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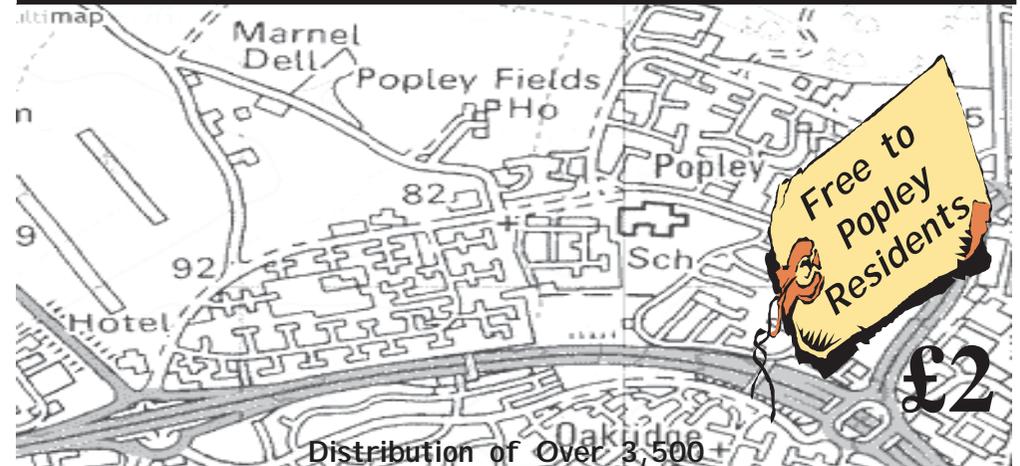
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# POPLEY MATTERS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

October 2007

Issue 68



**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 (20–10–07)

**Message From the Editor:-** The weather has turned cold very quickly and I wonder if we will get many more sunny and warm days before the winter sets in? With all the effects of climate change I wonder if we will get many more of the deep cold and snowy winters we may remember as children?

Before that we have Bonfire night! There are some safety tips from the Fire and Rescue Service on page 22. The fireworks seem to go on for weeks and cause a lot of distress to parents trying to get their children to sleep, and the poor pets who are terrified by the constant loud bangs.

We have increased the Letters Page again this month because of the amount of letters and emails received. Please keep them coming as we love to receive them and pass them on to you. You can write on any subject and, as long as it is not illegal or offensive we will try to publish it.

The Popley Conservation Group have been working really hard to try and clear up the polystyrene that mindless fools dumped in the Popley Ponds. Their report is on page 9. They are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers so if you would like to join them you can contact them by phone 330738 or email [lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk)

There is an appeal for “Special People” to help with a scheme called Supported Lodgings. If you are interested you can read more about it on page 20.

To send in articles, letters or to advertise with Popley Matters there are four ways to contact us: by phone on 819924 or 411113, write to PO Box 6727 Basingstoke RG24 9GG, email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk) or via the website [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk)

We always enjoy hearing from you, this is your community magazine and has been for over fifteen years now. If you have any ideas that you feel would improve your magazine you can contact us as above.

Hits on [www.popleymatters.org.uk](http://www.popleymatters.org.uk) website for month of September: 849

To pass back ideas, comments, suggestions, articles or to offer help please write to:- Popley Matters Group, PO.Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG, email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk). The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

**Editorial Team:-** Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Vice Chair Ron Rowe; Acting Treasurer/Distribution Iris King; Committee Members Louise Tuck, Kate Lomas;

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**Youth Volunteers: Joseph Duran, Matthew Stokes.;**

**More Volunteers Welcome**

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7.30-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistics

### TUESDAY:

4.00-7.30 Petite School of Dance

### WEDNESDAY:

10.00-11.30 - Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group

10.00-11.00 NHS Quit Smoking Clinic

12-2pm Oasis Lunch club

### THURSDAY:

9.30-12PM Friendly Café

6.30-8.30 Weight Watchers

### FRIDAY:

10-3 Together

6.00-7.45 Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years

8.00- 9.15 Youth Club - age 11 plus.

### SATURDAY:

9.00-12.30 Petite School of Dance

### SUNDAY:

Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, Conferences and all your private hire needs. We take bookings for both occasional and regular events. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information.**

# Sentinel

## Statement from Martin Nurse (Chief Executive Office) re Popley Garage sites

Following the public concern about our consultation on potentially developing some garage sites and adjoining open spaces, we met with representatives of Popley West residents on 6th September. The meeting went very well and Sentinel was able to explain more about what we were trying to do, which the residents appreciated but they were very clear that they opposed any further building on green open spaces in Popley. We will be holding a similar meeting with Popley East resident representatives in the next two weeks.

Martin Nurse, Sentinel Chief Executive said: "Following that meeting we will decide what to do but I can assure residents that we have and will listen to their comments through these meetings on potential development and will not do anything that is against local opposition. At that time we will be able to report on what direction Sentinel will be taking with regards to these proposals."

*Editors note: If this had been a private developer and not a charity registered housing association I wonder if they would have consulted before with residents or would they have just put in a planning application? The residents and Councillors who met with Martin Nurse and his team were delighted when he promised that Sentinel would not build these dwellings etc "against local opposition", because there certainly was massive opposition to losing the green spaces that our children play on, and garages that people have rented or used for nearly forty years. I think the children were amazing with their drawings etc. we took them to the meeting and I am sure it had an impact that our children were thinking of the environment and the future years ahead. Jane Frankum (Editor).*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Response

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Hampshire  
County Council

Hampshire County Council is on the lookout for a developer to purchase land on its Merton Rise Development in Popley, Basingstoke for cutting edge low-carbon homes.

The Merton Rise development totals around 53.2 hectares (131.5 acres). Hampshire County Council has outline planning approval for 950 residential dwellings, a neighbourhood centre and a new secondary school that is now open.

The County Council is selling the overall Merton Rise site in 5 phases over a 4 to 5 year period. Phase 1 has been sold (Miller Homes and George Wimpey) and 141 dwellings are under construction. The majority of Phase 2 is “under offer” and reserved matters applications are to be submitted for around 290 dwellings and the new Neighbourhood Centre which will include a supermarket, shops, pub, nursery etc connected by a series of high quality open spaces.

The County Council is now releasing the final piece of Phase 2 land which can accommodate up to 17 dwellings. The successful developer will need to build new homes using cutting edge sustainable technology and achieve level 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes as a minimum and aim for zero CO2 emissions or a position as close as can be achieved on the site. The development is to act as a pathfinder scheme to help inform future developments that the County Council is involved in.

Merton Rise is a design led development so in addition to being at the forefront of sustainable construction the chosen developer will need to come up with proposals that respect and reflect the Merton Rise vision for a high quality contemporary neighbourhood and complement the adjoining development.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Ken Thornber, said: “One of the main objectives of Merton Rise is to ensure that the development benefits those who move into the area, and those who already live in the surrounding neighbourhoods by creating a community of real innovation and character. Now with this piece of land we are looking to do our bit for the environment by marketing the land for sustainable homes, that will be energy efficient, use less water and set an example of best practice for future development in Hampshire.” “This is just one of the small pilot initiatives that Hampshire County Council is doing to see what are the best and most viable ways that it can contribute to reducing carbon emissions now and in the future.”

For more information about the Merton Rise development visit [www.mertonrise.co.uk](http://www.mertonrise.co.uk)

The Merton Rise site, is situated between the A340 Aldermaston Road and Chineham Lane, and is owned by Hampshire County Council.

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## Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) Ready for New Season

LIFE courses set to continue around the county...

The first of the popular Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) courses, set to run through the autumn and winter, has just ended in Basingstoke.

A team of nine young people from the local area have been celebrating after successfully completing the intense fire education course. The young people, aged between 12 and 19, were specially chosen to take part in the inaugural Basingstoke LIFE course. The aim of the course is to teach them how to be more responsible around fires and take the message back to their communities and schools. But on top of that they also learned more about teamwork, developing their self esteem, and having loads of fun in the process.

After the successful completion of the Basingstoke course, the LIFE project will continue around the county working with young people in different areas including Rushmoor, Hardley, Havant and Gosport.

LIFE course co-ordinator and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Watch Manager, Micky Smither, said:

This was the first LIFE course we have run at Basingstoke Fire Station and we wish to thank Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for helping us make it such a success.

We think the course is a great opportunity for young people to work together and develop skills while experiencing new challenges. They have the chance to take part in different, practical exercises that will improve their understanding of important fire safety messages.”

On the course the teenagers took part in a number of fire service activities, including rope courses, hose running, the wearing of breathing apparatus and first aid.

The LIFE course is part of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service’s wider plan to save lives and reduce the number of fires in the county by 20 per cent by 2010.

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**Councillors Page:** It has been an incredibly busy month for me as your County Councillor. Everest Community College opened and Paul and I went round the school spending three hours meeting the head, staff and pupils. There was a sense of immense pride by everyone and many of the students told us how they thought that this was a real chance to do well at school. I am on two "scrutiny" panels looking at the provision for our children with deaf or hearing impairments. This has been an in depth look with lots of consultation with parents and staff. There was a proposal to close the Basingstoke recently equipped centre and move the young children to Farnborough or Winchester. I am pleased to say that our research has proved this would not be a good move and we have recommended to the cabinet member that the centre should stay. The other panel I am on is about half way through its enquiry and still taking evidence from Heads and teachers of schools, youth workers, police, health officials, parents and other agencies on how we can improve on school exclusions and if there are schemes being used successfully can we use them in other schools, what works and why. There is a website where you can put your comments for the consultation. Jane Frankum County Councillor Basingstoke North(819924 or by email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

**Popley West:** The In-fill flats and houses will not go ahead, Sentinel listened to the concerns of the Popley West residents and decided they would not proceed to get planning permission where there is local opposition. The meeting with Popley East residents has also been arranged.

The Travelers who camped on Pershore Road Open Space were served with a summons to move on. The amount of mess they left will cost thousands of tax payers money to clear up. We have also asked for a better measures to stop it happening again Every year people are urged not to give them work with tree felling, gardening, Tarmacing etc. If there was no profit they would soon go elsewhere. The huge part of the work is done in areas away from Popley. We would like to thank Sarah Ratcliff for her work in Popley over the last two and a half years and wish her well in her promotion. We welcome Vikki Lonie as our new Community Warden and look forward to working with her for the benefit of Popley. Paul Frankum ☎472496

**Popley East.** There is a meeting being held on September 26th with Sentinel over their proposals to build on three garage areas in Popley East, and the surrounding green areas in Jersey Close and two in Falkland Road. Residents left us in no doubt about their opposition to losing these areas the children play on. We will report back to you all.

The Longfellow Parade regeneration has moved on to its next stage and has been formally put forward for planning permission. Tesco have filled in the potholes in the Carpenters Down car park though they could have made a better job of it!

Congratulations Sarah Ratcliff on her promotion. It has been a pleasure working with you. We welcome Vikki Lonie as the new Community Warden and hope she enjoys her new job here in Popley. Mary Brian ☎322108

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# Sentinel

Sentinel Housing Association and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council recently got together and launched a pro-active campaign to highlight the issues of dog fouling in Popley. The joint 'Paws 4 Thought' initiative was aimed to alert dog owners to the importance of cleaning up after their pets and ran from Monday 10 September to Friday 21 September. During this time borough council Enforcement Officers were out on patrol in the area.

Steve Thorn, Sentinel's Neighbourhood Manager for Popley said: "We have worked with local residents and other agencies to develop a neighbourhood plan for Popley. This is just one of the initiatives we are using to help make our neighbourhoods, clean, green and pleasant for everyone." As part of the campaign the borough council team and Sentinel held drop in events at Melrose Hall and at Popley Fields where local dog owners picked up free goodies and took advantage of a £10 dog micro-chipping service. The interest was good and 4 lucky dogs were tagged at Melrose Hall with a further 6 dogs being tagged at Popley Fields. If you would like any advice or further information about this initiative please contact Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 844844 or Sentinel housing on 0800 195 5515.



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**This month sees changes for the Community Wardens service in Popley.**

We're pleased to announce that we have a new Community Warden working with us in Popley, however that does mean that we are losing Sarah Ratcliff – who has worked in the area as a Community warden for over 2 and a half years.

Sarah has been promoted to Senior Community Warden for the South Team and will be working in the Buckskin/Kempshott area.

Sarah said: "I feel very sad to be moving on from Popley but I am also looking forward to the challenge of working in a new area. I have had such a wonderful two years, nine months working in Popley with all of you and I have to say that Popley has an amazing community spirit, so keep this up! I also leave such a fantastic team and will miss them all very much indeed.

"Finally I'd like to thank David and Dan for being such great guys to work with."

The warden team for Popley will now be David Mason and Vikki Lonie.

Vikki said: "I feel great enthusiasm for the positive changes that are happening in Popley and through working together we will continue to make Popley a pleasant and community spirited environment".



"I look forward to meeting you all, and to the people I have already met, it has been a pleasure."

As always, if you have any questions or concerns you'd like to talk to us about you can call us on 01256 845508, or e-mail [community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk) or alternatively if you see us – stop for a chat!

Dear Friends,

According to my wife I am a hopeless case. You see, whenever I come into the house I put my car keys or my glasses down and five minutes later they've disappeared! Search as we may they can never be found. Usually this happens when we need to dash off somewhere. It's always a great relief when they turn up – often where I left them – odd that isn't it? It's always a frustration when we lose or misplace something that's important and a real joy when, after a careful search we manage to find it again.

Losing or misplacing a wallet or watch or a set of keys is bad enough but misplacing a child is something else! I well remember the time when our daughter was only three or four years we were living in Cyprus at the time. One day we went to the beach and, being a major tourist spot it was very soon crowded. Our daughter played happily in the sand at the edge of the water no more than a few yards from where we were sitting. Suddenly we noticed she was no longer there! We dashed frantically up and down the beach calling her name, anxiously searching for her among the all the faces. Thankfully, as it turned out, she was only a hundred yards away playing with some other children. But our relief and joy that she was safe was far beyond that of finding a misplaced wallet or watch. So it is with God when one person turns back to him.

There is a story in Luke's Gospel in the bible (chapter 15) which is all about the lost and found and is made up of three stories; a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son. The stories reveal in a special way a God who is actively seeking to find something that is a real treasure to him as a loving Father – us! I particularly like the story about the lost sheep.

Life for the shepherd in Jesus' time was a hard and difficult one. Pasture was scarce and the sheep would often wander into dangerous places in search of greener grass (sound familiar?). The shepherd was personally responsible for the sheep. If he lost one he would at least have to bring home the fleece to show how it had died. There was not a shepherd around for whom it was not all in a days work to risk his own life in order to save one of his flock.

This is the picture Jesus was drawing of God. It is, he was saying, exactly what God is like. God is as glad when a lost sinner is found as a shepherd is when a strayed sheep is brought home. God knows the joy of finding the things that have been lost.

Next time you lose something and are busily and perhaps frustratingly searching for it, perhaps you may remember these stories of Jesus. Do we seek our own deepest hearts desires as earnestly as we do a lost article? Are we, like sheep, just meandering from one patch of green grass to another without looking up and seeing where we really are? And are we listening for the voice of the great Shepherd?

Your friend in Christ,  
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## Firework Safety.

- **Never** put fireworks in your pocket.
- **Never** go back to a lit firework, it could explode in your face.
- **Never** throw fireworks, it's stupid, dangerous and illegal: it's a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of a £5000 fine.
- **Never** return to a lit firework - it could still be live.
- **Never** wear loose clothing & long dangly scarves can very easily catch alight. If anyone's clothing does catch fire, follow the rule...

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**Always** keep children well away from fireworks, and never let a child handle or light one. Even sparklers can be dangerous if unsupervised!

### **Tips:**

\* Have a full bucket of water handy for any emergency & for putting used sparklers in.

\* At the end of your display, douse any 'dud' fireworks with water, then completely bury them in the ground. Alternatively, ask your Fire Brigade for advice as soon as possible.

### **Useful contact points and further information:**

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)

Well the season has officially started and we've had, what I think, is a great start.

The U11's, who play up at the new Everest Community College (which I must say "is quite impressive") have had 2 defeats, which sounds bad, but were on top in both game's, and are playing very good football, it's their first time playing as a team. Well done.

The U10's have had an unbelievable start with a 4-4 draw against Sherborne FC, as you might remember it was the Renegades 1<sup>st</sup> ever match against Sherborne, in which they got hammered 14-0 and then losing 2-1 and 2-0, so a 4-4 draw is great for the lad's confidence again, well done.

The U9's Tornados are picking up where they left off, with an impressive 6-0 win over Loddon, and I must say, Nathan Parker had a blinder and Ellie Dawber scored her 1<sup>st</sup> goal of the season. It looks like the top goal scorer competition has started early with Jacob (golden boy) Austen banging in his 1<sup>st</sup> hat trick of the season and the Flying Fyn scoring 2. Keep it up.

The U8's and the U7's start soon and I will keep you updated with their progress.

All in all, I am looking forward to the season ahead with the quality in the entire club at all ages.

Just a reminder to parents from all ages, lately I have noticed a lack of support at matches and as you are aware I am a great believer in giving the kids as much confidence in matches as possible. If possible could we get as many people (supporters) at home games please, to cheer their team on.

Thanks for your support.

Lee Austen

**Tel:** 07810444995

**Email:** [mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk)

# Popley Community Boot Sale

NEW  
TIMES

Every Sunday

NEW  
TIMES

at

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

**Sellers and buyers from  
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*Indoor tables may be available  
in wet weather.*

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Cars	£4
MPV/4WD/Small Vans	£7
Large Vans	£10
Registered Charity Stalls	½ price

**Free entry to buyers!**

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Popley Community Boot Sale is run by Charities in Popley for  
the benefit of local organisations.

**Reg Charity No 1052133**

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## Special People needed for special work

If you have a spare room, would like to earn some extra money from home and support vulnerable people in your Community then why not consider becoming a 'Householder' for Stonham Supported Lodgings?

'Householders' explains Penny Diver who manages the Scheme, 'are incredibly special members of their community who help young people move forward in their lives.' Householders give up a bedroom in their homes to a young person who has experienced a breakdown in their own family relationships and provide support which is identified in a support plan as well as providing a listening ear and general guidance. In return they earn around £165 per week. (More for those who take on 'high needs' young people) Their 'lodgers' will generally be aged 16-18 but some are a little older.

'It isn't just about young people who have had a row and left home' says Penny 'Sometimes the family are moving away whilst a young person is in the middle of a College course, other times parents have died or there are complicated step-parenting situations. The need to find somewhere to live is not necessarily because the young person themselves has been difficult or disruptive although we do also place some very complex young people who benefit enormously from being given a fresh start in their lives.'

Householders do not have to be available 'full time' to their young people. Many work whilst others have their own family responsibilities. 'All you need is a commitment to support young people, a fairly open mind and a sense of humour' says Penny. Nor are householders left to 'go it alone'. Stonham staff provide a great deal of support and training to householders. They can be called upon at any time to suit you and will arrange regular support meetings with you and the young person.

'Our householders change lives' says Penny. 'They help young people find and maintain direction in their lives and provide excellent role models.'

For more information please contact Penny on 077259 58288 or email penny.diver@homegroup.org.uk.

## Slow Progress

### Popley Conservation Group

It has been over a month since I wrote about the polystyrene pollution incident at Popley pond and the clear up still continues. As anticipated the clear up is proving to be difficult.

An ecological consultant has been contracted by Basingstoke council to supervise the clear up. Because of the special and sensitive nature of the pond a special licence had to be sought from Natural England in order to conduct operations

It was hoped that the clear up would have been complete by the end of September. However it looks as though it could well continue into November. Even then not all the polystyrene will have been cleared. After that it seems likely that continued clearing will need to be done voluntarily. It is a concern that it is impossible to tell how long this will take. It might take years.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to simply continue clearing the pond without applying for further licences from Natural England. Should these licences be granted this is all extra effort that Popley Conservation Group could do without. As well as taking on this extra bureaucracy we have more productive tasks to do and with our winter conservation tasks already decided, it may well be difficult to find time to continue the clear up.

If you think you would like to help with conservation around Popley please have a look at our work schedule and contact our secretary for further information.

Popley Conservation Group Work Schedule For This Winter		
Saturday	06/10/2007	Pond restoration at Basing Woods
Sunday	28/10/2007	Coppicing, path clearing at Popley Pond
Saturday	17/11/2007	Path maintenance, cutting back brambles & willow at Popley Ponds
Sunday	09/12/2007	Pond restoration at Basing Woods
Saturday	12/01/2008	Coppicing at Popley Ponds
Sunday	03/02/2008	Pond restoration & Coppicing at Basing Woods
Saturday	23/02/2008	Pond Restoration
Sunday	16/03/2008	Rubbish & barbed wire removal at Popley Pond

For all tasks meet at Tobago Close, RG24 9PX, at 10.00am. Tasks normally run from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Tasks may change, please ring or email our Secretary Lee Roth to confirm. lee@roth23.wanadoo.co.uk 01265 330738

Finally a bit of good news that has so far been squeezed out by other news. In August Popley Conservation Group held a moth trapping evening in Basing woods. This proved to be very successful. As well as trapping a number of interesting species and one rare one, we were treated to a very informative teach-in on bats. It was fascinating to hear their calls transmitted via a bat detector and to be told how to tell the difference between the Common Pipistrelle and the Soprano Pipistrelle. This latter species has only been discovered fairly recently after the invention of bat detectors.

Many thanks to Lee Morgan and Andrew Cleave who kindly gave up their time to conduct the activities and entertained us with their expertise.



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Hello again,  
 The children of Popley are now back at school and this brings me to thinking how quickly the summer holidays flew by. During the day Popley was quite a bit quieter than I expected, and gave me time to visit lots of residents and discuss their concerns, and problems. I even introduced myself to some residents who I had not yet met. This made me realise that there are lots of different people all over Popley with lots of experience and stories to tell.

The information provided by them was great and is probably the main reason the summer flew by.

As well as conducting High Visibility patrols in order to prevent, deal with, and reduce the fear of crime I also have a considerable amount of community issues and projects I need to deal with. As you may be aware Glastonbury Close is currently one of my projects with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be set up imminently. I am also setting up a project to tackle nuisance youths in the Maldive and Madeira area. I am also scanning for several other projects but do not worry as my High Visibility and Priority patrols will still be taking place.

These projects are a great feature as it allows us at Hampshire Constabulary to work closely with the Community Wardens David, Vikki and Richard Owen and his ACSO team. Of course Popley residents are heavily involved as they provide us with great information and intelligence.

One final thing is that I would like to inform you of is The Popley Schools Halloween competition. This is a competition I have drafted aimed at Popley school children. The idea is to promote the awareness of the dangers Halloween could bring to young children. and to address the safety we advise children and their families to take. PCSO Smith and I will conduct assemblies at the schools with the relevant crime prevention advice for the Halloween period. Once aware of these issues the children will design an eye catching poster to show how to address these concerns. Along with the Community Wardens, ACSO's, Basingstoke and Dean council and Councillor Jane Frankum we will select a winning entry which will be placed in Popley shop windows and the Popley Matters magazine. The child will also receive a certificate presented to them by these agencies declaring them as a Junior Crime Prevention Officer, and a £20 book voucher. So please look out for the poster and if you have any ideas etc please let me know.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and I hope you have a great month.

Kind Regards  
 Phil Rapley 13284  
 Police Community Support Officer  
 Popley East / Basingstoke  
 0845 045 45 45 ext:126



Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

**Popzone Holiday Club:** Following the success of our summer care scheme we will be running again during October half-term of 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October. We will operate from 8.30 to 5.30 every day and we hope to be on the voluntary register with OFSTED so anyone who is in receipt of child care benefits should be able to qualify.

Call us now for a booking form or to register your interest as places may be limited.

**Popzone Youth Club:** This continues to be well supported but we need more parents or helpers to enable us to offer a wider range of activities every week!

In October we will be running a **Halloween party** from 6pm to 8pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. It will cost 50p for all but will **only** be open to PopZone members.

Due to blood donor sessions the club will be closed on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Community Computer Courses:** These have now restarted, but there are still some spaces available on some sessions and you can book now for next term. Call us or call in for more information on what is available.

**Car Boot Sale:** This is now 12.30pm – 4pm every Sunday. Please tell everyone as we always need more buyers as well as sellers. Indoor space may be available if it is wet!

### **Halloween Family Night – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

This year we will again be holding this popular event from 7pm to 11pm.

Tickets will be available in advance and on the door but to avoid the queues purchasing beforehand is recommended.

Tickets will cost £1 for adults and 50p for child PFCA members

£2 for adults and £1 for child non-members.

There will be child and adult fancy dress competitions, games, a disco, hot food and lots more!

**Please note:** As a fully licensed premises we **do not permit** alcohol to be brought onto the premises and anyone found doing so will be refused entry or asked to leave.

Parents are also responsible for the behaviour of their children at all times during the event and poor behaviour may result in being asked to leave and entry being refused to future events.

**New Year's Eve:** Unfortunately due to problems caused by customers at last year's event and the abuse received by staff, after 11 successful years of running them, the Trustees have decided to not run an event this year. We will review this decision again before 2008.

Contact us for information on any of the above or to find out about any of the facilities we have available for hire for your future events on: **01256 414494**



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Popley Fields Community centre, Carpenters Down  
Basingstoke, RG24 9PY

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Fitness Studio - no membership fee, monthly or casual use

Dance Studio - sprung floor, mirrors.

## Forthcoming Events

CRAFT FAIR & CAR BOOT SALE - Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November

CAR BOOT SALE - EVERY SUNDAY 09.30-1.30 pm - £5 per vehicle / Refreshments

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB - £2 PER HOUR/MIN 5 HOURS

For more information please contact the Community Office.

Tel: 01256 407037 Email: [community@vyne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:community@vyne.hants.sch.uk)

[www.vynearts.com](http://www.vynearts.com) (community)

The Vyne Community School, Vyne Road, Basingstoke, RG21 5PB.



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Hampshire  
County  
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# Basingstoke Air Scout Group

Headquarters - Base 2000 Carpenters Down RG24 9AE

Charity number 267734

Group Scout Leader: Jerry English 07921 107 359 / 01256 331175

[www.base2000.co.uk](http://www.base2000.co.uk) Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 - Jan or Pete Saunders 01256 410514



Weekly meetings for all sections are now in full swing with five new recruits being invested into the Beaver Scout meeting at the start of the autumn session.

We were sorry to have to say 'goodbye' to Tracey McCarley as a Sectional Assistant for Beavers due to other demands on her time and hope that another adult will offer to help with the Beaver section from time to time. We also need a Cub Scout Leader to help in the Cub section. The Scout Association requires adults to have CRB clearance before taking up an appointment. No previous experience is necessary. Training to help with the role is available.

The Cub Section started the Scouting year with two evenings of circus skills followed by a series of science themed evenings and a Halloween evening at the end of the month. The Scout Section will be joining with other scout troops at Old Basing for a bonfire party and hope to take part in Scouting's 'Jamboree-on-the-air (JOTA) and /Jamboree-on- the-internet (JOTI) towards the end of the month in collaboration with Oakley and Crondall troops. The Beaver section will be off to Paultons' Park again in November to see if Father Christmas is ready to start his 'practice rounds' of present giving, and having a day of fun on the rides!

The Group Executive held its first meeting of the autumn session on 4<sup>th</sup> September and discussed matters relating to finance and administration. Roland Martin is the new Group Secretary.

Several new 'casual' bookings for parties and meetings have been made for Base 2000 in recent weeks. If you think we may be able to help you by providing a venue for a party, meeting or some other event please contact Pete Saunders on 01256 410514 or [base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com](mailto:base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com). Reasonable rates - starting at £3.50 per hour and rising to £10 per hour dependant upon facility required and type of booking (rates include heating and use of kitchen).

An exhibition of Scouting memorabilia is currently on show at Milestones Museum as part of Basingstoke's Scouting celebrations for Centenary Year. The exhibition will run until 25<sup>th</sup> November. Members of the Scout Association **arriving in uniform** will be admitted free but accompanying adults, friends and family will be charged the usual admission rate. The Willis Museum in the town centre will also feature a smaller exhibition from 13<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> November – why not go and have a look? - you may even see a familiar face from your own childhood!

Boot Sales at Popley Fields Community Centre continue on a regular weekly basis on Sundays with Air Scouts taking responsibility for overseeing the event once a month. Boot Sales run from 12.30 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the latest. We desperately need more volunteers to help with this task as at present the burden is falling on the same few people time and time again. Boot Sales are one of the main ways in which the Group raises funds to keep cost of activities and events to a minimum. Please contact Jerry English if you are able to assist even if you can only attend for part of the time.

We currently have vacancies in all sections – just pop along to Base 2000 at the appropriate time or contact the Section Leaders as per the details given below.

loved it. I am going back to talk to some of the students. We will look forward to that.

It has been a bit of a up and down time of late. Her Indoors is due to go into hospital for an op on her shoulder, so this will mean time off work. I just don't know what I am going to do having her home with me for a few weeks. But I will do my best to get her out the door and back at work a.s.a.p.! I would if I could, get someone to drive her. But no chance of that? I am lumbered for weeks of nagging. Mind you I could keep burning her dinners, that way she will get back quicker.

Have you seen trees changing to their autumn colours yet,. I can't believe how fast time goes past. A lot of the trees around the Poets are doing just that the reds and browns are starting to show. It's now that time of year to take down any nest boxes you have and sterilise them out, this will kill off any red mite or other bugs that hide in them. Once done ,put them straight back up as birds like Blue Tits and Great Tits will seek shelter in the winter months, and they also like to keep their own site. Many people see House Sparrows around but in fact they are now in danger, so if you can, and have the room on a wall high up put up a nesting box for them. You can buy all sorts of bird boxes at garden centres nowadays. The size of the holes are sized to suit each bird. This year I am going to get some House Martin nest bowls. They are small and a bit like a small rugby ball with a small hole in the side. They can be put up under the eaves of the house if you have a head for heights. If just a few of us do this we will see them return to the skies around the estates. Another nest site is to use a good thick garden shrub and put a flower pot on its side in the centre of it for Robins. I will be getting a bit of straw soon and start putting it under the shrub in the corner of my front garden, because I know a hedgehog comes in every night. They will get used to it before winter and hibernate. If in the winter you get a few warm days put a saucer of cat food under the shrub as hedgehogs tend to wake up if the weather is warm and come out for a feed; a bit like me (that is if Her Indoors) lets me. Going back to nest boxes, I am sure that we must have on the Popley area a retired carpenter, that would love making up nest boxes and selling them to the Popley residents. We must have plenty of people that have the odd bit of timber laying around that they could donate to him/her for this.

Keep well  
The Old Codger



Boy and girls 6-8 years  
Meetings: Tuesday 5.30-6.45p.m.  
Eve Alexander 346510



Boys and girls aged 8-10½  
Tuesday 6.30–8.15p.m.  
Elaine Devenport 323453



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

## Diaries from the Old Codger

When I was a boy it was great fun for us kids to go down to the bottom of our road and play in the bomb craters. If you got enough of you together we were lost in huge war games. We would use bows and arrows, spears or just poles. We never had a thought about getting hurt with one of the arrows sticking out of you, and some were very sharp. Back then we never had mums and dads looking over our shoulders to see what mischief we got up to. GOD HELP YOU IF YOU DID. At the end of the day you would be indoors getting patched up, bruises all over, cuts, and bangs on the head when you fell down the craters. But hey, we were kids having fun with each other. I can never remember a day that we fell out. I expect we did now and then. I wonder what the Social Services would think about it nowadays? They would be calling Mum and Dad child batterers, or neglecting their children. Every kid in the road looked like they had been in the war! I do know our shop at the top of our road made a mint out of Germoline, iodine and plasters. Some days you would think they had put that much plaster on us they had wrapped us up to post us. Mind you I bet they wish they could have. Many of us can remember the bomb sites, and the adventures we dreamed up or getting a bit of the shrapnel left behind. Were we worried that the buildings were going to fall on our head. No, we were adventurers. The East End was bad as they bombed the docklands on a regular basis, so after the war, in fact up till the 60s, you could find a place to play. Up Barking Road they built tin huts a bit like the Mizzen huts. Families were living in them after their houses were bombed right up to the 60s. People say they have a hard life now.



Back then, how many of your mums said to you as you went out the door to play. “if you come home dead I will kill you?” I could never understand why my mum said that, the stupid thing was we believed her!

I learnt most of the things I do now down to my dear old Granddad. I could spend hours with him every day. He was a docker and would tell me all sorts of things, most of it I kept at the back of my mind. Only over the last few years they have returned as I research my Family Tree. I have talked to some great people over and over again about the life of dock workers. I took my Great Granddads Sash of Office to Winchester Textiles University when Her Indoors and I were invited down. They

## A PRINCESS IN DISNEYWORLD

Max Lucado, a well known Christian author writes: ‘I received a call from a friend named Kenny. He’d just returned from Disneyworld. “ I saw a sight I’ll never forget,” he said. He and his family were in Cinderella’s castle. Suddenly all the children rushed to one side...Cinderella had entered. She stood waist deep in kids, each wanting to be touched. Kenny turned to the other side of the castle. It was now vacant, except for a boy; his age was hard to determine because of the disfigurement of his body...he stood watching...longing to be in the middle of the kids reaching for Cinderella. But can’t you feel his fear; fear of yet another rejection? Fear of being mocked again? Don’t you wish Cinderella would go to him? Guess what? She Did! She walked across the floor, knelt at eye level with the stunned little boy and placed a kiss on his cheek. “I thought you would appreciate the story,” Kenny told me.

‘I did. It reminded me of another one. The names are different, but isn’t the story the same? Rather than a princess of Disney, it’s the Prince of Peace. Rather than a boy in a castle, it’s a thief on a cross. In both cases a gift was given. In both cases love was shared. In both cases the lovely one performed a gesture beyond words. But Jesus did more than Cinderella. Cinderella gave only a kiss. When she stood to leave she took her beauty with her. The boy was still deformed. What if Cinderella had done what Jesus did? What if she took on his problem? What if she had somehow swapped her beauty with his disfigurement and made him look lovely and her look disfigured?’ *That’s what Jesus did-for you!*

*(Extracted from “The Word For Today” Published by UCB PO Box 255, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8YY 0845 60 40 40 1 [www.ucb.co.uk/wft](http://www.ucb.co.uk/wft) – Free copies are available from Melrose Christian Fellowship, Melrose Hall, Popley 4 or directly from UCB)*

### NOODLES AND THINGS

We had a good response to those of you wanting to learn how to cook chicken, rice and peas last month. This month on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm Melrose Hall learn the secrets of cooking noodles, Filipino style and enjoy the food! All free. Register with Evadne on 462351 or 428795

Friday Clubs for the youth! Every Friday during school term time. Is there one near you?

Melrose Hall, Bermuda Close and Base 2000 (behind Popley Fields). Infant/ Junior school age 6.30-7.45pm. Secondary School age (Melrose Only) 8-9.15pm

MELROSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Meets at Melrose Hall, Off Abbey Road, Popley (opposite the Popinjay) Lively, powerful and interesting morning services on Sunday 10.30 –12.30 followed by refreshments. Problems? Feeling lonely? Not well and need prayer? People are there for you. For further information contact Pastor Philip Keeble on 428795



## Letters to The Editor.

Dear Editor, I was interested to read the recent letter from Mr W. Popley. I do not personally see a problem with the reduction in the speed limit. I have lived in Popley since birth and have always wondered why Popley Way was a 40 whereas all other estates of similar size have always been 30. My concern is however that no thought has been taken as to the existing residents of Popley only the proposed future ones. I live in Tintern Close and at present find it difficult and quite stressful trying to exit my turning on to Popley Way. When the new school and estate is up and running this will have a huge affect on the number of cars around this end of Popley Way and therefore will make the exiting of turns such as Tintern Close and Abbey Road even more difficult. I wonder if any thought has gone into how to solve this existing and future problem. Concerned Tintern Close Resident

**Editors reply; There have been traffic surveys done and there will be further road improvements as the houses and shops are built. There will be opportunities to bring forward any concerns or changes that may need to be made to ensure a reasonable flow of traffic.**

Dear Editor, I am writing regarding the reduction of the speed limit along Popley Way. Personally I think this is a ridiculous idea. If any of the roads in Popley need their speed limit reducing it should be Carpenters Down. This has a church, shops, new housing, Community Centre and children crossing the road to get to any of the schools.

Popley Way is a main through road to get from one end of Popley to the other and is not a 'rat run' where as Carpenters Down is, it is used by people wanting to cut through Popley and not join the dual carriageway.

Popley Way benefits from one thing that Carpenters Down doesn't and this is that there are many underpasses thus meaning that anyone having to cross the road does not have to and take their life into their own hands. Also if Popley Way is such a potentially dangerous road, why are there no lollipop people along it, to assist with the children crossing the road to school? The insignificant and not so busy road (apparently) of Carpenters Down has one and it is a 40 mph road.

Leave the speed limit as it is. Evesham Walk, Popley  
**Editors reply: Popley Way also has the same list as Carpenters Down except instead of a Community Centre it has two Elderly Resident homes and two churches. Cars also use it rather than use the dual**



## Letters to The Editor.

*carriage way, that is what a "rat run" is.*

Dear Editor, Further to the debate over the speed limit on Popley Way, I would like to know why Popley Way cannot go back up to 40 mph. Comparing it to Carpenters Down road which is still 40mph surely Popley Way is a much straighter, wider road with fewer blind corners than Carpenters Down road which has a Tesco shop and many new houses being built, a roundabout and traffic calming in the middle of the road. We can even go around the Crockford Lane roundabout now at 50 mph (if willing to)!!

So it makes no logical sense to keep Popley Way 30 mph now that the sewage works are finished.

Your argument that shops and new houses are being built in Popley Way doesn't hold much weight because that applies to Carpenters Down road as well, and other than that Popley Way remains the same as it was before the temporary reduction in speed limit to 30mph

I think it just needs drivers and pedestrians to be more careful and alert when using the roads. Resident Popley Poets

**Editors reply; The reduction was not just for the sewage works as there were none at the Aldermaston end of Popley Way, my understanding was that it was also for the building of the school, houses and shops as there will be delivery and building works traffic. The question was when the building is finished what should the speed limit be?**

Dear Editor, I support "Mr W Popley in his objection to the 30mph speed limit along the Popley Way. I also despair of the prevalent attitude pervading our society of the "rights" of people being trotted out ad nauseam without any reference to the responsibilities that must go with the insistence of these "rights".

As I live in Abbey Road I have to use the Popley Way if I wish to travel anywhere. I have lost count of number of cyclists, using Popley Way, who, obviously, think the rules of the road, not to mention the Highway Code, don't apply to them!

The hazards of Popley Way are further compounded by groups of youths who congregate at the junction of Shakespeare Road and Popley Way who step blindly into the road, while chattering endlessly on their mobile phones, without even looking for approaching traffic! Even, I dare say at 20mph speed limit would do little to remedy these problems. This is where my support "Mr W" ends. For a reasoned and objective debate to ensue it is



## Letters to The Editor.



essential that the arguments are attacked, and not the person putting forward the arguments. As I am involved occasionally, with "Popley Matters", I am very much aware of the lengths that go to avoiding being accused of political bias.

In conclusion I support "Mr W. Popley" in his objections to the 30mph speed limit but am appalled by his unfounded and unfair attack upon the Editors integrity and impartiality. Mr J Abbey Road

**Editors reply Thank you for your kind remarks the whole team try very hard to make this a real community magazine.**

Dear Editor, I also agree that the speed limit should be kept low. Many people have to cross these roads, some can't walk as quick, also some people can't use subways: i.e. Could be scared to use them. Sometimes they have water in them. Some people have a fear of tunnel type places. Mrs M.W.

**Editor's reply; I received quite a number of letters and emails the majority in favour of retaining the 30mph. once the houses and shops are built. However the County are promoting schools to advise a "20 is plenty" in the vicinity of the schools. You can find out more about it on the [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) website. It will be voluntary. I do not have a personal view on the speed myself and will wait till I learn more about it.**

Dear Editor, I have only recently moved into the area on the David Wilson development, Marnel Park. One of the attractions was the surrounding countryside the area is blessed with. We own a dog and it requires a lot of exercise. When we go out to the countryside, to the parks or even down the road we always take small bags (nappy bags are the best and cheapest) for collecting the mess the dog tends to leave behind. As a responsible dog owner I feel it is my duty and also as a member of the community to keep it clean for other users, especially for the children.

I was disgusted to see that a lot of other dog owners are not doing this. the paths are littered with dog mess leading into the woodlands, around the Fire station and playing field. The access to the ponds and the farmland behind Marnel Park is also covered in dog mess where dog owners don't seem to care about cleaning up after their dog. Kids are playing there and the mess is all along the paths. It would not matter so much if it was deep in the woods or away from the paths but this is not the case. I could describe the people and the dogs I have seen dirtying

the paths but I don't see the point. As a community we need to care more about the environment we live in and show more respect for others.

I would also like to see more dog bins around the edge of the woodland tracks near Carpenter Down and one near the access way to the farmland tracks near Barrington Drive\ Carpenter Down round about. Do you know if anyone has contacted the local council about this before?

I have come from an area in Surrey where the people cared about where they live and I was hoping that people here would think the same. It is not nice to see dog dirt on the paths and it is not healthy. Please clean up after your dogs, there is really no excuse. Regards John

**Editor's reply; I can advise that Laura the Dog Warden has patrolled all of Marnel Park development and placed fouling notices where possible.**

*She will of course be doing regular patrols to hopefully catch the dogs fouling Hopefully her presence will make owners think twice about allowing their dogs to foul and not clear it up. Arrangements have been made for more bins to be sited in the area as mentioned in his and should be in place in due course, and in other parts of Popley.*

*This is a subject that regularly comes up in Popley Matters. many of dog owners are responsible people. it seems there will always be the few who just will not clear up their dogs mess. We only have one dog warden now, mores, the pity.*

**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 cannot accept letters that are sent anonymously.**

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