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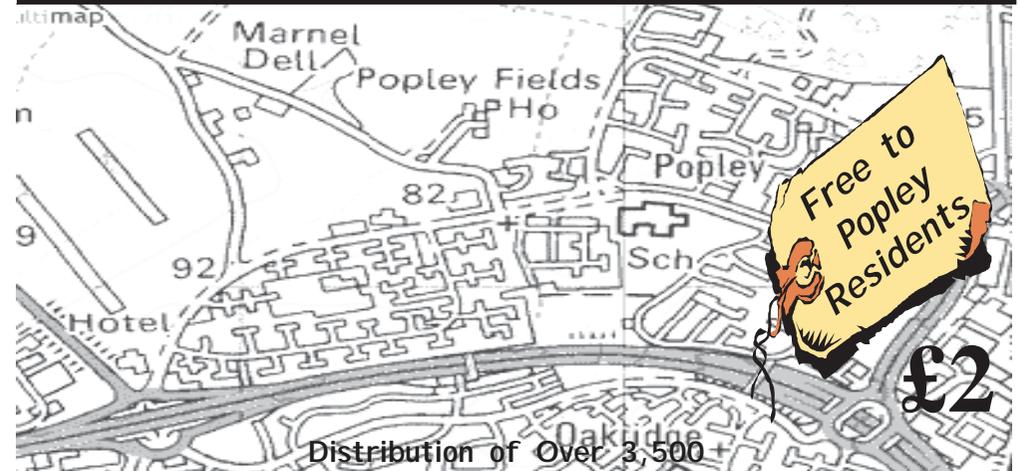
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

July 2006

Issue 53



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20-07-06)

Message From the Editor:- What a hot sultry June and never satisfied I was praying for rain to cool me down and for to water our poor dry gardens, there are some good water saving hints on page 18 from Julie Johnson.

The Old Codger is home from hospital and has been busy writing his article on page 12 & 13.

We are sorry that this Popley Matters may be a few days late but Paul Frankum our Sub Editor has been in hospital (Paul is the one that lays it all out and does all the hard work getting it ready for the printer). Our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the fantastic people who were so good and kind to us, from doctors to A&E the MAU and staff on E1. A special thanks to all you blood donors Paul had 6 units and your gift of blood Saved yet another life. It is at times like these that you realise what a great Health Service we have and what wonderful people are out there.

Sadly Archie Martin passed away on the 18th of June and many of you will know him from his work in the community from his Bingo Club an obituary is on page 9. Archie will be missed by many people in Popley.

Football fan or not I think everyone has been supporting their national team and there has been thousands of flags wherever you look, it is great to see all the colours and from a personal view the red and white looked really impressive.

Next month sees the Proud of Popley awards and the Basingstoke in Bloom the community Wardens will be writing a report in the next issue, as for this month we truly welcome David Mason who replaces Steve Bate, who has gone on to work in Winklebury. Thanks Steve you have been such a good ambassador for Popley and Winklebury will certainly benefit.

There is a recipe on the letters page and we thought you might have some good recipes of your own you might like to share. I often look at the more unusual fruit and veg and wonder how you cook it. Come on readers please pass on your favorite recipes if we get enough we could even write a Popley recipe book? *Jane Frankum*

Hits on popley.matters.org.uk website for month of May 2838

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

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; Committe Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;
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Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor; My favourite part of "Popley Matters" is the Old Codger, and although I was born after the war, I was brought up on some of the food of the era, so how about some of the old recipes of the time. I still get "Skirt", for cooking you can now get it at Morrisons, and my Gran used to make a lovely "Potato Peeling Cake", even though it is many years since I had some, it used to be really lovely.

I expect quite a few of your readers remember the old ways of cooking, good healthy cheap foods, cooked well.

Mind you, I could not manage tripe or pigs bits, ugh! Lynne from Abbey Road.

Editor; I sent this message on to the Old Codger and he sent this reply with his thanks to Lynne for her kind message,

Old Codger's reply; An old favorite as they were always cheap or you could scrimp them when I was a kid, this was the old fashion apple pie, very easy to make.

1lb apples, 2oz Demerara sugar, ¼ pint water, 8oz short crust pastry i.e. 8oz of flour, put peeled apples in a dish, with the sugar, cover with the pastry mix making sure the edge of the dish is moist so the pastry will not stick on cooking, crimp edges, cover with egg white and a sprinkle of sugar, then bake in a moderate oven for 35 minutes till fruit is well cooked, you can use all types of fruit in this pie gooseberries, plums, you can pick black berries, or damsons. The list is endless but cheap, summery and filling, if the pastry is cooked before the fruit turn down the heat so it will not burn. Have with ice cream or custard lovely.

Editor's reply; My dear Mother taught me how to make things go further and

how to make a good nutritious meal out of scraps nothing was wasted. When cooking mince add some porridge oats, makes it go a long way and is good for you too. My Dad was in the army so we were posted abroad and I got a taste for exotic foods but I don't know how to cook them. It would be great if we had some recipes as we have people from just about every country in Popley: email, phone write or go on Popley Matters website. www.popleymatters.org.uk

Dear Editor; I am against the proposal to reduce the speed limit along Popley Way, in my opinion it is not needed. What happened to children using the underpass? Tintern Close resident.

Editor's reply; I have had remarks against by two residents but the vast majority of letters, phone calls and people stopping the Councilors to talk have been in favour. It is not just for the safety of children but our older residents in the sheltered housing. As a disabled person myself I know how hard it is to walk on uneven surfaces and especially uphill as the underpasses are. All of your comments for and against will go to the relevant officers.

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

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



Hello everyone. I'm really happy to announce to you that I am the new Community Warden for Popley. My name is David Mason. I'll be 40 next year. They say that life begins at 40, and I'm certainly at the start of a new era of my life. I'm looking forward to meeting the many challenges of my new job as a Community Warden.

I started working as a warden from the beginning of May, and was assigned to Popley at the end of the month after completing my basic warden training. As you probably know, I've replaced Stephen Bate, who has become the new warden for Winklebury. I'll be working with Sarah Ratcliff who is a great mentor, helping me find my feet and introducing me to the area, its businesses and its people. I have already met many of you, and I would like to say here thank you for making me feel so welcome. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in time, either on patrol or at meetings.

I've already explored much of the area, and the great amount of support for our country's team has not gone unnoticed. With all the enthusiasm for football at the moment, it's not surprising that so many people are out playing the game. It is certainly good to see children playing outside in the excellent summer weather that we've been having. However, parents please make sure that your children are playing in an area suitable for ball games and they are being properly supervised. Many thanks.

As you know, Sarah and I are based at John Hunt of Everest School and you can reach us there on 01256 845508.

Best wishes,
David Mason



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Good News from the Early Education and Childcare Unit.....

From 1 April 2006, all three and four year olds can have more free, part-time nursery education. The entitlement to sessions of 2½ hours per session for up to five sessions per week stays the same. But the number of weeks increases from 33 to 38 – the equivalent of schools. Some pre-schools and private nursery schools will need a little time to make the adjustment if they can – but they will make it clear to parents who use them. Any unused weeks though cannot be made up elsewhere.

The dates when three year olds children become eligible stays the same - so that is 1 September , 1 January and 1 April after their birthday.

Any questions – just call the Early Education and Childcare Unit helpline on 01962 813887.



If you don't know where to start when looking for a reliable tradesman, Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards BUY WITH CONFIDENCE scheme can help. This ground breaking initiative provides a list of businesses that have been independently checked by Trading Standards Officers for compliance with the law and trustworthiness. Members are also continuously monitored to ensure that they maintain their high levels of service.

With Hampshire Trading Standards alone receiving over 20,000 customer complaints each year, it is understandable that we all feel daunted when looking for someone reliable to carry out a specific job. It was with just this problem in mind that the Buy with Confidence scheme was set up. The aim is to give consumers peace of mind as well as promote the many reliable firms that there are in Hampshire.

While the scheme cannot guarantee that the work of members will never give rise to complaint, if it does, one of the requirements of membership is that such problems should be resolved quickly and fairly. It is currently the largest such scheme in the country, with over 400 members, covering a huge range of different businesses from builders to window cleaners.

To find out about approved traders in your area you can either visit the website at www.buywithconfidence.info or telephone 01962 869 765

HAMPSHIRE SCHOOLS COLLABORATE

Two Hampshire County Council schools are to embark on an innovative partnership project aimed at widening opportunities for pupils ensuring the best outcomes for them in line with the aims of the Children Act.

The collaboration, the first of its kind in the county, will see headteacher, Jeffery Threlfall of Wildern School in Hedge End working alongside headteacher Lesley Phillipson and her senior leadership team at John Hunt of Everest Community School in Basingstoke.

Mr Threlfall will act as an executive headteacher, providing support and sharing his expertise and experience with Mrs Phillipson as part of a three-year collaboration aimed at developing learning opportunities for staff and pupils at her school.

Pupils at John Hunt have already been benefiting from the partnership, taking part in lessons with teachers from Wildern School and will be making use of the Hedge End school's groundbreaking e-learning initiative. Wildern's virtual learning environment enables pupils to access a range of curriculum resources and tutorials at the click of a computer mouse. Wildern School has also been involved in a project which is accessible not only to a number of schools in the county but also nationally through a portal created for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust website. The school has also recently created an additional portal for the SSAT for their e-mentoring project which will enable pupils to be mentored prior to their GCSE examinations.

Staff and pupils at John Hunt are looking forward to the completion of a £25m building project which will provide them with state of the art premises on a brand new purpose-built site near to its present Popley Way site. It is expected the new school will be ready for occupation by September 2007. Information and communications technology will be a major feature of the new school in addition the building will have community facilities including a health and fitness suite and floodlit pitches as well as a purpose built youth provision.

Both headteachers are looking forward to working together to take the school into a new phase.

Lesley Phillipson said: "I am looking forward to working with Jeffery and developing learning opportunities for pupils and staff here at John Hunt. The pupils are already benefiting from the link with Wildern, they have enjoyed lessons with Wildern teachers and will gain from the experiences with the e-learning initiative. They are enthusiastic about this link and we are looking forward to building on that here at John Hunt."

Jeffery Threlfall has 10 years experience as a headteacher and has been praised by Ofsted for his strong leadership and vision at Wildern which was judged an outstanding school by government inspectors earlier this year. He has already undertaken work to support schools across Hampshire by sharing his expertise and good practices. He said: "I am very pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with John Hunt School in order to support the headteacher, staff and governors in raising standards and outcomes for pupils. Projects are already underway which include using the capacity at Wildern School to support a working partnership on teaching and learning."

The partnership is being fully supported by the County Council. Councillor David Kirk, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education, said: "I am confident that this unique collaboration will prove extremely beneficial to pupils and staff alike. It presents an excellent opportunity for teachers and pupils from John Hunt to share in the expertise and experience of the Wildern staff and to build upon this to develop their school, raising standards and creating opportunities for enhanced learning which will be complemented by the new building currently being built for them. This is an exciting time for all at John Hunt and I wish them well for this pioneering project."

Councillors Page

This is my first article as your local Councillor in Popley Matters, and I'd like to start off by thanking everyone for their support. I was elected with 51% of the vote, and I am truly grateful for your support.

I promise that I will work hard for you, and I will be the best local councillor I can, to raise everyone's concerns and support our local community.

Following the elections, we have seen a change in leadership of the Borough Council from Labour to Conservative. This will inevitably mean changes, some of which will affect Popley, and I will work to make sure the new leadership doesn't neglect Popley and our community.

During the election, many people asked for my help to tackle a number of issues. Over the next few weeks I'll be visiting residents to discuss these problems and working with them to find solutions. **Mary Brian, Popley East Ward, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**
As I write this the World Cup is in full swing. By the time you get to read this it will probably be the semi-finals. Will England still be in with a shout? It would be good to gain revenge on Brazil but England have to overcome Holland or Portugal at the Quarter-Final stage first.

One thing is for certain, the regulars at the Barbican will have a good time. They have really gone to town laying out turf on the floor and adding wooden terracing!!!

As with all sporting competitions many kids will be out there seeking to re-enact the games, which inevitably will mean complaints from neighbours about ball games. There are many small bits of land which are not suitable for ball games, these get used because the kids have to cross busy roads. I hope we can strike a happy medium in the short term. Longer term we need to make the roads safer by dropping the speed limits so kids are more likely to cross the road and use the park areas. I'd much rather see kids out playing football than indoors vegging in front of the TV or PS2. **Andy McCormick, Popley East Ward, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**

The damaged bus stop on Popley Way has been replaced with a temporary one and will be upgraded to one with a seat later. The weeds have been dealt with on Aldermaston Open Space and the benches will be repaired and re-treated so that we can enjoy the park again, though I would ask the very few dog owners that do not poop a scoop to clear the mess so the children can play safely. It is an offence. Parks are for all of us to enjoy and I am pleased to say that the Chineham Park paddling pool is now cleaned and ready for use. We have been assured that it will be kept clean and cleared of glass. If you see glass etc please ring 844844 and report it.

We are pleased to see the collaboration of the head of Wilden School with John Hunt of Everest as this can only be good news for the students and will help them with life skills. The new school is growing day by day and is on schedule which is quite unusual when it is such a big project. There will be sports pitches, running track, all the latest technology, a youth wing, police office and much more. We hold a surgery on the first Saturday of the month in St Gabriels Church from 1 till 2 you do not need an appointment just come along. There are usually Community Wardens, representatives from Sentinel and us your Councillors. We can of course be reached by phone 01256 819924 **Paul Frankum Popley West Ward Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Jane Frankum Popley West and Hampshire County Councillor.**



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Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15
Monday 7-9p.m.
Colin Karlake 410559

The Group Annual meeting for Parents on 13th June was well attended and we are pleased to welcome David Spokes as the new Group Chairman and thank him for taking on the role. The Group is still in need of a Secretary to record meetings held about every 6/8 weeks and co-ordinate arrangements for fund-raising. Other members of the committee are: Mike Mullender (Treasurer), Beverley Stonehouse, Carol Rose, Sue Shillitto and Sue Keetch with Pat Brown and section leaders holding ex-officio appointments.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Beaver Colony performed a pageant depicting highlights from the section's history which celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year having been nationally incorporated in 1986. The cub section performed a humorous sketch 'If I were not a cub scout, a I would be' with interesting innovations! The Chief Scout Silver Award was presented to Lauren Brooks by the District Commissioner, Bob Lock.

The cubs had a rip-roaring, not too hot, day at Gilwell Park on 18th June to celebrate 90 Years of Cub Scouting. Over 10,000 young people attended (about 300 of which came from the Basingstoke area) and all Packs were urged to take a Birthday Cake. What a day - lots of action and adventure and some very tired young people and leaders on the journey home! The Beavers Colony joined in Hampshire's Big Beaver 20th Birthday Party the following Sunday and they too had a busy day. Nine Beavers attended the Annual District Beaver Scout Sleepover themed on the Jungle Book.

Although celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year Beaver section's roots go back to 1963 when a group of 'pre-cub age children' called 'Little Brothers', started in Dromore, Co. Down. It was almost 20 years later, in 1982, that the Scout Association introduced the original Beaver uniform of a grey sweatshirt and turquoise scarf, however. Records confirm that Jan Saunders was one of the first to see the opportunities for young people in Popley and she ran a 'pre-cub section' group based in the Air Scout HQ (the old black hut!) in 1983 but it was not until 1994 that the Air Scout Group formally registered its first Beaver Scout Colony led by Sue Keetch.

The scouts section have been experimenting recently making 'rockets' from plastic bottles and competition to see which will go the furthest (not necessarily in an upwards direction however!)

Boot Sales continue at John Hunt of Everest School on Sundays. Cost from £4 pro-rata for larger vehicles. 'Booters' are reminded that they must not obstruct the public highway and must remove any litter, boxes and unsold goods before leaving their 'pitch'.

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

Another First For Borough's Over 55s' Forum

Althorp House in Northamptonshire is the destination for the first-ever coach trip organised by the borough's 'Young at Heart' Over 55s' Forum - and people are being urged to book fast as tickets are selling like hot cakes!

The day trip to the famous stately home of Lord Spencer will take place on Tuesday 1st August and is the first in a series of excursions planned for the summer taking in beautiful and historical hotspots around the country.

Basingstoke and Deane's 'Young at Heart' Over 55s' Forum was set-up in September 2004 to give a voice to the borough's older residents – and it's been gaining momentum ever since. Member numbers are continually increasing and the forum already has a successful International Older People's Day under its belt. Lawrie McMenemy MBE has agreed to be its patron and work has even begun on a charter for the older person.

Chairman of the forum Maurice Lay said: "Althorp House is steeped in tradition and history and the trip includes a full tour as well as entry to the award-winning exhibition 'Diana: a celebration'.

"We've already sold over half the tickets so people will need to act quickly. Tickets cost £22 per person – there's no booking fee - and this includes the cost of the coach and admission to Althorp House.

"We're also discussing ideas for more short day trips in the future and would welcome any suggestions."

The forum is supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the council's Cabinet Champion for Older People Cllr Cecilia Morrison said: "Members expressed an interest in visiting this and other places in the UK – so the forum has arranged this trip and the transport to give our older residents what they want.

"The forum is working hard to make a genuine difference to the lives of older people in the borough and these trips are just one of the benefits it offers."

For further information or to book tickets call forum Secretary Gerald Merritt on 01256 412119 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com.

What is anti-social behaviour?

The government says anti-social behaviour is 'acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause; harassment alarm or distress to people...'

Anti-social behaviour affects different people in different ways. For some people it means living next door to nuisance neighbours, for other people it is about graffiti, litter or abandoned cars on the street.

In Basingstoke and Deane we include other nuisance activities such as:

- Vandalism · Harassment including racial or homophobic harassment · Street drinking · Reckless or dangerous riding or motorbikes and scooters · Fly tipping · Noise nuisance · Abuse and intimidation

The Council works closely with a range of agencies to support local people tackle anti-social behaviour. Basingstoke and Deane will not tolerate anti-social behaviour.

What we are doing about it?

The Council and the Police, work with other agencies such as Housing Associations, and Community Safety Officers

We are aware that local residents are concerned about some people's lack of respect for where they live and the people living around them.

We take your concerns seriously and can use a range of interventions and powers to resolve these problems with you to make Basingstoke and Deane a safer place to live.

The powers that can be used to deal with anti-social behaviour include:

- fixed penalty notices and on the spot fines · prosecution · seizure of equipment and vehicles · termination of tenancy agreements · issuing of Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) · Mediation · Closure Orders (Class A Drugs) · Dispersal Orders

What you can do to help us

Please help us by reporting anti-social behaviour as follows:

Crime and Disorder

- In an emergency always ring **999** where there is the likelihood of immediate injury, damage to property, fire or for crimes in progress.
- If you have information about a non-emergency crime, want to discuss problems with anti-social behaviour or to pass information to your local Beat Manager call **08450454545**.
- If you wish to report information about a crime anonymously then this can be done through Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

Anti-social Behaviour

- Problems to do with noise nuisance, flytipping, graffiti and abandoned vehicles can be reported to the Council's Environmental Health Team on **01256 844844** – simply ask for the duty officer.
- For information, support or action on problems that you have identified or experienced to do with anti-social behaviour, call the Anti-social Behaviour Team on **0845245** who is available to work with you to resolve the problem. You can download information at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/community. Information will be treated confidentiality and measures are in place that can ensure your identity is protected when reporting anti-social behaviour.
- Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs) also patrol Basingstoke and Deane and are available to respond to problems with low level anti-social behaviour. The ACSOs can be contacted on **0845 6001747**.

YOU CAN NOW REPORT PROBLEMS 24/7 TO THE NEW SINGLE NON-EMERGING NUMBER 101

Remember services can only tackle problems that are reported to them by the public. If you do not call then no record is kept of the extent of the problem

Every little helps as they say with the water shortages. Well everthing is wilting - plants in my garden that is! So heres a few tips watering while we can't use a hose. All my ideas came from when we lived in Cornwall as kids. We had cold water from a spring which tended to run very slow during the summer months, and a septic tank which my skinflint Dad hated paying to have emptied. At the time we thought it was a pain saving water - but the experience is paying off now when we have water meters and hosepipe bans here

1. Try not to water during the day while the sun is on your plants. It burns the leaves and evaporates as fast as you water. Instead water before the sun gets onto them, allowing it to soak down before the heat gets up, or in the evening while the plants have all night to grab what they can. Watch out for slugs and snails if you water late as they come out as the sun goes down - specially in damp areas.
2. Save kitchen water to throw on the lawn in the evening or when the sun is off it. The dregs in the kettle, water from rinsing through cups or washing your hands - can all be used as long as harsh chemicals aren't involved. Use this for your flower pots and baskets too.
3. Plants dry out in pots faster than in the ground. Dense planting helps to slow up the evaporation in both cases. Try to position them where they get less direct sunlight during the mid and late afternoon when the temperatures are highest.
4. If you have a fish pond, it needs regular maintenance during the summer months to keep the fish healthy. When doing a partial water change, siphon it into buckets or bowls to use on your plants. During the current hosepipe ban, you are allowed to use a hose for fishpond but not for other ornamental ponds without fish.

Looks like a storm could be brewing - I'm off to put buckets under my leaky guttering you never know! **Julie Johnson**



M.F.C. **POPLEY.**

M.F.C. POPLEY PRE-SEASON CHALLENGE

On the 30th of July we have arranged a 5-a-side competition to be played on Carpenters Down in conjunction with Popley Fields Community centre. 6 teams have been invited to join this competition which will be getting bigger each year as more age groups develop, At the moment there will be U7's,U8'S and U9's playing.

The tournament will be free for the teams to enter as we are looking to get local companies to sponsor the trophies and medals, you might even want to sponsor the whole event, all I want is for the kids to turn up ,play football and enjoy themselves. The event will consist of barbecues, a refreshments tent, face painting, penalty shootout and keepy uppy competition, meat raffles, spot the ball, etc ,etc.

If you are interested in sponsoring the tournament or the trophies, please contact Lee on: 07811167791 or 01256332124.

U9's GET A SHOCK

The U9's (Renegades/Hurricanes) had a shock when they come up against the U8's Tornados, in their first game ever, unfortunately they come up against Jacob (Golden Boy) Austen(2) and George(I'll Turn You Inside Out) Graves (1) who together taught the Renegades a footballing lesson and showed them what team work is all about. Jack Parrat was solid at the back and was also backed up by Kallum Brown the best goalkeeper I've ever seen at that age. The Renegades quickly responded against the Whirlwinds and beat them 4-0, Connor Oates showed us what he's capable of, when you work hard and bring your team mates into the game by setting Billy(Shearer) up for the first and then scoring his first ever hat trick, well done.

Jacob Austen also ran riot a week later against Tadley by scoring 4more goals and setting Finley(Catch Me If You Can)Judd up for 2 more.

On a personal note I'd just like to thank everybody for there hard work, commitment and support, it means a lot, thanks Lee



Home Safety Visit

The Community Safety Team of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service have the aim of fitting a smoke detector in every home in Hampshire by 2010. In order to achieve this aim, they are currently being very targeted in their approach to fitting smoke detectors and undertaking home fire safety visits in homes of the more vulnerable people, such as the elderly, people on lower incomes, people from minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities and families with young children.

You may have heard about the tragic fire in Petersfield recently where fire crews from Petersfield were called to a fire in a private semi-detached property. The first crew arrived within eight minutes to tackle the severe fire on the ground floor of the property, followed by crews from Horndean, Waterlooville and Cosham and another crew from Petersfield. The Command Support Unit from Portchester was also mobilised to the incident. One male and his 10-year old daughter had managed to get out of the property, but it with regret that it was confirmed that his wife and their 4-year old daughter tragically died as a result of the fire.

At this time it is believed that the property was fitted with one smoke detector but the battery had been removed.

It can happen anywhere, luckily the smoke alarm was working in a house in Abbey Road (as we were going to print), where a pan was left on the stove unattended the sound of the alarm alerted the next door neighbour who smelt burning and looked through the letter box to see the smoke, a 999 call brought the Fire Brigade in time to stop what could have been a big fire

The Community Safety team have been speaking with residents in the surrounding area to give them fire safety advice and to undertake Home members of the public to have a fire home fire safety visit they can request a HFSV by calling 023 8062 6809 or book one online using the form set up on <http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/yoursafety/athome/homesafetyvisit/frm-homesafetyvisit.htm>

This is a free service that is offered to everyone in Hampshire and if a smoke detector is advised they are supplied and fitted free.



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Carpenters Down

Popley

Basingstoke

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Graham and Barbara on (01256) 363692

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Popley Pond Local Nature Reserve It's Official

Popley Conservation Volunteers

Popley Ponds, one of Popley's best kept secrets, will not be threatened with development but has won important status as a new Nature Reserve.

During a very wet Popley Festival there were lots of visitors to the Popley Conservation Volunteers display. This showed there is plenty of interest in green spaces and conservation around Popley.

What is amazing is that so many people still do not know where Popley Ponds are located. Interestingly most of the young people did not know either, but if we mentioned the White Horse most seemed to know immediately. Perhaps more about this in the future.

Those who did know where the ponds were, expressed concern about the future protection of the ponds. Some people were concerned that with all the development taking place in the area, the future of the ponds might be under threat.

For some time now the area around the ponds has been designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Local councils give this as recognition that an area is important for conservation. Unfortunately this has very little meaning in law and does not give a great deal of protection.

Some time ago I was told that the officers of the council were in talks with English Nature about re-designating the site. Time went by and I had almost forgotten about this when out of the blue I received a wonderful piece of news. Popley Ponds has been given Local Nature Reserve status. This puts the area on a much higher standing both in conservation terms and in law and affords much greater protection than before.

To achieve this, the council have to be able to satisfy English Nature that they are committed to overseeing management of the site sensitively, for conservation, public enjoyment and access for the benefit of local people. It also shows there is an ongoing commitment towards such sites for the benefit of both people and wildlife. It does not mean that the council will undertake to do all the work and maintain the site but will work in partnership with local people to maintain and secure the future of the site.

So although I think we can now say the site is secure for the foreseeable future it is up to Popley people to take on board the well being and maintenance of this special area.

If we are to continue to improve the site, Popley Conservation Volunteers will need a lot more help. So all of you who said at Popley Festival you would be interested in helping, now is the time to step forward. The Community Wardens have launched their Proud of Popley initiative. By becoming involved in conservation, this is one way you could help to make Popley a green place to be proud of.

If you would like to find out more contact: Lee Roth at Lee.roth@networkrail.co.uk or Phone 01256 330738.



Melrose Community Centre

On Monday July the 17th from 9.30am to 12 noon the Friendship Café held in Melrose Community Centre, is proud to be hosts to a delicious demo of Home Farm Foods.

There will be testers and tasters for you all to enjoy. Come and try these sumptuous healthy eating prepared foods.

Watch this Melrose Community page for more events and offers.

Sadly committee member Archie Martin passed away on June 18th. Archie was well known all around Popley. Archie never let his blindness get in the way including being the Bingo Caller at the clubs he organized at Popley Fields then later at Melrose Community Hall. Archie was on the committee of Melrose and Popley Fields and played an active roll in many other things especially for the elderly. Archie will be missed by many people in Popley.



"On Thursday 13th July, Pan Everest, the John Hunt of Everest Community School Steel Pan Band which is made up of students from nearly all year groups, is through to the next round of the National Youth Music competition. This round sees them traveling to Birmingham to compete, this is really good news and is the first time the band has reached this stage.

We would like to thank BOB DOUGLAS VAN HIRE, for the loan of van free of charge, and the parent volunteers Ken & Kevin for driving the van and minibus. *Suki Binning @ JHE*"

Elder Abuse Awareness Coffee Morning Report

On the 15th June 2006 Magnolia Court held a Elder Abuse Awareness Coffee Morning, to bring awareness to the elderly and who they can contact. This is the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on the morning of the 15th This Morning Programme ITV at 10.30am included a feature on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) including an interview with AEA case study (Tony Blackmore, whose mother, Dorothy was taunted and assaulted by domiciliary care workers in her own home. Tony captured some of the abuse on CCTV and the case went to court. ALSO AN INTERVIEW WITH Gary FitzGerald, chief executive of AEA. There is a useful Webpage www.elderabuse.org.uk for anyone who is interested in finding out more, or telephone Elder Abuse Response on 080 8808 8141 Monday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm for free and confidential information and advice Someone to talk to about elder abuse.

Longfellow Parade Regeneration Update

Further to our article in the April issue of Popley Matters, Sentinel's Board has now approved the commencement of the Longfellow Regeneration Project. The allocation of Housing Grant has still only a reserve status; however the funding is more likely to be secured once building works commence.

Our partnership contractor, Mansells, has been selected from our framework panel of builders to work up detailed planning proposals over the next four months. Mansells will be well known to many residents in Popley as they have recently been working successfully on the Oakridge regeneration project.

Following the initial production of draft proposals, local residents and stakeholders will be widely consulted over the designs and we plan to hold a number of open days prior to any formal planning application being made.

As the project will be complex to build we anticipate that works will be carried out in three distinct phases starting at Marlow Close early next year and ending at Dryden Close up to four years after this date.

This phasing will allow adequate time for us to relocate the shops to Shakespeare Road plus purchase back the last handful of flats in the Longfellow Parade.

The project is now entering a new stage where a lot of activity will begin. As the new project team is pulled together, residents will be informed of all new developments and progress in greater detail through the Longfellow Parade Newsletter.



Dear Friends

Doesn't summer just bring its own special sights, sounds and smells? The wafting of barbeque smoke, cold beers on the pub lawn, the scent of flowers, children's laughter, the splashing of water in paddling pools, men in shorts and sandals (I'm not allowed out dressed thus), open topped cars, late summer evenings and glorious sunsets, holidays. I could go on and on. I love the summer time, there's something about it that just lifts the spirit! This year, the flavour of summer is added to by the World Cup and the high expectations for the England team, hopefully by the time you read this we'll all be looking forward to the final and who we'll be facing – at the time of writing I fancy Argentina – I understand a certain former star of their team would give his right arm to play in that one!

I've been a footie fan for as long as I can remember, supporting Manchester City, through thick and thin (more thin than thick!) and in my heart of hearts I really want England to win, I can't begin to imagine the celebrations that will take place nationally and locally if they do - but what if they don't?

It's always difficult to deal with disappointments and the feeling of being let down; so can we be as generous and noble in defeat as in victory? How quickly will all those St George Cross flags disappear if the team are knocked out and how many of us will still be glued to the TV for the final?

It's the same in our every day lives! If we raise our hopes and expectations too high only to be let down our natural instinct is to turn our backs and walk away in despair. But there is another way (to coin a phrase!). St Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome *“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”* These are wise words and worth dwelling on when you're going through a tough time. One thing you can be absolutely certain of is that God will never let you down, disappoint you or dash your hopes; he has a perfect plan for your life, even if it doesn't feel like that sometimes – why not give him a chance and try talking to him about it for a moment – you may be surprised!

Have a fantastic summer, long may the sun shine on you and may we look forward to a great celebration of England victory this month.

God's blessings.

Arthur

Your friend and vicar,
St Gabriel's Church.

PENSIONERS URGED: DON'T MISS OUT ON PENSION CREDIT

Pensioners in Basingstoke could be missing out on extra money each week from Pension Credit, according to research by the PENSION SERVICE. Many just don't think they will be eligible, or don't realise how easy it is to find out about their potential entitlement.

Amounts of money can be substantial, with average awards of Pension Credit of around £40 per week and the possibility of awards being backdated for 12 months.

The Pension Service is writing to those they believe may be missing out, but there is no reason to wait to find out if you, an elderly relative or friend are entitled to extra money each week. Simply call Free phone 0800 99 1234 and staff will answer any questions you have about entitlement, as well as completing the application form for you over the 'phone. If you or your partner are responsible for rent or Council Tax, the Pension Service can also help you to apply for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit at the same time.

Pension Reform Minister, Stephen Timms said "All it takes is a call to the PENSION CREDIT APPLICATION LINE on 0800 99 1234 to help ensure that you get all of the money you are entitled to, including help applying for benefits such as Pension Credit or Council Tax Benefit. If you are entitled, then it is money that is rightfully yours and we're here to help you get it."

Pensioners who prefer to discuss the claim in their own home can request a visit from the local service. You can also check if you are eligible by using the online calculator on: www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/pensioncredit/calculator/home.asp



CURRENT ADVICE FROM BASINGSTOKE POLICE

The local Police have asked us to warn readers about a recent spate of thefts from handbags in the town, particularly in charity shops.

Please be very careful with your purse and handbag when you are out and about. For instance, don't forget to put your purse in your bag and do your bag up before leaving the post office or a shop after paying for your purchases. Several ladies have recently had their purses stolen from open bags.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!

Be aware of who is around you and keep your bag done up at all times. Bags which have a strap across your body are ideal as they allow you to have the bag in front of you where you can see it at all times.

For further crime reduction advice call 0845 045 45 45. In an emergency call 999.



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St Gabriel's Church

Tewkesbury Close, Popley Way

Saturday 8th July - 1 till 4 pm

Diaries from The Old Codger



Well yes it rained on the festival this year; I was dry as a bone but could see you all from my hospital bed. Yes it did rain but it did not stop the show I saw plenty of cars heading down Popley Way to the fun fair. It was doing a great trade as usual and the school still played their part in the proceedings.

Every now and then, things feel like they are going against you, the last date I can remember in may was the 10th after that nothing until I woke up in Chertsey Hospital, I was told I could have been on the floor at home for as long as two hours we will never know what happened all I know is when I got back to Basingstoke Hospital the doctor said that was the best thing as you were very ill at the time.

It is not just *a nurse* or *a doctor* in a hospital but cleaners, porters, the accident department the prompt ambulance crews and all the wards. Plus you have the administration to put all these things together to make it work. It's a machine that runs on helping the sick and needy, plus their relatives informing them of what is going on. We in Basingstoke are, I think very fortunate to have people who make our great hospital work. Me and all my family would like to thank them once again. If it were not for their quick actions I may not be punching out this today. I have been in and out that many times now they plan to get a bed especially for me as I use it more than my own. I have asked if the hospital could fit in another ITU bed, if so what would be the cost. This may be my next project if they get back to me if only one person is not sent to another hospital it will save time and money.

Summer they told us it was going to be a hot one, I wonder, if the start of June is anything to go by I was roasting, How many of you remember that June when we looked out the window and could not believe it Snow in June! We have been told of the water shortages I think it was an excuse just to put up the price, looking at the amount of money the people get for running these companies and fat pay they get at the end of the year. We can all do our bit to save on water, i.e half a brick in the toilet system helps, have a shower, or if you have room in the garden water butts for your plants just small things but could save a lot of water going down the drains, Also we could save a lot if only they get the water leaks repaired in our roads, thousands of gallons of water lost each day because of this, now I as far as I can remember Basingstoke is part of Hampshire. Hampshire doesn't have a hosepipe ban but we

do! Can any one tell me why is Basingstoke different from the rest of the Hampshire by banning us from using them, have we done something wrong?

I can remember one year the water board telling every one on TV we had the wrong rain!! How can we have the wrong rain? I still fail to see that and it keeps playing on my mind? Her In Doors said I had no mind, so who am I to argue I can't run away if I say some thing. I have tried putting soap on the top of the stairs just in case she falls, insurance money and a dolly nurse to look after me! O.K. I am dreaming again no not Her In Doors the nurse bit.

The idea I had for the Poets Dell has come to a stand still, we could not get people to back the project, it is a shame as I think it would have looked good, plus the educational value in it for the schools not only Popley but the rest of Basingstoke as well. I have made several attempts at contacting John Hunt art teachers but they did not get back to me nor QMC, so for the time being I will lay that to rest.

I don't know about your back gardens but the amount of different birds we are getting this year must be one of the best over the last five years or so. Please keep feeding them they need food more now for the young before they start to go out to the ripe fields then fatten up for the long journey south. If at the end of the breeding season you have nest boxes bring them down and clean them out, if not it could cause problems next season in the breeding spell especially with red mite nasty little things they are blood suckers, now that reminds me of some one in my house but I had better keep quiet on that, (as I edit this yes he had better keep quite!) see just like a woman got to have her say, bless her.

All have a safe holiday season, especially if driving you know the amount of traffic that will be out on the roads in July. I would like to thank you all for your good wishes plus Jane for keeping in touch with Her In Doors it helped us both knowing you were ALL just there.

Till next month
The old Codger

Just a small note the Old Codger some time ago went on about how clean our estates were when we had the people going round with brooms and the two bin wheel barrow, well in the grape vine I have been told we could see them return, what a great day that will be if it comes off the old ways are the best you knew what was done as you could tell by the neatness of the place.