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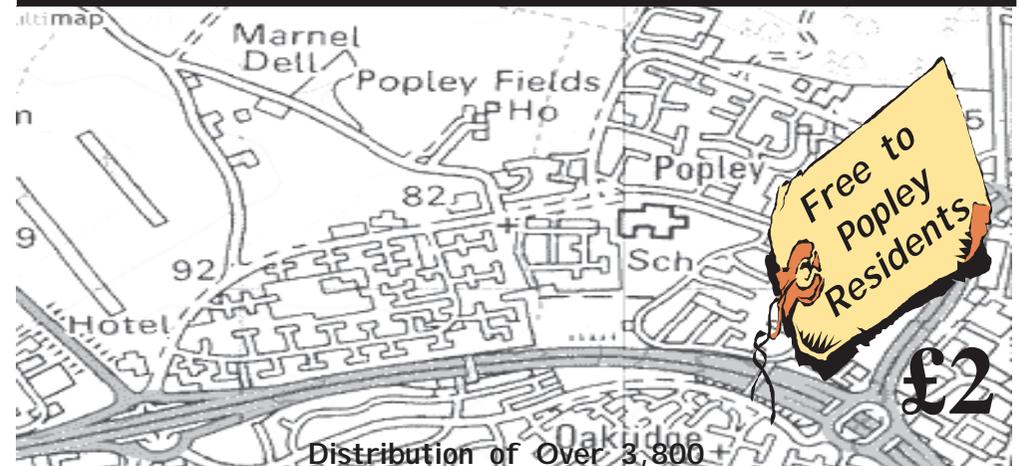
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

June 2008

Issue 76



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	CAB Advice	Page 18
Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes	Page 1	What's On Chineham Park School	Page 18
Councillors Page	Page 4	Popley Fields News	Page 20
Air Scouts Report	Page 6	The Old Codger	Page 21
A340 Improvements	Page 7	Longfellow Parade Update	Page 22
New Pre-School	Page 7	Arthur at St Gabriel's	Page 24
Gardening Tips	Page 8	Samaritans	Page 25
Letters to the Editor	Page 10	Fire Safety Hoax Calls	Page 26
Marnel Football Club	Page 11	Community Wardens Report	Page 27
Mid Summers Fair (Magnolia Court)	Page 12	News From Everest Community	Page 28
Bermuda Community Association	Page 14	Melrose Community Hall	Page 30
1st Popley Scout Group (Everest)	Page 15	Sherbourne St John Parish Council	Page 31
Popley Festival Report	Page 16/17	Simone's Column	Page 32

Don't Forget www.popleymatters.org.uk

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (20–06–08)



Editor Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- What a great day again at The Popley Festival. The estimate of visitors was between 12 and 15 thousand. The report is on pages 16/17. There are some amazing photos done by the youth group. One very brave one from the top of the Fire Rescue Service ladder. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped to make it another successful day. The first meeting for next year has already begun.

I always think that The Popley Festival is the start of many other events and Summer Fairs. We already have three events in this month's Popley Matters. Magnolia Court's Mid Summer Fair on page 12. St Gabriel's with their first three day Flower Festival on page 19 and Melrose Hall with their Summer Fair on page 30. I am sure there will be plenty to do and lots of bargains too.

Everest Community College have sent us some more news on events that have taken place on page 28 and Simone's article is on page 32. We would like to send the students that are leaving good luck wishes as they start the next phase of their lives. I am sure many of you will remember Daniel who had that terrible accident last December. Well Daniel's parents want to say how well he is doing and that next term he will be back to school full time. Thank you to everyone who has helped him back on the road to recovery.

The problems with the dustbins and recycle bins is the subject of the Community Warden's article on page 27. I think my views are well known on this subject of "Hunt your Bin". I am sure there may be some letters for next month's Popley Matters.

We need more willing volunteers to deliver your Popley Matters especially in the new development areas. If you can spare one hour a month to deliver, it is a good way of meeting your neighbours and getting to know the area. Please contact our distribution Manager Iris King on 411113 or Jane Frankum Editor on 819924. You can also email jane@popleymatters.org.uk.



Sub Editor Paul Frankum

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. The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Forum/Matters.

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Youth Volunteers: Joseph Doran,

More Volunteers Welcome

Advertising Index					
1st Response	Page 2	PKG Plumbing	Page 9	The Residence	Page 23
Accountancy (Small Businesses)	Page 2	PC Martin	Page 9	Man That's Handy	Page 23
Your Country Florist	Page 2	The Ovenscleaner	Page 9	Peter's Fish & Chips	Page 23
New Testament Church	Page 3	C.M. Hills Capentry	Page 9	Guy Stevens Local Plumber	Page 29
Paul and Lee Plumbing	Page 3	Kingfisher Shared Ownership	Page 13	Slimming World	Page 29
Adam Window Cleaning Service	Page 5	St Gabriel's Flower Festival	Page 19	Young's Chinese Food	Page 29
Kylies Whipper Snappers	Page 5	Bounce 'n' Jump	Page 19	Cornerstone Nursery	Inside Back Page
MAD Academy	Page 5	Steve Moore Driving School	Page 19	Fastfare Store	Back Page
Leak Seek	page 5	Sentinel	Page 22	Thank you for your continued support	

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Simone's Column

Hi, I thought I'd start by saying that I hope everyone who went had fun at the Popley Festival. The weather was good thankfully and there was quite a lot going on and I think most people enjoyed themselves, although I think personally I preferred going when it used to be held at the old John Hunt field. But I still had a good time as I do every year and I think overall everyone had a great time and I suppose that's all that matters really.

I would like to say goodbye to all of the year 11s at Everest Community Collage as they have officially left school. They had a Leavers Assembly and then a surprise buffet where they could say their goodbyes to each other and the teachers. A few of them have been coming back to finish exams and coursework but they are now no longer year 11s, so all I can say to them is good luck for the future. Also I thought that I would say well done to my year, (Year 10) as we have just had a whole week of exams, some real and some mocks, and I think everyone has done well and worked hard and we are now all very exhausted. So I propose that we have no homework for a couple of weeks to get over our exams!!!:) For the past couple of weeks the weather has been quite nice so I hope that this can continue because everyone seems to go out more and enjoy themselves, but I can't really say that I know of anything that is going on in Popley for the next several weeks that would be fun and exciting. Although if people are bored at the weekends when it is hot, especially teens or kids, then why not go down to the fountains in Festival Place to hang out or even at Eastrop Park. My little sister went there a few weeks back with a group of her friends and she had a really good time. So I recommend that everyone gets out in the sun and has a good time while we can!! Well that's all from me until next month so don't forget to keep reading! Bye!! :)

Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes 2008/2009

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is proposing environmental improvements in the area which includes numbers 1-213 Abbey Road and also Selby Walk. The aim of these projects is to make the area a better place to live, visit and walk through. The council has set aside a budget to tackle some of the highest priority issues and open spaces.

So we can make sure we deal with the issues that would make the most difference to local residents, we would like to hear your views. As a guide, the types of issues that we can look at include the following:

- enhancing neglected areas by tidying up overgrown plant beds, replacing fencing, benches and bins;
- improving the layout of footpaths and removing steps;
- removing isolated grass and planted areas, possibly turning some in to small areas of off road parking;
- reducing nuisance issues such as ball game playing;
- upgrading open spaces with new street furniture;
- providing community maintained gardens; and
- providing new link paths.

Unfortunately there are some issues which are beyond the scope of the project. These include residents only parking schemes, installing CCTV, large scale resurfacing of footpaths or roads or garage areas, putting up private fences and additional street lighting.

We are also asking for suggestions from other groups, including your Ward Councillors, the Police, Community Wardens, Street Care Officers and Sentinel Housing Association.

What happens next?

Once we've got local views, we will then look at the issues raised to draw up schemes suitable for implementation.

It is possible that we will receive a wide range of responses, some of which may conflict with each other or simply will not be possible to do.

A full update will be circulated to all residents letting you know the results of the consultation and what we are planning to do.

When works will start to happen?

The first phase of work is anticipated to start in August/September and will carry on until the end of the financial year (end of March 2009). Subject to Portfolio Holder approval, the works are likely to carry on into the following financial year.

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Sherborne St John Parish Council Villager – May 2008 Notes

Parish Council Elections – 1st May 2008. The Elections were duly held - four Councillors were elected for the Sherborne St John Village Ward, none for the Popley Ward. A total of four Councillors is insufficient to keep the Parish Council running smoothly (we need at least three for a quorum) – the Council has moved swiftly to elect two further members by co-option. There is still one further vacancy – which we will try and fill with a resident from Merton Rise or Marnel Park. The members of the new Parish Council:-

Linda Agnew (Chair – Planning Committee)
Becky Jones
Carole Stanley
Paul Ashley
Chris Cooke (Vice Chairman and Treasurer)
Julian Crawley (Chairman)

Our sincere thanks go to the retiring Councillors – Rodney Earthrowl, Jonathan Ingram and Ted Wilkinson. Your hard work over the last four years is very much appreciated.

The Parish AGM and Annual Parish Meeting - was held at the Chute Pavilion on Wednesday 7th May. The minutes of the meeting are available on our website - www.ssj.hampshire.org.uk.

Over twenty five members of the Parish were present to witness the election of the new officers, and receive the reports of the Chairman, Treasurer, Borough and County Councillors as well as local organisations. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for all residents to air their views – the main topics of debate this year being traffic calming (both in the Village and on the A340), and development and the threat of ‘greater Basingstoke’. The loss of the bottle bank was also discussed.

After refreshments and the chance for informal discussion, we were treated to a comprehensive (and concerning) outline of the Basingstoke & Deane Local Development Framework Core Strategy. This will replace the Local Plan on adoption in 2011. Anyone who enjoys living in Sherborne St John and supports the concept of a local community must be concerned by the implications of increased development and house-building promoted by central Government via the SE England Regional Assembly and the SE England Development Agency. As the Parish Council’s letter (published last month) implies, the Parish Council will require your support in fighting the expected threat to Sherborne St John resulting from the process. Nevertheless, our thanks go to Mark Lambert (BDBC) for his excellent presentation.

Parish Council Meetings – are held on the 4th Monday of each month; the next meeting is **Monday 23rd June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. You will be most welcome!**

Julian Crawley



On Saturday 14th June 2-4pm we will be holding a huge summer sale! Books, clothes, toys, plants and much more will all be on sale so come along and grab yourself a bargain!

Monday 23rd June at 7.30pm is our AGM. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. If you are interested in joining our committee contact Vicki

in the office.

Our garden is looking fabulous! We have started to plant the 'Rainbow Garden' with help from the Merton Infant and Junior School pupils. Keep watching this space as it when it blooms it will be spectacular!

Whats on at Melrose Hall

- MONDAY:** 9.30am-12pm Friendly Café
7.30pm-10.00pm Peregrine Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 4.00pm-7.30pm Petite School of Dance
8.30am-3.00pm Marnel Early Years
- WEDNESDAY:** 10.00am-11.30am Popley Little People, Mother and Toddler group
9.00am-11.00am Quit Smoking Clinic
12noon-2pm Oasis Lunch club 7.15 Slimming world
- THURSDAY:** 9.30am-12PM Friendly Café
- FRIDAY:** 6.00pm-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
8.00pm- 9.15pm - age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9.00-12.30 Petite School of Dance
- SUNDAY:** MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, and Conferences. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@tiscali.co.uk.**

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Councillors Page: I have asked for a meeting with Hampshire County Council Officers with the other Popley Labour Councilors to talk about developer money where and how it should be spent in Popley. I have been promised that there will be a consultation with the residents as to where it will be spent and on what! I have several priorities, one of which is to get a safe crossing for the residents of Abbey Court and Magnolia Court so that they can go to the chemist Post Office shops and visit their friends and family as safely as possible.

The changes on the Aldermaston Road roundabout are now well into the program and though there has been some disruption it has not been nearly as bad as was feared.

Marnel Park and Merton Rise are growing so fast it changes almost daily. I am looking forward to when we get the 12 shops and I wonder what kind of shops they will be?

I am very concerned at the speed I see some traffic going as they come through Sherborne St John Village. I have requested along with the Parish Councilors and fellow County Councillor that the problem be looked at.

Details can be found on the Hampshire County Council web site www.hants.gov.uk or contact me at 405 Abbey Road ,telephone 01256 819924.

Popley West: Thank you to all the people of Popley West that voted for us. It is a real privilege to serve Popley, as you may know we have lived and worked in Popley for 37 years. We moved here when I was seven months old As part of the regeneration programe long fought for in Popley, I walked along one side of Abbey Road with the answers to the questionnaire that went to those residents. I accompanied two Council Officers and our Community Wardens armed with a map that was marked with the concerns that had been raised from rubbish left out; anti social behavior of a few youths (but it was having a big impact on people's lives); bad parking; ball games; tatty park benches and overgrown vegetation. They will be preparing a paper to go before the cabinet member with some recommendations as to what needs doing. I will make sure that you are kept informed.

We have requested some more litter bins but we may have to wait awhile as the administration has cut the budget and the list is growing where new and replacement bins have been requested.

Contact Cllr Paul Frankum 472496
cllr.paul.frankum@basinstoke.gov.uk or write to Popley Labour 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL Paul Frankum ☎472496

Popley East. Our sincerest thanks to those who voted for us on 1st May. We were very pleased to be re-elected so we can continue with the work that needs to be done in Popley. Many good councillors lost their seats and the composition of Basingstoke council has significantly changed with a 10-seat Tory majority.

We have been extremely busy with all the building work going on in Popley - Longfellow Parade's regeneration continues to cause problems for Poets residents, please let us know of any new issues as soon as they happen. We are also gearing up to take on Sentinel on the Faroe and Maldive regeneration as their proposals for siting flats and houses close to the Madeira Close shops are not acceptable. As if this wasn't enough, we also have the ongoing Skanska McNicolas electric works dragging on, the building of the extension at Marnel Infants and Juniors, and the site works at Chineham Park for the new Sure Start Children's Centre.

The Popley Festival was a big success this year and it was good to see 12,000 of you on the field behind Carpenters Down. Next year we hope it will be bigger and better. Andy McCormick ☎419376

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Year 7 Story-Telling Competition

Everest Community College's first ever Year 7 Story-telling Competition took place in the Main Hall on 30th April. There were fourteen participants, all of whom had beaten off strong opposition to get to the final.

Each English-teaching set, had originally been given the challenge of creating a story which was original and entertaining and could be delivered to a large audience, with clarity and without the aid of amplification. Students had to work co-operatively to create a group story; a lot of collaborative skills were learned in the process!

Each class then selected the best group to go forward to the final.

Stories were varied in genre, ranging from science fiction, comedy, gory mystery and fantasy, through to ghost stories and regular but new and amazing fairy-tales. All students acquitted themselves very well, mesmerising an audience of well over a hundred with their fascinating tales.

Finally, the judges made their decision and Liam Rump and Sam White won the day with a fantastic and amusing tale of life in a fridge!

Science Investigation Day

15th May 2008 Everest Community College

Rocket Design, Build and Launch.

As part of the Gifted and Talented Programme at Everest Community College, 30 Year 8 and 9 students from Everest and Wavell School in Farnborough took part in an action-packed day, examining the science and engineering behind rocketry.

Students spent 2 hours in the morning designing rockets, using computer-aided design, to work out how high the rocket would reach once launched and investigating the effects that different materials would have on rocket performance. During the design process students selected the materials to be used for their rockets and decide on the number of phases and motors the rockets would have in them. Students then constructed their design idea and launched their rockets on the Everest playing field during lesson 5. Blast-off was scheduled for 2.30pm and there were some tense moments and last minute adjustments as countdown began. All rockets were launched successfully, with some estimated to have reached heights of over 400 metres.

The day was a great success, enjoyed by both staff and students and the parents who came to watch.

Maths Challenge

On 1st May, 90 Year 7 & 8 students, chosen for their mathematical talent and enthusiasm, took part in the annual United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Junior Challenge at College.

The Challenge is aimed at the top 35% of students in each Year group and tests their reasoning skills and mental agility. The questions are designed to stimulate interest in mathematical problem solving and to make students think!

Everest's top 90 worked really hard and managed to solve lots of the problems. They showed a fantastic positive attitude and real determination when the questions got tougher. They are now waiting to find out their scores and results.

Successful students will be presented with Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards depending on their final scores. If they are placed in the top scorers list, then they will be invited to the next round of the competition to represent the College in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

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Group Scout Leader: position vacant - contact Section Leaders please

Bookings/enquiries for Base 2000 - Jan or Pete Saunders 01256 410514



Now that the warmer months are with us it is seldom you will find any of the sections in the building for 'meetings'. The Beavers have been working on naturalist issues in Basing Woods, finding frog spawn and all manner of signs that spring has well and truly 'sprung'; the Cubs are working on Conservation and Naturalist badges and have recently conducted a bird survey to find out what birds visit their gardens regularly, whilst the Scouts have been out and about exploring and trying out Backwoods Cooking. The Cubs were narrowly beaten into second place at the District Cub Scout Six-a-side Football competition but won the District Mastermind competition and have been swotting up on general knowledge in readiness for the County Finals. Summer Camp for Scouts will be at Buddens Campsite in Dorset this summer.

All sections hope to attend the Tri-District Scout Activity Day at Aldworth Science College on 7th June and look forward to a day of new challenges with Radar Speed Shot, Climbing Towers, Batak, Push-karts, Archery and lots of other things to try-out. A 'Tug-of-War' competition will be staged between Groups/Districts run by Basingstoke West District Scout Fellowship. Punch and Judy will also return by popular request. Arena displays include Martial Arts, Circus Skills and (hopefully) a demonstration by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

As I write the Group is all geared up for the annual BBQ near the Boot Sale at Popley Festival so please come along and buy one of the best burgers at the show! The BBQ is one of the main fund-raising events for the Group each year and funds raised help to subsidise the cost of camps and visits for members.

The cub section (boys and girls aged 8 -10 ½ years) is in desperate need of a least one new leader to help with the increasing numbers. All leaders need to have positive CRB clearance certificates before a formal appointment can be made.

New recruits are welcome and we have vacancies in all three section at present. Simply come along to Base 2000 and speak with the Section Leader or give them a ring to discuss the opportunities. All sections are open to both boys and girls. Membership fees are £1.50 per week which can be paid termly in advance if preferred.

The Group's Headquarters at Base 2000 is available for bookings for parties and other events. Hire rates range from £3.50 per hour for the small hall rising £8.00 at weekends and from £4.40 for the main hall rising to £10 at weekends. Charges include heating, lighting and use of kitchen. Slide projector, flip chart, video and DVD resources can sometimes be made available for an small additional charge. Enquiries to Pete or Jan Saunders on (01256) 410514.



Boy and girls 6-8 years
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Eve Alexander 346510

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

Boys and girls aged 10½-15
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Colin Karlslake 410559



Hello to everyone in Popley.

Recently, many of you have highlighted to us a variety of issues concerning wheelie bins. These include bins blocking pathways and points of access, bins on highways and children using bins to climb onto garage roofs. Most of these issues are a direct consequence of people not keeping their bins inside their property boundaries between rubbish/recycling collection days.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council provides residents with a weekly rubbish and recycling collection service using black and green wheeled bins. The council asks residents to place their bin out for collection by 7am on their day of collection. Bins should be placed on the edge of resident's property nearest the collection point. Residents should put their house number on their bins to ensure they are returned to the boundary of the correct property after they have been emptied. After collection, residents are asked to take their bins in as soon as possible and store them securely on their property. Remember, keeping your bins inside the boundaries of your property stops them acting as an obstruction to residents who have buggies or use wheel chairs.

You can find out when your rubbish and recycling bins are collected by visiting www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/waste or by calling the council on 01256 844844. For residents who are elderly or disabled and are unable to put their bins out for collection, the council provides an assisted waste collection. If you feel you are eligible for this, please contact the council on 01256 844844 or email waste@basingstoke.gov.uk

However, large amounts of soil, rubble or garden waste should not be put in either wheelie bin. These items can be taken to your nearest household waste recycling centre. Alternatively a skip can be hired from a local skip hire company.

If you would like to discuss this or any other matter with us, then either stop us when you see us patrolling, call us on 01256 845508 or email community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk.





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Hoax calls commit fire engines to incidents that do not exist, this means genuine callers' lives are in danger, as fire cover in the county is reduced. A life was lost in a fire in Southampton when the nearest fire engines were attending a hoax call.

In 2007 Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service received 721 hoax and false alarm calls.

Hoax and false emergency calls have cost Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service £140,000 last year.

14 people who made three or more bogus calls had their phones cut off. 12 pranksters were prosecuted, including six who were issued a fixed penalty in 2007 or some other punishment.

Did you know?

- Calls from landline phones give Control Staff immediate access to the number and location of the phone, all calls are digitally tape-recorded. In the case of hoax calls these details can be passed to the Police for prosecution.
- Text messages will be sent to mobile phone hoax callers warning them that if they persist, their mobiles can be cut off. Should multiple hoax calls be received from mobiles, HFRS Control staff will contact the network provider and ask them to cut the mobile off.

If you know of someone making hoax calls call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or go online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org completely anonymously.

Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809
Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk

A340 Improvements and Merton Rise Access, Basingstoke

The construction of the A340 Improvements and Merton Rise Access Project has progressed to programme. The work which is now in its 26th week is expected to achieve completion in December 2008. The recent works progress along the A340 Aldermaston Road resulted in the completion of surfacing of the new proposed southbound carriageway which will now follow by the construction of the proposed central reservation. This requires alteration to the current temporary traffic management arrangement which will be affected on 27th May 2008.

After Tuesday 27th May, all traffic on the A340 Aldermaston Road heading towards the roundabout (southbound) will switch onto the newly constructed carriageway. Northbound traffic, out of Basingstoke, will be unaffected. The ambulances and emergency services will benefit from a dedicated lane between the southbound traffic lane and the central reservation. This arrangement is expected to be in place for a maximum of 4 weeks.

Work to the centre island of the Aldermaston Road Roundabout is now taking place with the installation of the drainage network. No traffic lane restriction is required at this stage.

The construction of Merton Rise Access Road between the A340 and Sherborne Road is also underway. The works will cause no disruption to passing traffic on the A340 Aldermaston Road.

If you require further information, do not hesitate to contact Eli Bruetschy on eli.bruetschy@hants.gov.uk or call 0845 6035633.

NEW PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY OPENING SEPTEMBER 2008

We are a new Sessional Pre-school Nursery (school term only), which is committed to providing high quality care and education for children age 2 years and 9 months to school age, within a safe secure and stimulating environment. We are an all inclusive setting.

Piccolo Pre-school Nursery is located in the idyllic village of Sherborne St John, within easy reach of Chineham, Popley, Bramley and Tadley. We will be set in the grounds of the Sports Pavilion, which has ample space both indoors and outdoors with a large green area and a playground suitable for young children.

The four highly qualified and experienced members of staff own Piccolo Pre-school Nursery. We are also registered with the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) and we are able to offer Nursery Education grants for 3 and 4 year old children.

Our sessions will be organised in a way that children can take part in a variety of child-chosen activities as well as adult-led activities, which will introduce them to new experiences and help them to get new skills.

We will be having 2 open days on Wednesday 11th June and Monday 16th June from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

We invite you to come along with your children and meet our staff that will be happy to show you our facilities and discuss our Educational Programme.

For further information please contact us on 075 287 26248.

We hope to see you there.

Mayte Neary

Manager – Piccolo Pre-school Nursery

Summer is approaching fast. We have already had an extended spell of hot dry weather which nicely killed off small lupin plants I had in trays outside all winter. Bedding plants are ready for planting out now, and hanging baskets can be planted up and put outside without risk of frost. If you haven't grown seed for tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers etc keep your eyes open at car boot sales and fetes for plants. It will be too late to sow them from seed now. Don't forget you can plant them in large pots or grow-bags. Small cherry tomatoes will often do well on a window sill if there is enough light.

The grass must have grown about a foot in the last couple of weeks. I was a bit slow in dragging the strimmer out of the shed, and ended up spending a back-breaking half hour on grass that had been flattened. You can probably get away with strimming the edges once a month now over the summer. Keep your mower on the longest setting for another month to keep the soil moist, and don't worry too much about raking up the grass cuttings unless there is a lot of it. Leaving it encourages worms which improve the quality of the soil and retain moisture helping the grass stay lush. Look out for products in the shops to feed your lawn and help it stay healthy.

Wild flower seeds and annuals that can be sown straight on the ground should be planted now. Just scatter the seed on fine soil and give it a gentle rake over. Mix the types of flowers you sow or buy a pack of ready mixed seed. The 'wild' random look reminds me of the old cottage gardens when I was a youngster. Different types of flowers encourage different species of insects to visit your garden, and with the insects you will find more birds visiting too.

I have a big problem with greenfly on my roses already. If you don't like to use chemical sprays on them, try diluted washing-up liquid. It works just as well, but you will have to repeat spray a couple of times a week to control them. If you find little clusters of bubbles on your plants, that is also a sign of aphids. Inside the foam lives a little green insect that is merrily sucking the sap from the plant. You can also reduce the amount of insect pests in your garden by planting certain flowers. Your garden centre should be able to advise you on which ones to use.

A few years ago, I did an experiment with watering my plants. I divided everything in the greenhouse into 2 lots. One side I watered with tap water, the other with rain water saved from the guttering. I was really surprised at the difference it made where I used rain water. The plants were bigger and healthier. I was lucky at the time as there was a broken section of guttering at the back of a garage that was in my garden. I made full use of all the water that drained off the roof, saving it in a large plastic bin. I don't have that luxury anymore, so I am looking into buying a special device that fits into a down-pipe fed from the house guttering. It diverts the water straight into a water butt until I need to use it. I also make use of water gel crystals in my planters and baskets to try and save water there. They dry out very quickly in hot weather and it can be difficult to get the compost wet again if it gets too dry. The gel crystals help retain water in the compost and the plants tend to last much longer. If you have large planters, you can also use old newspaper or ordinary wallpaper in the bottom of them. Soak it well, and put a layer of compost in the bottom of the planter, then the wet paper. It will encourage the plant roots to go down and stop them drying out and dying off between watering.

If you plan to go away for more than a couple of days this summer, remember to ask a neighbour or friend to water your pots for you!



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- Our Branch in Basingstoke has over 55 trained volunteers communicating with our callers or actively supporting the running of the charity in a variety of roles
- Our volunteers range in age from amazing individuals in their 80s down to very committed 19 year olds, in fact our age range doesn't quite match our callers the youngest of whom is 10 and the oldest in their 90s.

Do you think you have what it takes to become a Samaritans Volunteer?

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Would you like to find out more?

Basingstoke Branch of Samaritans is holding a series of information evenings on
 Saturday 17th May at 10.00am, Wednesday 11th June,
 Monday 14th July and Thursday 4th September 2008,
 all at 7.00pm at the centre at **5 Essex Road Basingstoke**

Interested?

Call **01256 462333** any day between 6.00pm and midnight
 or contact Tom on **07831 312504** anytime

Samaritans is available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people experiencing feelings of distress and despair, including those which may lead to suicide www.samaritans.org

Dear Friends

Sitting here in my study writing this I keep glancing out of the window and looking over the church grounds. We're well into spring now and summer is swiftly approaching. I know this because the grass is growing at a speedy rate accompanied by the inevitable weed patch that forms the border of the church car park. We have plans to dig this out in a couple of weeks and plant some border and bedding plants which I am certain will improve its appearance – or will it?

A couple of years ago when we first dug this bed out I threw in a mixture of wild flower seeds and this year in among the nettles and dock leaves we have some lovely wild daises and what looks like a wild fuchsia (I'm no expert on flower and fauna). In its untidiness there is a kind of beauty in this stretch of land that I find fascinating. God's wondrous creativity emerges not just at the Chelsea Flower Show or our well planted parks and gardens but in the unruliness of weeds and wild flowers. He loves them too, they are part of his creation, and I have no doubt that the wildlife is also greatly enjoying the less cultivated areas of St Gabriel's.

Same for us really! We don't all lead neat and orderly lives. Sometimes circumstance and situation mean that there can be a wildness and unruliness about our lives that is beyond our control and can make us feel isolated or cut off from the stuff of life that others take as normal. Does that mean we're isolated or cut off from the God who created us, desires the best for us and has a plan for us? Not a bit of it! Jesus said 'I have come to seek and save the lost!' Whatever or wherever we find ourselves Jesus knows us and is alongside us ready and waiting to share with us.

The trouble is, left unchecked the weeds can choke the life out of the flowers and so, sadly, I need to take action in order to save the flowers! Maybe we'll leave just a little patch of weeds to serve as a reminder and to help the wildlife! God too acted to prevent the weeds of circumstance and situation choking the life out of you – he sent his son Jesus to live, to die and to be raised again for you. If you want to get in touch with the ultimate Gardener then come along to St Gabriel's any Sunday morning at 10.30am and we'll show you how.

Instead of our usual Summer Fair, St Gabriel's this year is staging a three day 'Flower Festival' Beginning Friday lunchtime 4th July and across the weekend to Sunday afternoon 6th July the church and grounds will be open and showing Flower Displays and other work created by the churches, community groups, uniformed organisations and schools in our area. It promises to be a fantastic weekend! There is a café running throughout providing refreshments and on Saturday there will be a large bouncy castle and other stalls. The weekend culminates in an open air service on Sunday morning at St Gabriel's and a celebration 'Songs of Praise' in the afternoon. We hope that you'll come along and enjoy this special community event – see the advert in this issue and look for the posters that will be appearing in the next few weeks all over Popley.

Your Friend in Christ.

Arthur
Vicar of St Gabriel's

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Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor; These are the words of Mr& Mrs Ballard, We would like to thank all the wonderful people we met at Popley Festival on Sunday when we attended it with our daughter. You all made us welcome as if we were part of your family. Thank you all again A&J Ballard Kent

Editor's reply; I wonder if you were our furthest away visitors? I am sure someone will let us know! It was a great day and with so much to see and do, I expect you were as tired as I was. I am glad you felt so welcome Popley is a great community.

Dear Editor, Message to Popley Voters from Mrs. Cynthia Oliver (Liberal Democrat candidate). "My colleagues and I would like to tender thanks not only to our supporters, but to all those others of the Popley Electorate who value their privilege of universal suffrage enough to make the effort to use it".

Editor's reply; we are lucky to live in a country where you have the freedom to vote or not as you wish.

Dear Editor; When I received the flimsy piece of paper with instructions to stick it on my bin, (though which bin had to be the first thought. Green or black as there was only one label). I thought at least an attempt was going to be made to return our bins to somewhere near where we left them? Oh no, we are still playing "Hunt the Bin". The idea was at least an attempt and most people already have HUGE house numbers painted on their bins. So maybe it was a little optimistic to think that the bits of sticky paper might make a difference. By the way, I did stick mine on my bin but it got washed off with the rain and when I had my bin washed.

Editor's reply; It is something we have campaigned on for years. The Community Wardens have written their article on the subject. Perhaps you and the other residents have some suggestions as to how we can improve the situation?

Dear Editor Why is Everest Community

College got Sherborne St John as its address when it is in Popley? Is Popley not good enough for some? I seem to remember the Head Julie Rose, and the MP talk about the new Popley School. It is a replacement School.

Editor's reply; There are some road name changes and Sherborne Road will become Don Allen Drive and it will have a new postcode The school will be in Oxford Way. We have fought long and hard after being contacted by numerous residents who felt it was a form of snobbery. It came about because an official from the developers and an official from the Postal Service (neither living anywhere near Popley) decided that the school was in a Sherborne St John Road hence the address. We are just waiting for it to go to a Magistrate so that we can officially change the address to Everest Community College, Oxford Way, Merton Rise, Basingstoke. I do not know the post code yet.

Dear Editor, 'There was real community spirit at the Popley Festival. It was great to meet so many of the residents with Cllr Jane Frankum and have some fun in the process. I even got to have a go at playing Robin Hood on the archery range. The level of involvement in the festival from the local community was really noticeable. It was a great family gathering, bringing together all the generations with young and old enjoying themselves. Well done to Popley. Funda Pepperell Labour's Parliamentary Candidate for Basingstoke.

Editor's 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.

Please send your letters to: The Editor, Popley Matters, PO Box 6727, Basingstoke RG24 9GG or email: editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone 819924





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Development update - Longfellow Parade

Work on the £14m redevelopment of Longfellow Parade is progressing well, Sentinel Housing Association has announced this month.

The first phase in Marlowe Close to provide 25 new homes for rent and shared ownership are due to complete in October. This site has attracted attention from youths in the area, resulting in Sentinel's contractor Mansell PLC installing extra security features, and 24 hour guards. The police have also made related arrests. The partners have produced some site safety pointers below and are visiting schools and houses to highlight the risks.

Meanwhile, the second phase at Shelley Close and on the green by Longfellow Parade flats has now started, with the area currently being cleared to allow ground workers to lay the foundations. This phase will provide another 22 apartments.

Finally, we are close to resolving our plans for the third phase, which will include a new One Stop shop for Shakespeare Road, plus two further shops and an additional 10 apartments.

Sentinel and Mansell would like to thank all residents within the area for their incredible patience and understanding throughout this scheme.

As we hope you are all aware, we have set up a drop-in day every Tuesday and Thursday at the Mansell site office in Marlowe Close. We also intend to arrange a further evening drop-in session for those residents unable to attend during working hours.

TOP TIPS FOR SITE SAFETY

1. Stay completely out of any construction site. They can be dangerous places even to qualified personnel.

2. If you must go on a site, make certain that you have permission and have reported to the main entrance of the site where the 'gateman' can guide you safely to the site office. He may request that you wear appropriate safety clothing before he will let you in. This is to ensure your safety while on site. It is imperative that you follow all instructions and do not venture onto the site unaccompanied.

3. If you do enter a site without permission, you do so entirely at your own risk.

4. Using the site as a playground or for practising 'Free Running' skills is something Sentinel and Mansell will not tolerate. Anyone identified on site without permission, will be reported to the authorities who may then start legal proceedings.

5. Please be vigilant and report any unauthorised people seen on site to the Police, Community Wardens, Site Security, Site Management or Sentinel, giving as much detail as possible.

6. CHILDREN are not allowed on site and it is important for their own safety to keep them away

7. From time to time contractors have to undertake work outside the site fencing. Do not interfere or play with building material located outside the hoarding. They are there for a reason and should be respected at all times.

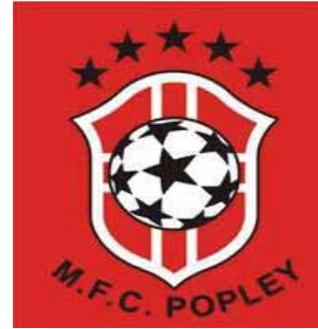
8. If anyone would like any further information or statistics relating to accidents on site, then please contact either Sentinel or Mansell who would be only too happy to provide further information. Mansell have adopted the following measures in an attempt to put a stop to unauthorised entry to site: Being more vigilant by taking photos of any unauthorised person seen on site.

The site security has been increased to two full-time security guards Continuing to liaise with the Police, Sentinel and the Community Wardens in an attempt to identify any unauthorised person or persons entering the site. Please note that ACTION WILL be taken and could lead to prosecution. If the person entering the site without permission is a Sentinel resident or a child of a Sentinel resident, this could result in their tenancy being put in jeopardy.

Mansell have instigated meetings with local agencies to ensure all are working towards putting a stop to unauthorised entry to building sites in the area.

All incidents are logged and these logs are shared and compared with police and warden records.

Sentinel



I would like to congratulate Justin and the U7's Dynamos on their 1st tournament win at the Thatcham Tornados 2008 tournament, they were unbeaten in the 5 games they played and all the boys got the opportunity to have their picture taken with the FA cup, which had been flown in by helicopter from Portsmouth. Well done boys.

3 players have been given the chance to show what they are made of. When the Chelsea scouts come to watch the U7's & U8's with D'andre Brown, Jacob Austen & Guyian Barry having the opportunity to shine I wish them all the luck in the world. Well done.

This year I have watched the U7's a number of times, and they haven't disappointed, with D'andre up front, Aaron Taylor and Louie Belcher at the back mopping everything up that comes their way, But its all about the midfield, Kieran Carr is on par with Jacob Austen as passion goes, 2 totally different players but both have the same aim, to win!

Kieran will not give up, even when injured. He may not be the best player in the Dynamos, but I know they would struggle without him; this is why Justin has put him forward for the 2008 club player of the year trophy.

Also put forward are: Dan Mair (U8's Spurs) Jacob Austen (U9's Tornados), Jonathan Page (U10'S Renegades).

Good look Boys!

Well done everybody and thanks for the support.

Any info contact Lee on: 07810444995

mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

MID SUMMER FAIR

AND INFORMATION DAY

ON SATURDAY 21ST JUNE 2008

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ANYTHING THAT IS NEW OR NEARLY NEW THAT WE
CAN SELL

Diaries from the Old codger

In April, three of our windows needed to be changed as they had blown. This means the vacuum between the glass had gone letting out the warmth of our house. We called in a glazing company. The next day a workman came round measured the windows and if it were not for Easter they would have fitted new ones within that week. True to their word on the Tuesday they turned up, took out the three damaged glass panels, (one of these was our bedroom), and put in new ones, all done in a couple of hours. I do not usually plug any one but the service was second to none no mess and the old glass taken away. Excellent service and the cost were reasonable too. I will let you have their number if you get in touch.

Her Indoors has been watching the programme on Saturday night to get someone to play the part of Nancy in Oliver. They, the programme makers, sent the contestants to a market to see and listen to the language from the East End. For me the funny bit was Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber eating jellied eels. Good on him, great food.

The sort of shop I would love to see in the new development is a pie and liquor shop also selling all the great foods we used to get in the East End, cockles, whelks mussels etc. Getting back to the show, some of the girls that are after the part would never fit the bill; many know what people looked like in the East End, the dirt and filth. Most people unless you had a few bob were permanently in a state of hunger with no meat on your bones. Some of these girls look like they have come from the upper class.

Casualty 1907, about nursing and doctors, that was on Sunday nights was more true to the word, my great grandfather died in the London Hospital. I like to see the way the nurses had to work and the doctors and surgeons when they did operations and people standing in the theatre looking at the work the surgeon did back then. I could not wait till the next Sunday. I am sorry that it has finished but suppose it would lose its interest if the series was too long. They were the cutting edge in medicine then. How many of you remember the Elephant Man? He lived at the top of a building, and he was so badly deformed that if he lay down on his back to sleep he would have died. Many royals went to see him, and gave money to the hospital. He built a church that he could see from his small window out of matches. I believe that the London Hospital still have it. Then one day he decided it was time, so he did in fact lay on his back and passed away. They also have his skeleton as well. The London is still one of the foremost teaching hospitals in the country today. This is down to the dedication of these people back then and today. I have offered Her Indoors to be experimented on but they drew the line at that



Till next month ,The Old Codger.

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Popley Festival — Another successful year with the turnout estimated at between 12 and 15 thousand people. Opened by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Brian Gurden and local MP Maria Millar. The Festival kicked off with a full and varied events programme for all ages and tastes. The regular boot sale attracted much interest, as did the fun fair. There were many displays in the arena making it a busy day from start to finish. As well as the traditional BBQs, Caribbean and Nepalese foods were on the menu for the more adventurous. The Popley Festival committee would like to thank all the organisers, helpers, stallholders and entertainers for their time and effort which helped to make this year's Popley Festival.

Free Computer Classes – New classes have now started again at The Popley Fields Community Centre. There will be more classes in September. Pop along to the centre to register your interest. There will be courses in Beginners Guide to Computing, Desktop Publishing with Digital Photography; Internet and Email; Learn how to help your children, or yourself, by revising basic grammar (in a fun way!); Spreadsheets and Introduction to Word-processing. Also, trace your family history using the internet. All classes run for a 10 week period and take place on one morning or afternoon per week. For a full list of classes or to enrol, please contact Queen Mary's College on 01256 417517 or Popley Fields 414494. Classes are free to anyone who does not have 5 GCSEs grades A*- C. All classes are ideal for beginners!

Line dancing-Wednesday Evening

There is a beginners' line dancing class held from 6.30pm-7.30pm in the large hall, and a more advanced class from 8.00pm-10.00pm.

Dynamics Baton Twirlers-Thursday Evening

This takes place in the large hall from 5.00pm- 7.00pm

Mad Academy– This is a new opportunity for toddlers and will run on Tuesdays 9.15am-11.15am – 'Mad Academy' will be holding high-energy music and dance classes combined with learning for babies from 3 months to 5 years

Popley Fields Community Centre is also available for hire for conferences, meetings, private parties, weddings and kids' parties at very reasonable rates.

Call us now for more information on any of the above or to find out more about any of the other activities which happen at the centre every week!

Tel:01256 414494 or email:popleyfields@hotmail.com

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40-44 BERMUDA CLOSE BASINGSTOKE HANTS RG24 9PE

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 112068

A.G.M.

Annual General Meeting to be held here on Tuesday
10th June 2008 at 7 pm

Ongoing activities at the Bermuda Hall are as follows:

Monday to Friday inclusive, 8am to 4pm a very good Pre-school group namely 'Marnel Explorers' who have a very good Ofsted report and have an excellent record spread over quite a few years. They are now taking names for the September term, for further information please contact Daphne Shearing on 01256 308442.

Hall bookings are available Monday evenings and, Saturdays whole or part day. There is a room available for small meetings/seminars etc; further information from booking officer Janet Ward on 01256 363156. Tuesday afternoons 1-30 to 3pm we have the 'Chattertots' (toddler group) operating in the hands of Janet Ward.

Tuesday evenings is Bingo time, doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm with an interval for refreshments. The minimum age for admission is 18 years. Come and enjoy a very pleasurable atmosphere. You'll not win a fortune but an enjoyable evening is generally had by all. Wednesday evenings Cammings Martial Art group are in the hall. information for this event can be obtained from the Booking Officer.

Thursday evenings is occupied by an excellent Papercraft group run professionally by Mrs. I Clarke from 7pm - 9pm. Friday evenings 'Melrose Church of God' have a youth club for age group of 5-10 year olds. Contact Philip Keeble on 402351 for info. Sunday afternoon a Christian Fellowship Group are in attendance, run by Mr. Thomas George.

We are looking for volunteer committee members, not only to strengthen our present committee but hopefully to instill fresh ideas for activities throughout the year. For further information please contact Secretary Les Ward on 363156.

ST GABRIEL'S FLOWER FESTIVAL

Friday 4th & Saturday 5th July
12 Noon until 4pm
Sunday 6th July at 12.30 until 3pm, followed by
'Songs of Praise' at 3.15pm

Community groups, Churches & Schools have contributed to this unique display of nature's creation celebrating the seasons of the Church calendar. Visit our Carnation Café.
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For further information visit our website
stgabrielsbasingstoke.org.uk

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Is that debt really yours?

If you're being chased for a debt, check first that you are actually responsible for it.

In England, generally, if a debt is more than 6 years old, the creditor cannot pursue the debtor through the courts for it. This means the debt is unenforceable. At the CAB we quite often see people being chased by debt companies for a debt that they thought had disappeared many years ago. Such debts are sold on from company to company, and these debt collectors rely on people not knowing that the law protects them from this situation.

There are other situations where you may not be liable for a debt – for example, if the debtor is your spouse and your spouse is deceased. In this case, if the debt was in their name only, the only claim the creditor can make is on the debtor's estate – what they left when they died. If there was no money left over to pay the debt, the debt dies with them.

If you are under 18, then in many cases a debt will be unenforceable in court – someone under 18 is said to be a "minor" in English law, and a minor cannot make a contract that can be held up in court. There are exceptions to this, however.

In general, the first step to take when reviewing debts is to decide whether you are liable for them. If you need help with this, or any other matter, do come and see us at the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This information was provided by Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau

What's on at Chineham Park

Another busy month with lots happening at Chineham Park. Strictly School Dancing are now providing dance lessons for the whole school every Friday along with our long standing coaching from Southampton in the Community sport. On Sat 10th April a number of staff escorted 14 hopeful World War Two evacuees to take part in a 1940s re-enactment at the Rural Arts Centre in Tilford, Farnham. The evacuees dressed in their World War Two outfits, joined the train at Alton and were met by a convoy of army trucks at Farnham Station where they were then driven to the event. The children and staff had a wonderful experience, with an action packed day of air raids, radio signalling, singing and dancing. Pictures will soon be posted on our new school website. Our Time Capsule that was on display at the Popley Festival has now been buried in the ground under the foundations of the new Children's Centre which is coming along nicely. The Outdoor Environment Centre and Learning Project is nearing completion so look out for an invitation to join the grand opening event in June.

Regards Gwen



Well, it's been a very busy and exciting start to the summer term for the group. They've been doing Pioneering activities which involved making chariots to ride on. As well as learning about fishing, how to set up the tackle and identifying the fish, ready for their first trip out, site near Kingsclere at the start of half term. I will tell you how it went in the next issue.



Chariot Making in Glebe Park with the help of 11th Basingstoke Cub Leaders.

We were at Popley Festival this year, we had two stalls, one was a coconut shy, it was a 'hit' all 50 coconuts went, kindly donated from Sainsbury's depot. The other was a display tent, with games, sweets and information of what our scout group offers. It was good to see lots of interest from potential members. As for the weather, we could not ask for a better day.

This year is the 40th Anniversary of 1st Popley Scout Group. In July we are planning a party at St Gabriel's Church Hall, with the kind permission of Reverend Arthur. We will be investing a girl into Scouts, who has come up from another Cub Pack, as well as presenting the Cubs and Scouts with the badges they have achieved this term. Afterwards we are hoping to have a B-B-Q and social gathering with a VIP list, to meet us all and talk about ways we can help in the community and how you can help us. Past, present and future family members welcome. Our motto this year is

"Life begins at 40 for 1st Popley Scout Group"

Meeting are held at St Gabriel's Church Hall, Tewkesbury Close.
Tuesday evenings, (term time only).



Boys and Girls 6-8 yrs
5pm – 6.15pm



Boys and Girls 8-10.5yrs
6.30pm – 8pm



Boys and Girls 10.5-14.5 yrs
6.30pm – 9pm

For more information please contact:
Brigitte Cleall 01256 412307, John Talks 01256 414168
Or just pop along to any meeting.



Wow! What a fantastic Popley festival again! The weather was really good to us this year which meant that we had an estimated twelve to fifteen thousand visitors to Popley.

There were over 120 car boot stalls selling just about everything. Though I don't remember seeing a kitchen sink for sale!

The festival was opened by the deputy mayor Brian Gurden and Maria Miller the MP. Then the entertainment began. The Entertainment Tent was run by Joshua and Simon with the help of local DJs including Leroy. 210 and Kestrel declined this year but I thought that what we had in place was just as professional.



We were entertained by Joshua and Simon Acoustic Group and

followed by a host of other talented groups of people including: Extreme School of Dancing, The MAD academy (for under 4's though members of the audience were roped into dance too). There was a lovely and colourful display by the Nepalese Community. Walls funfair was the place many of the children made straight for. There were so

many displays and stalls I can only mention a few: Scouts, Popley Conservation Group, Pebbles, Sentinel, Dog Rescue, Cat Rescue and one dedicated to the 40th Birthday of Popley. There were photos of people I remember from the 37 years I have lived in Popley, it brought back many memories. The idea



is to have an exhibition at Milestones later this year. The archery was a group called Grey Goose Wing who came from Oakridge. I saw quite a few people having a go and some even hit the targets!

The smell of the food was intoxicating with Caribbean, Nepalese and good old beef burgers among them. I had a very tasty chicken curry. I never got round to

tasting the ice creams but I was told they were delicious. I hear the beer tent which was actually housed in the Popley Field's Community Centre. Hampshire Fire and Rescue did a display on the dangers of a chip pan fire, but the biggest surprise was the costumes and sounds that came from The Wolf Pak Re enactment group and the gunfire could be heard for miles.



I have been told that there is a suggestion that The Popley Festival could extend to two days next year. *Jane Frankum, See you all next Year*



The photos were supplied by Popley Fields Youth Group. The aerial shot was taken on the Fire Brigade's rescue extension ladder.

If you would like to get involved next year in the Festival please contact Popley Fields on 414494 or email popleyfields@hotmail.com.