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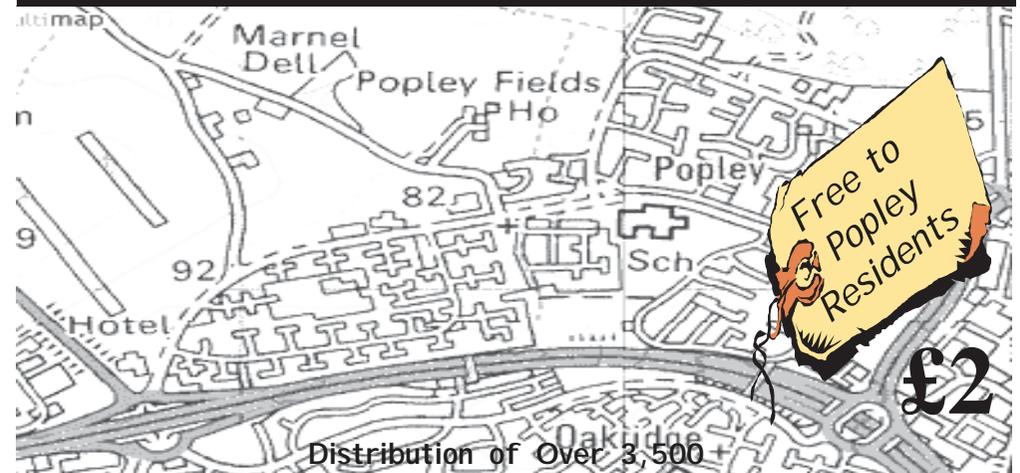
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

March 2006

Issue 49



**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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[www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk)

Closing date to submit articles & Adverts (20-03-06)

## Message From the Editor

February gone and the first signs of Spring. Although Spring is one of the prettiest times for nature, it just takes a few unthinking and selfish people to start dumping rubbish and large items expecting the council to come and pick them up. Old beds, fridges and assortments of items. Where is their pride in where they live? Do they not think of the dangers for other people and creatures! Obviously not. Have they ever seen a hedgehog with its head trapped in the plastic rings that hold cans together. It is a slow and painful death. Children will play with old furniture not knowing that maybe there is something sharp. If you see someone dumping then report them to 845474. I certainly will.

What does do my heart good is to see how quickly the MFC under 7's football club has got organised, 16 children have been going to practice and games and they had a big treat of a visit to Reading Football Club, you just have to see their faces to see what a great time they all had. Well done Lee and Dave: two Dads that have organised this excellent activity. The Community Wardens are now joining in with them too. Report on page 7.

Homestart Freedom is looking for trustees and people to join their scheme, This is a wonderful scheme that helps children of 5 and under and their families. See page 19 and 21.

Popley Conversationalists have been very busy and the area looks so very different. They have spent many hours working so that we can all enjoy the Popley Pond area and the great crested newts.

Thank you to all the people that have been asking after my dear 90 year old Dad. It was a very traumatic Christmas and New Year especially as he was so very ill. Dad is slowly getting better and at last putting on some weight and looking so very much better. He says it is the 28 years he was in the army and all the survival during the war that kept him fighting to get well again.

*Jane Frankum Editor*

Hits on [popley.matters.org.uk](http://popley.matters.org.uk) website for month of February 2016

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

**Editorial Team:**– Editor Jane Frankum; Sub–Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Secretary Alison Walker; Treasurer Kevin Walker; Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas; Administrator Sandra Cass;

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# Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; I read with interest the section from our local beat officer regarding the damage to cars and the thefts of navigation equipment. This I can understand as the vandals are after something on the cheap. Obviously I don't condone their behaviour. What I can not understand is the mindless yob who for no other reason than bravado or boredom smashes car windows just for fun. I am sure that many of you walking around the estates have seen the piles of window glass in the kerb sides. Five times now my windows have been smashed, how many badges I've lost I don't know. For what reason.? One day soon these morons will own their own cars. Then won't they be upset when their peers break their windows and vandalise their cars and property. I am sure that not many of these idiots will read your magazine and take note of these comments. But if even one does then it's a start. I am further saddened by the other craze of smashing glass bottles instead of putting them in waste bins. This leaves glass all over the paths and grass areas for children and pets to cut themselves on. Maybe, just maybe if there were more rubbish bins around this would deminish. Please let us have more dog waste bins as well. This may help to clean up the footpaths and surrounding areas. Thank you. From a Popley Resident.

**Editor's reply; There is no excuse for such loutish behaviour. Breaking glass is dangerous young children could so easily hurt themselves. A friend of mine some years ago was walking her little Yorkshire Terriers when she got home she realised her dog was walking with a limp. On closer examination at the vets she had slivers of glass embedded in her paws. The vet said if it were left that poor little dog could have been crippled**

**for life. Dogs mess, as long as it is wrapped can go in ordinary waste bins. They should have a notice on them! There are many good children about in Popley. It is a shame that the good ones get tarred with the same brush**

Dear Editor; Soon the warmer weather will be here and we all know what that means. Out come the "Cars for Sale" on the grass, right by the roads. Do these selfish people not think? Do they not realise what they are doing? Last year I saw a young child step out from behind one, she was trying to cross the road, she could not see properly around the cars and stepped out. My heart went into my mouth. Not only do they stop you from seeing clearly to exit out of the road they churn the grass and make it a quagmire. Frightened Motorist

**Editor's reply; I do agree with you and I get numerous phone calls with people complaining. As soon as I get the cars and vans moved they just put them up for sale elsewhere be it Oakridge, Buckskin or wherever the fancy takes them. Report them to 845474 because I most certainly do. I also wonder at the people who park along the road especially near bends and where the roads narrow for traffic calming!!**

**Editors Note We look forward to reading your letters on all sorts of subjects. We do not print your name or address if you wish us not to but of course we can not accept letters that are sent anonymously.**

**Please send your letters to :  
The Editor, Popley Matters,  
405 Abbey Rd, RG24 9EL or  
email:  
[editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)**



With the new housing developments and the proposed increase in residents to the area, the community beat officers have each been allocated a Popley Ward. This is to help provide a better service to local residents by giving each officer a smaller area to Police. Our aim is to work together with our partner agencies to make your community a safer place to live and this move forward will give us the opportunity to target the problems that are specific to your neighbourhood.

## Popley East

Popley poets & Popley Islands (excl Trinidad & Tobago)



PC 23234 Paul Thorne  
[paul.thorne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.thorne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Popley West

Popley Abbey's, Pershore, Evesham, Trinidad, Tobago & Specklewood

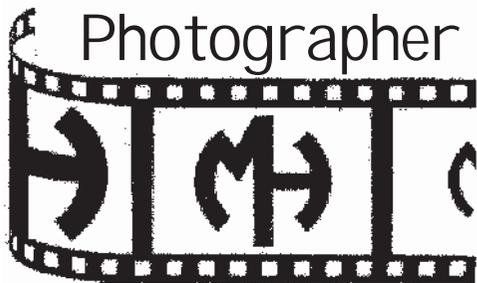


PC 3126 Matt Deery  
[matthew.deery@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:matthew.deery@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Crime should be reported via the Hampshire Police Switchboard on 0845 045 4545 or 999 in an Emergency.

If you wish to discuss an ongoing problem in your neighbourhood then please contact the officer for your area either directly by Email or via the Hampshire Police switchboard.

# Michael Herod Photographer



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Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm

Call 324734 for a free invitation or pop into the church and pick one up!



## Over 55 Forum

The above Forum are pleased to announce that they produced their First News Letter at the 15th February Forum Meeting (this is 1 part of the action plan). It was received very well indeed and will be produced bi-monthly. The membership fees of £5 single...£8 per couple were paid for the first time at this meeting and nearly 100 paid on the day. When you pay your membership fee you will be notified of ALL Forum meetings, Events, News Letter, minutes of Steering Committee and Forum meetings. If you wish to pay, please send your cheque made payable to Basingstoke & Deane Over 55s Forum to Chairman; Maurice Lay, 37 Paterson Close, Basingstoke, RG22 4NX or Secretary; Gerald Merritt, 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS.

A SPECIAL EVENT on Wednesday 19th April 2006. Basingstoke has been chosen to stage a performance of "TRICKSTER" by the Hampshire County Council Trading Standards in conjunction with the B & D Over 55s Forum, at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. This is a very IMPORTANT event to draw attention of ALL the Over 55s of rogue traders knocking on your door to get you to have work carried out. 2.00pm to 3.30pm. A big advertising campaign is being arranged for all types of media, so please do not miss the opportunity of booking your ticket.

Your Forum Steering Committee has been invited to promote our Forum with the twinning of Alencon (France) Braine L'Alleud (Belgium) and Eurskirchen (Germany), so that we can share our work and ideas with our European counterparts, we will also invite them to join us for our "International Day" on Saturday 30th September 2006 at the Queen Marys College.

Other parts of our "Action Plan" are.

- 1 A review of transport in the Borough of Basingstoke.
- 2 To visit and talk to schools.
- 3 Sponsorship
- 4 A Charter for older people.
- 5 Nutrition for over 55s.
- 6 Contact major companies and organisations in the Borough for funding and to set up over 55s sections in the workplace to work with the Forum.
- 7 Travel Reps; Single Room Supplement for Over 55s.

If anyone wishes to find out more information about the Forum, please do not hesitate to contact Gerald Merritt on 01256 412119 or E-mail [gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com](mailto:gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com)

<h1>TILING</h1> <h2>SPECIALIST</h2> <p><u>Cedar Ceramics</u></p> <p>Wall &amp; Floor Tiling Free Quotations! 10% Discount with this Advert! Please contact</p> <h1>ROSS MABBOTT</h1> <p>Kingsclere: 299372 Mobile: 07790 226089</p>	<h1>HOOVER</h1> <h2>APPLIANCE REPAIRS SAME DAY SERVICE</h2> <p><i>M.J. Rayner</i> BASINGSTOKE 398600</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EXPERT ATTENTION</li> <li>● FULLY EXPERIENCED HOOVER TRAINED ENGINEER</li> <li>● REPAIR WASHING MACHINES, DRYERS V. CLEANERS</li> <li>● REPAIRED IN YOUR HOME</li> <li>● COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SPARES PARTS IN STOCK</li> <li>● AUTHORISED HOOVER DEALER</li> </ul> <p><b>GENUINE HOOVER PARTS</b></p> <p> FITTED WITH FULL MANUFACTURERS GUARANTEE </p> <p>INC. RENT-A-WASH WASHING MACHINE HIRE</p> <p>GAYTHORNE NORTH WALTHAM BASINGSTOKE</p>
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Dear Friends

A mate of mine in Canada sent me the following via an e-mail and it really made me chuckle. A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around looking for valuables. When he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark, saying: "Jesus is watching you." He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off and froze. After a while he heard nothing more so he shook his head, promised himself a vacation after the next big score, then clicked the light on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you."

Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. "Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot. "Yep," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you." The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?" "Moses," replied the bird. "Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?" "The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus"

As well as making me chuckle it also made me think. So often we think we can get away with something if we believe no-one is watching us but the Bible teaches quite clearly that we will all be called to give an account before God for the things we do, say and think in this life even if we believe we've got away with it. Jesus said this: "There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs."

Lent is upon us and we traditionally mark the start of this season with Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day. Where does the word Shrove come from? It comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began. Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent, a time of abstinence, of giving things up. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent.

For Christians Lent is a time of reflection and preparation, a time to consider what Jesus would see if he shone a light into the deepest, darkest places of our hearts and lives. Jesus isn't a Rottweiler ready to pounce on us for the things we've done wrong; He is the compassionate Son of God who seeks to forgive and restore us. The Bible is full of real life stories of people whose hearts are scarred by guilt and shame for the things they've done in the past and Jesus does not reject any that come to him, irrespective of their past. He forgives, heals and restores them.

I hope that this Lent, rather than giving up smoking or chocolate or alcohol, perhaps you might take some time out to think about your life; your past, present and future and invite Jesus to shine his light into those places in your heart where you would rather not go and that you would allow him to forgive, heal and restore you. Have a good Lent!

Your Vicar  
Arthur

## HOME-START FREEDOM SEEKS YOUR SUPPORT

Home-Start is a national charity which works with families under stress, where one of the children is under 5, through trained volunteers visiting the families in their own homes. This support provided by volunteers who have been parents themselves is non-judgmental, supportive, confidential and based on friendship.

We are seeking to set up a Home-Start Scheme in Basingstoke – to be known as Home-Start Freedom – and need the skills of trustees from various backgrounds to meet the challenge of getting this exciting charity project off the ground. There is significant support from the National Organisation but as each Scheme is a charity in its own right there is a need for committed volunteers to become active trustees.

If you would like to find out, without any obligation or commitment, how to be part of this project please contact either Brigid Bell, Chair of the Freedom Steering Group on 01256 421819 – [Basingstoke@hcff.org.uk](mailto:Basingstoke@hcff.org.uk) or Mike Reynolds, Home-Start Regional Consultant on 07917392131 – [mreynolds@home-start.org.uk](mailto:mreynolds@home-start.org.uk). We can give you a clear idea of the plans we have, the commitment needed and respond to any questions you might have.

We very much hope that you will give thought to joining this project as we have clear evidence of the need for this support service in Basingstoke and, from the evidence nationally, of its very real value to families as they meet the challenges of successfully raising children.

---

### Basingstoke and District Railway Society

At the meeting on 8 February Society member David Cable vividly illustrated the great variety of colour used in railways around the world during his travels in 2005 to 13 different countries.

David is an excellent photographer and many of his slides reflect his particular interest in locomotive branding. In Switzerland, where trains are used as advertising billboards, David photographed engines promoting Microsoft, with a picture made up of over 1,000 tiny images of employees; Marklin, whose advert displayed dials from inside a locomotive cab, and yet another displaying St. Bernard dogs.

Similarly, a sojourn in the USA produced a photograph of a locomotive displaying support for troops in Iraq.

Particularly photographic during a trip to Finland was a double-deck train complete with a dumb-waiter arrangement to allow the transfer of the on-train catering trolley between decks.

Elsewhere on his travels in Europe David photographed several examples of international operability, and showed pictures of Czech locomotives in Germany and Hungarian locos working in Austria. Whilst in Australia he took pictures of some of the world's longest iron-ore trains, which can be over 300 wagons long.

David also showed images of his travels in Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Italy, Slovenia and the UK.

The next meeting of the BD&RS at the Wote Street Club is on the 8th March when member Richard Green reveals all about the Society's 2005 trip to Budapest and then on 22 March it's Alistair Jeffrey with John O'Groats to Lands End.

## Basingstoke Air Scout Group



Beaver Scout section (for boy and girls aged from 6 to 8 years)

Meetings: Tuesday 5.30 - 6.45 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down

Leader: 'Yellow Beaver' Eve Alexander 73 Falkland Road, Popley 346510

Our meetings in January and February were linked to the solar system and developing an understanding of children's lives in foreign countries such as Sri Lanka, Australia and Holland. With a little more effort most of the colony will qualify for the Friendship Award and some are working to complete the Faith badge. At the end of February we made birthday cards and played Kims Game to celebrate the birthday of Lord Robert Baden Powell who founded Scouting in 1907. The colony is fairly full but having bid goodbye to Billy, Stanley and Jamie to the Cub section there are a couple of vacancies for boys or girls aged 6-8 years.



Cub Scout section (for boys and girls aged from 8 to 10½ years)

Meetings: Tuesday 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down

Leader: Elaine Devenport 87 Saffron Close, Chineham 323453

The Pack has been working towards achieving the Global Challenge Award and developing a better understanding of the Scout Promise. A large montage depicting most members of the royal family is on display to remind members of their duty to both God and Queen and the Scout Law. Later on this term we plan a 'sleepover' in Base 2000 to complete the activities for Naturalist badge. New recruits welcome – contact Akela on (01256) 323453 – or come to Base 2000 on a Tuesday.



Scout section (for boys and girls aged from 10½ - 14 years)

Meetings: Monday 7 - 9 p.m. Base 2000 Carpenters Down

Leader: Colin Karlake 14 Gilbert Close, Popley 410559

The troop visited Old Basing in February for a bonfire and backwood's cooking event. We also took part in the District Six-a-side Football competition and were placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some of the troop will take part in County Winter Camp at Ferry Crofts early in March. As the name suggest it will be cold (especially at night) but the activity programme will keep us very busy during the day with cycle rides, hiking, archery, air rifle shooting, orienteering, 'bucking bronco' and other adventurous challenges on hand. New recruits (boys and girls) welcome – come to Base 2000 on Monday evening or telephone Colin on (01256) 410559

Enquiries: Pat Brown, Group Scout Leader 07716 855474

Both the Cub and Beaver sections celebrate special anniversaries this year. The Cub section celebrates 90 years of existence and the Beavers 20 years. All members have been given a special anniversary badge to wear on their uniform. Hampshire Scouts will hold a 'Big Birthday Party' at Gilwell Park on 18<sup>th</sup> June and the Group plans to participate.

Annual census in January showed an increase of 11 members over that of 2005. There is room in all sections for new recruits, however. If you want to try something new and adventurous contact the Section Leader or come along to Base 2000 as shown above. We are always looking for more leaders, especially for the two younger sections. If you like working with young people or have a skill/interest you would like to 'share', please get in touch. All leaders and skills instructors are required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau clearance form before being permitted unsupervised access to young people.

Sunday Boot Sales continue at John Hunt of Everest School with each sale run by volunteers from a local Popley charity and are well supported by 'booters' and buyers alike. 'Booters' are reminded that they must not obstruct the highway at any time and must remove any unsold goods, boxes and litter before leaving their 'pitch'. The charge is £4 per car, pro rata for larger vehicles and vans.



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01256 414014

Registered Charity No. 282848

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

Mon-Fri 9:15am-11:45am

Mon & Thurs 12:30pm-3:00pm

# Councillors Page

The budget meeting of the County Council was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February where the County Council set the increase in their share of the Council tax at 4.7% for the next year, We Labour Councillors had an amendment passed to increase the budget for Adult Services by £500,000 to enable more elderly and vulnerable residents to stay in their own homes if that is their choice. This will come from savings including the Councillors putting all their pay increase in the pot towards it.

The bus subsidies were set at the same rate as last year with the hope we can keep our bus services at the same level as last year.

The pilot scheme for the fire engine stationed at Popley Fields comes to an end in April with a decision soon as to whether it continues. Not only have the crews been there on call they have visited homes to do a voluntary fire safety checks. Indeed I had one myself. This is available to anyone.

Good news, The County Council Wade Road Waste site, will reopen with double the capacity to deal with all types of waste. For useful hints on recycling visit [www.recycleforhampshire.org.uk](http://www.recycleforhampshire.org.uk). Thank you to all the residents for their patience while the construction took place.

The paths in Milton and Keats are next in Popley for resurficing so the Hampshire County Highways have informed me. *County Councillor Jane Frankum 819924 [jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk)*

## Popley East Report

I was very pleased to see a letter in the Gazette about Chineham Park School, how her children have gone on to better things at school, college and university. Too often we hear negative comments about schools in Popley. They are run by very dedicated staff who deserve a bit of good press once in a while for the job that they do. Thank you for all you do on a daily basis which doesn't get the recognition it deserves. I'm sorry I can't visit as often as I would like to show my support.

It was great to attend the Marnel Football Club Penalty Shoot-out on Feb 4th. It's good to see a football club for young people start up in Popley, I wish them every success in their inaugural season and in the Peter Houseman League next season.

Another activity is: Beats & Bytes, a Youth Music Project currently running at the Junction 6 on Thursday evenings. Beats & Bytes is a 16 week programme which aims to introduce 13 to 19 year olds to Music Production and djing skills. The project is mostly funded by The National Foundation for Youth Music and aims to deliver skills based learning in many forms of music production.

This coming month we should hear the outcome of Sentinel's grant application to the Housing Corporation for the regeneration of Longfellow Parade. The residents in the Poets area you will be hearing from me as soon as I know the official outcome. We then will engage with Sentinel in dialogue throughout the process of them submitting their detailed planning application. *Councillor Andrew McCormick 419376 [cllr.andrew.mccormick@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.andrew.mccormick@basingstoke.gov.uk)*

## Popley West Report

Popley East and West was split into two wards four years ago and now the police are following suit in order to provide a better cover. We welcome this as we hope to see PC Matt Deery around in the ward more often.

Matt will be visiting some of our pensioner residents with advice on home safety and a free timer plug that you can set to come on and switch off as needed.

You can't help but notice all the digging up along Popley Way: this is the utilities laying and renewing the pipes etc. This is long overdue and much needed with the building of new houses over the next few years.

I am pleased to say the threat to Neighbourcare was averted when the council along with others guaranteed £15,000+ I know many of our residents use this very useful and much needed service.

Don't forget the Community Drop In surgeries at St Gabriel's the first Saturday of every month. No need for an appointment. If you have a problem just come along between 1 and 2 pm. There is also a surgery at Melrose Hall every Tuesday afternoon from 3.30 to 4.30 with the Community Wardens. *Councillor Paul Frankum 472496 [cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk)*



**Local Trustees Needed for new Support Group for local families**

Do you have local knowledge

Are you retired and still want to use your skills

Are you a parent and want to volunteer

**We are setting up a Management Group and require volunteers to support this local project. We need people with various skills. Financial, funding, employment or trustee experience to establish a local Home-Start Scheme here in Basingstoke.**

**Next meeting date  
13 March 2006 at 12.30  
to 1.50pm, Marnel Early  
Years Centre — You  
could help us make a  
difference to local families**

**We already have financial support from the Primary Care Trust and Children Services and need to apply for sustainable funding through grants and other funders**

**Should you require further information please contact:**

**Brigid Bell  
c/o Marnel Early Years Centre  
Marnel Infant School  
Shetland Road  
Popley, Basingstoke RG24 9PT Tel: 01256 421819  
E.mail: [basingstoke@hcff.org.uk](mailto:basingstoke@hcff.org.uk)**

**Diaries from The old codger** This month will be the start of the bird season. They will be looking for homes to nest but the problem is the lack of trees to nest in. Many of our trees are only good for wood pigeons or Rock Doves. We do not have the dense fir trees or thick hedgerows that we did in the past. Now it makes it easier for cats and Magpies to steal eggs and young birds. There are many places in the Popleys that these trees and shrubs could be planted. How many farms pulled out long established hedgerows to get extra land? Again when new houses are built the land around them has had hedges destroyed. This is not just here but in general.

We can help a little by putting up nesting boxes or training hedges so they get thicker. Then it cannot be accessible to cats and Magpies. If you have an old flower pot put it in the centre of a bush in the garden for Robins to nest. There are many ways we can encourage birds. Some pointers, if you put food out put it high up or it encourages vermin if left on the grass. Bird feeders are a good idea, but the seed can be thrown all over the place as birds try and sort out the best bits. Again take five minutes at the end of each day and sweep up. Never put bread out for birds even in winter it swells in the crop and gives no nourishment. Her indoors loves it so I keep it in the house for her to eat. One of the best places to look for different birds is around John Hunt I can remember when they planted out the trees and shrubs along Shakespeare Road. It is now a haven for all types of creatures. One bad point is it is also convenient for people to dump rubbish in and most of the items are killers for our wild life and it attracts rats. Still that is enough of the nature lesson from me.

Her In-doors has had me chained to the chair over the last few weeks, first with ulcerated eyes, so I could not see her, mind you (ouch) she just read that bit so I won't finish what I was going to say. Also I had a fall, fifteen stone of me hitting the floor. Where was she then when I needed a soft landing, I damaged the leg and I have got to rest it.

I like that bit in the Gazette the other week I read an article about a pigeon racer, whose hobby is being ruined by neighbours that are flying kites and putting up owls on the roof. Would they do the same sort of thing to huntsmen, fishermen, football players cricket players etc, because they are out of step with the rest of them. Do they complain that people have dogs and cats. This man is going about his own sport and has not damaged any one. I followed in my father's and his father's passion for the sport of pigeon racing. My father was well known all over the world for his achievements in this sport, he was asked to donate a bird to the Queens lofts and he duly did with pride. I would go with him to judge shows and when I was asked to do the same I did. Pigeon racing is a highly developed sport that takes great skill and dedication and as long as this person follows good husbandry then his neighbours have no fears. You are more likely to pick up infections from the park or streets where stray pigeons are. All this man's birds should have been treated against any infestation of germs. So I say to these complainants, sit down with him and talk to him about his sport. You will be amazed at the work that goes into breeding birds that can fly up to 400 miles in a day. The Queen is an ardent pigeon racer and has been all her life.

Her In-doors was in the kitchen one day this month making a lunch box; I said "are you going to work? No" she said "but you are", I came over all cold and shivered to think she had found me a job to go to. Well the question had to be asked, "what am I going to do dearest one?" If any one knows me I am not one of god's good looking ones, in fact I was last in line when they gave out looks, still she came out with "I have found you a job haunting houses at weekends," One of these days I am going to ——! No I won't say it in case it incriminates me later on.

The Old Codger

# m.f.c. popley.

A big thank you to everybody who took part in Saturday's penalty shootout competition and help raise a lot of money to go towards the club, which will definitely benefit the kids in the future. We don't know exactly how much money we raised but I think I can safely say it's over the £500 marker. As soon as we get all the sponsors in I will inform everybody of how much we raised for the team. Once again a big, big thank you, and I hope you all enjoyed yourselves



**Finley Judd** won the trophy,



**Jacob Austen and John** won the r/up trophies, well done.



On Tuesday 14/02/06 we had an afternoon trip to the Madejski Stadium in Reading and it went really well. All the team were well behaved and did us all proud. Hopefully 1 or 2 of them will be playing there in the near future and earning {ME} lots and lots of money. The tour consisted of going through the changing rooms (home and away) the Boot Room where Paul Kitson's boots were hanging, and in the viewing boxes which cost £16,000 a season. The kids sat in the dugout and they were even shown where the police cells were. In the end a good day was had by all.



m.f.c.Popley thank you all for your support {come on boys and Ellie}



**John Hunt of Everest  
Community School**



*Working Together  
to achieve  
Success for All*

# Women's Health

**Wednesday 8th  
March 2006**

**5.30 - 7.30 pm**

Evening is being run  
in partnership with  
the School Nurse  
Service, Hampshire  
Caterers, North  
Hampshire Hospital,  
Community Wardens,  
Womens' Wisdom.

Stalls from: Virgin  
Cosmetics and  
Body Shop and the  
jewellery suppliers

Evening supported by  
the JHE Parent group

**John Hunt of Everest  
Community School**

Popley Way  
Basingstoke  
RG24 9AB

To book a place:  
Phone: 01256 338725/6  
Fax: 01256 810448  
Email:  
suki.binning@johnhunt.hants.sch.uk

An evening of activities for women run by health professionals designed to raise awareness and signpost to services available locally.

The evening will kick off at 5.30pm with registration and a round of 'mocktails' served by our friendly Community Wardens.

There will be a range of displays and chance to find out about some part-time self employment opportunities.



6.00pm - choose from  
'Quit Smoking' or 'how to  
talk to your children  
about sex'

6.20pm - choose from a  
keep fit session and  
calculate your fitness  
index and body mass or  
Indian Head Massage  
workshop

6.45pm—healthy cooking  
demonstration and food  
tasting

7.15pm - Breast care— how  
to check



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) 363692

New Testament Church of God

[www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-new-t.freeserve.co.uk)



# Apple Blossom Catering



Planning a wedding, party or any special occasion?

Yes....you could do it yourself, but why bother when we can do it for you  
We will book the hall, decorate it to suit, provide a beautiful buffet and best of  
all clear up afterwards.

We can provide experienced security and bar staff if required.

We can also arrange the cars, the flowers, the photography, the disco and  
much much more!

Call us to discuss your requirements and relax

01256 841996 or 07734 499193 email: [appleblossom213@aol.com](mailto:appleblossom213@aol.com)

**Nothing for you to do but enjoy your day we will do it all for you!**



Base 2000 Carpenters Down Popley RG24 9DR  
www.base2000.co.uk

For bookings or to view the facility please contact Helen Brown on 07733 032407 or Pat Brown on 07716 855474 or write to 7 Remembrance Gardens, Chineham RG24 8DE. We are happy to accommodate casual 'one off' bookings subject to availability; a damage/security deposit is applied under certain circumstances. Hire charges start at £3.50 per hour for the small hall and range up to £11 per hour for the large hall at weekends. We have availability for regular users or casual bookings at the current time.

Use of video, projector, screen and other resource equipment by hirers can be arranged on request. BBQ equipment also available for a moderate fee. Please make enquires to the Bookings Secretary

Regular users of the building include groups of Rainbows, Brownie Guides, Guides, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Wiggins Teape Pensioners, Melrose Christian Fellowship and CMA Kick Boxing Ladies Keep-fit section.

The Princes Trust, sponsored jointly by the Hampshire Fire Service, YMCA and Hampshire Constabulary are mid-way through their current course. The programme includes a residential experience, a community project and out-of-doors challenges as well as work experience. For more information ring 01256 335341, 07766 550 635 or 02380 626 706

### Quit Smoking 0845 602 4663

Free specialist help for those who want to quit across North and Mid Hampshire

#### Benefits to stop smoking

- Feel richer Quitting 20 cigarettes a day =£1500 to spend every year
- Look younger Circulation to skin improves within a few hours of quitting
- Feel fitter Lungs begin to work better within 3-4 days
- Feel calmer Blood pressure returns to normal in just one hour
- Be free from nicotine addiction



**Go for it phone now**



## Countywide Travel

By joining Countywide Travel's Excursion Club you receive discounts on all excursions and the opportunity to take part in our occasional exclusive outings and other functions. Membership costs £10 or £15 for joint membership, which lasts for any consecutive 12-Month period. Application forms are available from the Tourist Information Centre.

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	ADULT	OAP	CHILD	EX CL
Sat 11	0830	Bluebell Railway *inc	£ 25.00	£ 24.25	£ 15.00	£ 23.50
Sun 12	0900	New Forest Tour	£ 16.00	£ 15.25	£ 10.50	£ 14.50
Wed 15	0915	Ideal Homes Exhibition *inc	£ 27.50	£ 26.00	£ 8.50	£ 24.75
Sat 18	0900	Ideal Homes Exhibition *inc	£ 28.50	£ 27.00	£ 8.50	£ 25.75
Sun 19	0830	Weston-super-Mare	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25
Tue 21	0915	Ideal Homes Exhibition *inc	£ 27.50	£ 26.00	£ 8.50	£ 24.75
Fri 24	0900	Ideal Homes Exhibition *inc	£ 27.50	£ 26.00	£ 8.50	£ 24.75
Sat 25	0900	Oxford	£ 16.00	£ 15.25	£ 10.50	£ 14.50
Sun 26	0830	Mothers day trip & Lunch *inc	£ 27.00	£ 26.25	£ 19.00	£ 24.50

MARCH

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	ADULT	OAP	CHILD	EX CL
Sat 1	0530	Adinkerke&CalaisCiteEurope*inc‡	£ 30.00	£ 28.50	£ 19.50	£ 26.50
Sun 2	0900	Swanage	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25
Tue 4	0900	Salisbury or Wilton shopping village	£ 13.50	£ 13.00	£ 9.00	£ 12.25
Wed 5	0900	South Kensington Museums	£ 16.00	£ 15.25	£ 10.50	£ 14.50
Thu 6	0830	Weymouth (Market Day)	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25
Sat 8	0830	Worthing	£ 17.00	£ 16.25	£ 11.25	£ 15.25

APRIL

‡ on all trips abroad pickup are restricted to our depot in Oakley, Bstoke Churchill Way Coach Bay And Hook, Old white Hart (a30) only  
Full details and bookings available at the tourist information centre, Willis museum. Telephone 817618

### STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

● Sheena Brown is available for Chiropody treatment in the comfort of your own home.



● Please telephone (01256) 336853 for more details or to make an appointment.



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# MELROSE HALL NEWS

Don't forget our Boot Sales at John Hunt of Everest Community School every Sunday throughout 2006. Entry at 9am. Sales start at 10am.

Melrose Coffee morning is now called The Friendly Cafe and it is open to all residents of Popley. Every Monday 9.30 - 12.00 and every Thursday 9.30 - 12.00. They serve Teas, Coffees, Biscuits, Bacon Rolls etc, at very good prices. They also have weekly raffles, board and card games, occasional outings and a foot clinic twice a month.

New Childrens Group "Socatots" Thursday from 9.30 to 12.30 from 6 months to 4 years old. contact Justain 07951698309

At the last committee meeting it was discussed what sort of fundraising events we could organise during 2006. You the public make these events a success, so let us have your ideas. Drop the committee a note, post it through the letterbox at the hall, mark the envelope "events". We will discuss the suggestions at the next meeting and who knows, you may end up attending the event you suggested later in the year.

Welcome to our new admin assistant Tammy Phillips.

MCA Friendly café raised £133.95 for Neighbourcare. Thank you for all your support

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY	9.30 -12PM The Friendly Cafe	7.30 - 10.30 Healing & Holistics
TUESDAY	9.30am - 11.30am TINY ACORNS CHILDMINDERS	4-8.30 PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE OF DANCE
WEDNESDAY	9.30 -11.30 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP 9-45AM-11-30 STOP SMOKING CLINIC	12PM - 2PM OASIS LUNCH CLUB
THURSDAY	9.30-12PM The Friendly Cafe 9:30-12:30PM Socatots	7PM-8.30PM WEIGHT WATCHERS
FRIDAY	10AM 3PM LODDON ALLIANCE	6.30PM YOUTH CLUB
SATURDAY	9AM -1PM PETITE SCHOOL OF DANCE	
SUNDAY	10AM MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	6.30PM MELROSE CHRISTAN FELLOWSHIP

For information or booking please call, Tammy Phillips our new administrator. Call on 01256 420676 or Email melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

poplefields@hotmail.com

## QUIZ NIGHT

Come & join us for our regular quiz night, with Green Watch from the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Great prizes up for grabs

Raffle

Fun for all the family

### Friday 24th March

### Time: 7.30pm

### ALL WELCOME

Licensed Bar  
Mocktails  
Hot food

£1 Entrance

Prizes include  
Best Team Name  
Table Top  
Booby Prize  
& many more

For more information call  
01256 414494

All funds raised will go towards the  
P.O.P Zone  
Youth Club within the centre.



Reg Charity No 1052133

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## 107.6 Kestrel FM Community Breaks

Community Breaks are there to tell people what's going on in their community. They provide local clubs, schools, groups and charities with an opportunity to promote their fund raising and community initiatives on air reaching local listeners. Without them some events would not get the profile they need to raise money and awareness for local projects.

Sentinel have stepped in as a sponsor to help promote some of our events such as Get With activities and Pride in your Place Walkabouts, but to also enable all sorts of people from our communities to promote their events, such as MacMillan Coffee mornings held at Sheltered Schemes, school fetes and so forth.

If you have an event that needs some awareness then contact Kestrel FM on 01256 694000.

So for the 'Word on what's on in your community' tune into Kestrel FM!

**Sentinel**

## Before and After Popley Conservation Volunteers

Most of us like to see trees. The green tapestry that refreshes the senses, the cooling summer shade, the rustle of leaves as gentle breezes flow through the canopy and the many and varied architectural shapes. You would think that you could not have too much of such a good thing. So when I told a couple of people last summer that the conservation volunteers intended to cut down the willows that were growing on the edge of the Popley Ponds I was not at all surprised to see looks of disbelief. Getting stuck into felling the willows

Conservation like many other things in life requires a pragmatic and balanced approach between that which we would like to keep and that which, in this case, is for the well-being of the pond. The willows growing by the edge of the pond certainly looked attractive. However there were some downsides. Willows grow at an enormous rate. What is a few feet high this year can be 60 feet high in a few years time. If the trees had been left they would have grown, shaded and rooted into the pond and the leaves would have fallen into the pond and polluted the water. We would not want to see the wonderful clarity of the water in the ponds turned into a muddy, smelly, stagnant pool. More important than the aesthetic reasons is that if this situation was allowed to develop much of the wild life of the ponds would have been lost. So prevention is better than cure and it was time to coppice and pollard the willows before they got too big. Of course we have not destroyed them, they will re-grow. We will have the pleasure of seeing them regenerate but once they reach a certain size they have to be cut back again. This cycle should enhance the wildlife in the area.

Other tasks have been undertaken this winter to improve biodiversity. Please do visit the ponds and enjoy the tranquility in the middle of an urban area and if you walk your dogs there, please pick up if they defecate. Thanks.

We need people to help in conservation around Popley to make Popley a greener place. If you would like to help please contact. Lee Roth at Lee.roth@networkrail.co.uk or Phone 01256 330738.

### Glossary

**Coppice:** A system of rotational cutting, mainly hazel, every seven to fifteen years. In the past the wood would have been used for sheep hurdles and bavons or fagots (bundles of twigs) for burning and heating bread ovens. Far from killing off the trees the life is prolonged. The hazel is held in a perpetual juvenile state. Some Hazels which have been coppiced regularly are thought to be up to a thousand years old.

**Pollard:** The same principle as coppicing except the tree is cut off at a height that animals cannot reach to browse. Usually about 2 to 3 meters. This system was very much used for willows. The re-growth was used for weaving baskets.



Some of the volunteers looking pleased with themselves at the completion of the task  
Photo courtesy of Ian Longthorne

# Chineham Park Preschool

The first half of this term has been extremely busy, with most sessions being full or nearly full. The children continuing to enjoy a variety of crafts, activities, breakfast club and music and dance sessions as well as the normal routines.

Our parents received a half-yearly report for their children, outlining their progress and achievements so far, and will have the opportunity to come in and chat with their child's keyworker this term to discuss this in more detail.

Our website is now available to visit, giving details of forthcoming events as well as information about the Pre-school.

[www.communicate.co.uk/hants/chinehamparkpreschool](http://www.communicate.co.uk/hants/chinehamparkpreschool)

## Youth Music Project

This youth music project, is entitled *Beats & Bytes*, which is currently running at Junction 6 on Thursday evenings from 6pm to 9pm

*Beats & Bytes* is a 16 week programme which aims to introduce 13 to 19 year olds to Music Production and djing skills.

The project is predominately funded by The National Foundation for Youth Music and aims to deliver skills based learning in various forms of music production.

For further details contact Junction 6 at John Hunt Community School

## Chernobyl Appeal

Members of the Knights Circle of the Advancement of Spiritual Awareness and Healing (registered charity) are holding an open evening on March 17th at 7.30pm at Popley Fields Community Centre Admission only £2.

The money raised will go towards the £300 that is needed for travel expenses.

Children last year arrived in clothes we would not use as rags. Their shoes were falling off their feet but they went back with new clothes and shoes. Their faces as you can imagine were full of beautiful smiles.

It is twenty years since that dreadful Nuclear accident that is still causing such suffering. Mrs Hunter