to the west of Carpenters Down) and North of Popley Way. It is good to know that some of our residents will be able to get housing there and live near their families.

There will be about 2000 houses built from 2006 onwards, new shops, a new community centre, doctors surgery and other facilities, closures to Chineham Lane and Sherborne Road, and a brand new John Hunt School costing an estimated £21m, due to open in January 2007.

The Popley Festival was brilliant this year. With 10,000 people attending, it was the biggest ever. Everyone I spoke to had a really good time. As a member of the committee it meant a 6am start on the day helping set up the site, and taking things down afterwards, by the time we went home at 6pm I was feeling incredibly tired!

Congratulations to George Potten on winning Best Citizen in the "Basingstoke a Place to be Proud Of" awards. You deserve it George! George won his award for the Millennium Garden project in Dryden/Chaucer Close. He has also been instrumental with other residents in the East Popley Place Check scheme, and as a result we have seen two new gardens go up at Shelley Close and Keats/Milton Close. There will be footpath improvements at Burns Close.

Parking: we are going to introduce yellow lines at key points (Not the whole road) in Abbey Road and Shakespeare Road as a result of the Borough's Parking Strategy. We are also looking at Shetland Road and trying to do something about the dangerous practice of parking on the bend at Carpenters Down.

We are also sending out tenders for the refurbishment of the old Bermuda Close surgery. This will be turned into a community centre and will house the Marnel Explorers pre-school, which will expand from 18 to 24 places.

The play area in Trinidad and Tobago Close is finished and it is great to see it being used, it is next to the Popley Pond where the group of volunteers have made a real difference and it is looking really tidy and welcoming now. *Cllr Andrew McCormick*



FED UP OF NUISANCE MOTORCYCLES ?

As the nice weather arrives we again have been receiving lots of reports of nuisance motorcycles. We have launched a campaign in Popley and need your help to reduce this problem.

These motorcycles are driven around the estate at speed with no respect for pedestrian's especially small children who are playing locally and it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt or killed. We need your help with dealing with this.

Do you know who is riding these bikes?

Have you seen a neighbour or youth parking their unroadworthy motorcycle in a garage or back garden?

Please phone crimestoppers **0800 555 111** (in confidence) or the switchboard **0845 0454545** and leave a message of details of who and where the bike are kept or used.

There is new legislation relating to nuisance motorcycles and reports will be dealt with seriously and Seizure of bikes is now possible.

Motorcycles are **not** to be ridden in Carpenters Down woods

On a positive note this years Popley Festival was again excellent day and we were blessed with great weather. Our thanks to Phillip Keeble and his committee for a great day.

PC3126 Matt Deery
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Company Section Aged 10½yrs-18yrs

Monday Night 7:30pm to 9:30pm
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07766678097 EVE & W'END**



John Hunt is truly a community school we now have a range of users operating on our site including the Youth Service, Community Wardens, Connexions, local Police and Basingstoke Consortium in addition to other business users and the day nursery. This has opened opportunities for us to develop the citizenship curriculum in a very active way. Recently some of our students were used to help to promote the work of Connexions acting as ambassadors for the school across the county and interviewing potential new Personal Advisors. A different group of young people were actively involved in the launch of the Community Wardens Scheme and this is now being developed further in the school with the Popley Community Wardens, Stephen and Lesley.

Our long term aim is to be a specialist college for Business and Enterprise. Many of you will be aware that we have earned quite a reputation for our involvement with the local business community. We currently have over 35 members of the business and local community mentoring students in the school, to date over the past three years in excess of 400 students have gone through the scheme. We see this scheme as an important part of our overall vision for the school. The presence of adults on a daily basis in the school forms an important part of our student's social development. We are always looking for new businesses and local organisations to help us mentor our students. Our aim is that every single student in the school will have had the experience of being mentored.

An integral part of the school's philosophy is to involve and work with the community. Helping us to achieve our aim is our Parent Group. This group of dedicated parents is going from strength to strength. They are always looking for new members and are still small in number. However, the impact they have had is considerable. In addition to a presence at all our parents evenings they have organised highly successful quiz nights, a pamper evening and run the BBQ at the Popley Festival and the group are working with the Community Manager in developing a range of family learning programmes. Family learning is expanding with courses ranging from magic tricks, aerobics, street dance to boat making in a weekend.

As a community school we are keen to ensure activities are available throughout the year and as a result we have been working to develop a comprehensive programme of activities for our young people to run over the holiday period. Over 135 students attended the scheme last summer which included drama, dance, football and trips. A similar programme will be available this summer.

John Hunt is a fully inclusive open school and we are really looking forward to the opening of our new school. As this becomes a reality we would like to involve not only members of the school community but the local community too. Look out for further news in Popley Matters. Our moto is 'Working together to achieve success for all' and we welcome all visitors to the school. If anyone would like to see the school in operation or become more directly involved we would be delighted to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Suki Binning, School Community Project Development Manager. *Lesley Phillipson Headteacher*

NEWS FROM JOHN HUNT OF EVEREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL

We see John Hunt of Everest as a part of the community and welcome this opportunity to have a regular slot in Popley Matters. This is now my third year as Headteacher of John Hunt of Everest and I have met many of you but you may not be aware of how the school has developed over this period. This is only a snapshot and it is always difficult to single out one event or achievement above another. However part of our vision for the school is to develop the leadership qualities of our students and I am delighted to see our students taking the lead in so many different ways.

Our Young Enterprise team have been incredibly creative over the past year with their programme of events including the Bingo Night for our more senior users of John Hunt. Those of you who attended our 'Pamper Evening' will I am sure agree with me, that this is definitely an event we wish to hold again. In the North Hants Regional finals the team won 3 awards, best stand, best company and best report and accounts. On 12th May in the County finals the team won the Best Innovation Initiative.

Last week Andrew Hunter MP presented Daryl Woodruff and Katherine Brown with the very prestigious National 'Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People' for their outstanding contribution to the school and community'. And many of you may have read, in the Basingstoke Gazette, his comment that "these are remarkable achievements and reflect well on the school, both pupils and staff."

We are also delighted to see that another one of our students Gareth Johnson has been elected on the Basingstoke & Deane Supreme Youth Committee this is part of the Borough's drive to listen to young people.

Many of you who access the school will be familiar with the sounds of steel wafting across the campus. John Hunt was established as the North East centre for steel pans in 2001 with the aim to establish a variety of bands including a community band. It has taken a while to get the school pans band established but it is now flourishing with demands from many quarters for them to perform at a variety of gigs, including festivals, local fetes and supporting our local primary schools.

Last month our Steel Pan Band students got up at the crack of dawn to travel to Trowbridge for 'Music for Youth Heats' and then on Sunday to Chandlers Ford to play at the Hampshire Steel Pan Festival. Our students as always were fantastic and excellent ambassadors for the school.

Forthcoming events include performances at the Anvil and Wokingham Festival. The continuing success of the group depends upon the dedication and commitment of staff members and parents.

Three of our Year 11 boys have demonstrated their leadership skills by helping to train Marnell pupils to develop their football skills. The students have been giving up their Wednesday lunchtimes to coach them.

Further links have been developed with our local primary schools through the Family Literacy and Numeracy on Ice Project where we have linked with the Bison Ice Hockey team. Further links have been developed through the new Study Support Centre which is a unique project with Southampton Football Club, local business and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The Study Support Centre has yet to be officially opened but is actually fully operational. Discussions are about to take place about what the Centre should be called—the hot favourite at present is the Matt Le Tissier Study Support Centre.

Conitunue Overleaf

News from Marnel Junior School

Now the dreaded SAT tests are over and the sun has decided to come out, the pupils of Marnel Junior School are looking forward to summer trips, fayres and teddy bear's picnics! There is a great range of activities for them all to look forward to. The recent Skipping workshop has given many pupils the inspiration to get fit for the summer too, as well as the after school sports' clubs for the older children. A great deal of the school has been painted now and new blinds are to be installed soon. The children have taken a real pride in their environment and are trying to improve it further. The gardening club has planted summer bedding and some children have started to sand down the outdoor benches ready to be painted. There is a great air of activity and excitement at all the changes. The headteacher and staff would like to thank the local community for their wonderful support and encouragement over the year and wish everyone a long and warm summer! *Alison Baron*

Summer Term Dates are available from school, but include for the local community:

14th June, Year 2 Parents' Induction Meeting at the Junior School;
30th June, Open Day for all the local community to walk around the school (9.30 - 10.30am and 2 - 4pm)

10th July, Marnel Junior School Fete, 2 - 4pm

(Helpers needed and contact the school for a stall).

Contact Mrs Higgs or Mrs Meppem at Reception: 01256 328670

Chineham Park School News

The Popley Festival was great fun this year with beautiful sunshine and our choir did themselves very proud singing on the main stage.

The pupils have been working very hard toward their SATs, and things are looking up at Chineham Park following the appointment of some new members of staff.

We are pleased to announce we have a new temporary Deputy Head, Mr Palmer, who has settled in well, and we have a new permanent Deputy Head, Mrs Mallaby, who starts in September. Our new Year 6 form teacher, Mr Malpas, is doing well and we also have a new SEN co-ordinator, Mrs Barrett, who started on the 4th May.

We also have some children from Yr 3 / 4 preparing to take part in the Mid Hants Watercress Stream train 'War on the Line' event on 19th & 20th June. The children will be taking part in this 1940's re-enactment as evacuees.

Finally, the headteacher and staff would like to thank parents and the local community for their continued support for Chineham Park School.

Summer Term Dates for your Diary: Book week 24th - 28th of May.

Sat 19th and Sun 20th June: War on the Line at Mid-Hants Railway.

Thurs 24th June: family sports day

Fri 25th June: Summer Madness fundraising event: activities for all ages (6-9pm)

More details on these and other events are available from Karen Dwyer in the school admin office *Gwen Clifford*

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this the day after my first Popley Festival. It was an excellent day and blessed with really good weather. What struck me about the festival was the very real sense of family and community together enjoying a good day out. It comes as no surprise to me. Having lived in Popley now for three months I'm beginning to appreciate how strong that sense of community identity and family is in our new parish. It is that same sense of family and community that first drew me to St. Gabriel's, where there is a faithful reflection of what makes Popley the grand place it is to live.

In this, the first of what I hope will become a regular feature in Popley matters; I just wanted to expend a few lines introducing myself to the wider community.

I was born and grew up on the outskirts of Manchester before leaving to join the Royal Air Force. After a career of fifteen years serving in places as diverse as Berlin and Cyprus I left the RAF in 1986 to pursue a new career in IT Sales and Marketing working for companies in Basingstoke and Hook as well as serving as Managing Director of a small software company.

I became a Christian later in life than many, in 1988, while living in Portsmouth. I joined our local church and it was not long before I really felt that God was calling me to serve him in a different way, as an ordained minister in the Church of England. So in 1998 we left our home in Portsmouth for Nottingham and two years at theological college – a hard slog after leaving school so long ago. In 2000 I was ordained in Winchester Cathedral and served for three and half years as Curate in Hartley Wintney before coming to Popley as your new Vicar. I dislike labels but many have asked me about my background and I am what is commonly referred to as an evangelical which simply means I believe in God's word in the Bible and that forms the basis of much of what I do, but ultimately we must be careful not to confuse church-ianity and Christianity the essence of which is God's love, open and available to all who would seek Him.

So there you have it! I'm fairly new to being a Vicar but there is wonderful warmth and strength of family at St Gabriel's and I hope over the next months and years to get to know many more of you. Our services take place at 10.30 a.m. on a Sunday morning and 7.15 p.m. on a Wednesday you will always be warmly welcomed at either. Beginning on 30th May we will be introducing a Family Service once a month – please watch out for further details. Interviews for baptism and marriage now takes place in church on a Saturday morning between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m.; no appointment needed.

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WHATS ON AT MELROSE HALL

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TUESDAY	10am-12pm Play2gether (teenage parents 14-21) Free!	2PM - 4PM BINGO 4PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE
WEDNESDAY	9.30 -11.30 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP	12PM - 2PM OASIS LUNCH CLUB 4.15PM ONWARDS CHARITY AUCTION 7PM SALE STARTS
THURSDAY	9.30 -12PM COFFEE MORNING	7PM WEIGHT WATCHERS
FRIDAY	9.30-2.30PM LODDON ALLIANCE	6.30PM YOUTH CLUB
SATURDAY	9.30 -12.30 PETITE	SCHOOL OF DANCE
SUNDAY	11AM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	6.30PM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We also hire out our hall for private hire, children or adult party's Weddings, meetings etc. Please call 01256 420676 for information on booking.

Debra Dainton is in the office 9.30 -11.30 am Monday to Friday.

Dont forget the Wednesday Auction there are hundreds of bargains Popleys own Bargain Hunt every Wednesday bidding starts at 7pm Viewing from 4:15pm

Sunday Outdoor Boot Sales at John Hunt Community School

6th June - 1st & 15th August - 12th September

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Community Surgery's

We now hold two community surgeries, we still have the first Saturday of the month at John Hunt school with Councillors, Police and Industrial Relations consultant from 12 noon till 1pm. We also have a surgery at Magnolia Court from 2pm to 3pm (every 4th Week on a Wednesday) it has proved to be very popular with Pension Entitlements, Carers together, Citizens Advice Bureau, Downland and Sentinel housing officers, Community Wardens and local Councillors. Any one is welcome if you have a problem I am sure one of us will be able to help or advise. We have already had residents visiting us from Oakridge and they were made very welcome with a cup of tea. Ring me on 819924 or watch the press for the dates of the surgeries. Jane Frankum

The Old Codger

Well I have been trying to put across an idea I have for the Poets estate, and that is to commemorate the lives of these poets by erecting some small monoliths with a poem engraved on each one to represent them The way in which I have sketched it they will not intrude on the overall view of the area but blend in. There will be 13 stones plus one for the Queen Mother to commemorate her life. Now this is where all the people and schools come in. Soon you will see a competition being run for age groups by a wonderful man I have met from Queen Mary's College Mr Stephen Sheedy he came to see me regarding the proposal I have put forward with Rob Donnelly last week. The winners of this competition will have the poem engraved on the stone of the Queen Mother. So come on all you budding poets let's see your work. It was discussed at the meeting that at the end of the competition that a book of anthology could be published to represent the people of Basingstoke. I do hope we can get one published, and I hope you all think this will only be a step forward for us all and we do not get negative views on it. Keep looking in the Gazette to see about the competition. Stephen is helping with the design I have done by getting someone to draw up a working plan. *Good luck to you all*

Popley Festival

The Popley Festival was the biggest ever this year with 10,000 people attending. Being on the Committee it meant an early start (6am!) setting up the site: bringing tables and chairs out, and staking out the car park and car boot areas. The weather could not have been better, which brought out the residents in their droves. The doors opened just before 11am and we had over 3000 people in the first hour.

The car boot was bigger than ever this year with well over 100 booters. We also had nearly 50 stalls, two stages (a main one and a Kestrel FM one), and a beer tent (which ran out of lager, such was the demands placed on it by thousands of thirsty people in the hot sun).

Nobody ever starves at the Popley Festival and we had no less than three barbecues this year provided by John Hunt School, the Air Scouts, and Popley Action Churches Together. The queues for each were invariably huge and the people running them did well all day, in the heat it must have been incredibly hard work and thankfully they didn't run out of food or cold drinks. The ice cream vans must have done very well.

For the first time we had the Community Wardens provide a stall which went down well with the youngsters as they were providing mocktails (non-alcoholic cocktails) at 50p a pop. The Police also had their customary display with a couple of vehicles and we had a couple of fire engines as well.

The main stage had a packed entertainment program, with the John Hunt Steel Pans Band, Chineham Park Choir, Moses Kitchen Folk Band, Vandeville, Gospel Rap and a Gospel Choir.

On the sports front we had the Sentinel Challenge 6-a-side football competition, kick-boxing and judo.

Youth organisations were well represented with the Scouts, Boys Brigade and Adventure Rangers all in attendance. Connexions, the youth advisory service, also had a stall in the playground.

By the time the festival was over, most of us early starters were pretty much dead on our feet, but we still had to clear away the tables, the rubbish, and the car park ropes and stakes. By 6pm it

was all packed away, and we could all go home and get ready for work the next morning. The festival takes a huge amount of organising with things being planned months in advance, but it is worth every effort, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Suki, Shola and Lesley for the organisation, The Police for the security, Ben at Sentinel for the web site and programs, and all the other staff and volunteers for all the hard work they put in over the past few months to make this year's festival the outstanding success it was.

Cllr Andrew McCormick



Your Friendly neighbourhood Wardens with their exotic alcohol free "Mocktails" Only 50p and delicious. They were really welcome with ice on the really hot, hot Day. Kiwi. Passion Fruit, Coconut, Pineapple and many more flavours just choose your own ingredients. So popular that they will be at the Winklebury Festival July 24th

Setting up for all the fun of the fair an essential part of the fun. There were more rides this year even more planned for our next Popley Festival.



Just one small part of the massive Boot sale just about everything was up for sale at rock bottom sale prices starting from 5p There were just over 100 booters from music to dustbins, bric a brac to genuine antiques and furniture to home made foods.