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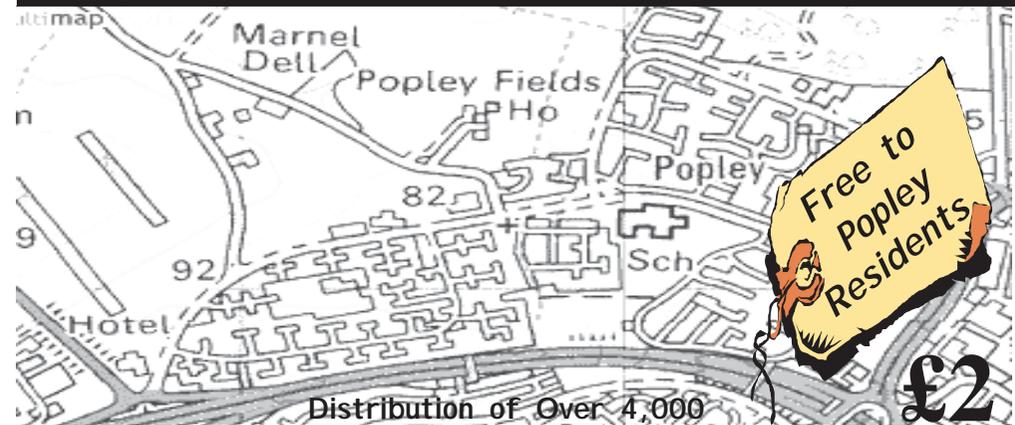
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POPLEY MATTERS

OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

August 2008

Issue 78



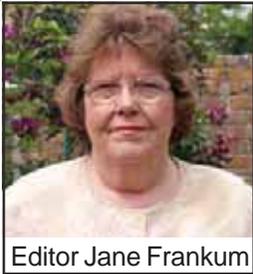
FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Don't Forget www.popleymatters.org.uk

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



Editor Jane Frankum

Message From the Editor:- I wish more residents had come to the two day open public meeting in Melrose Hall on the proposals for “A New Park for Popley”. However there were quite a few people that came and gave their comments, ideas and some filled in the questionnaires. I was pleased to see people from all ages including some of our children and teens. The display was also put in to Everest College and Simone has mentioned it in her column on page 32. There are

four pages on the park just to give you an idea of concept. On the subject of Everest College Ms Julie Rose Headteacher has written an end of year report for Popley Matters. Considering that the new school has only been open for a year it has come a long way. Well done to the students, parents, governors and staff for all the hard work that has been put in by you all.

Popley says goodbye to David Straus Head of Merton Junior School I well remember when David came to Popley all those many years ago. We have only had two heads in Merton Juniors, Mr Valaley was the other. We wish David good luck for the future and thank you for all your years of dedicated service.

Two of our regular deliveries are packing up their delivery bags. The Popley Matters Team want to say thank you to Judy O Connell and Peter Moore who has delivered the magazine for around 11 years now. Welcome Ross Emmerson and Jamie Clark, two new volunteers.

The credit crunch and fuel increases are having an effect on just about everyone and there is some sound advice on page 22.

Could you spare an hour a month to help deliver the Popley Matters community magazine? Please contact Iris King on 411113 or me Jane Frankum on 819924.



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.

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;

Distribution Team: Jenny Bailey; Penny Barris; Ken Frankum; Jane Frankum; Paul Frankum; Iris King; Colin Karstake, Simon Leadbetter; Ron Rowe; Cathy Smith; Louise Tuck; Stuart Humphries; George Cousins; David Cotterel; Keith Theobald; Glenys Nunn; Vera Mitchell, Peter Johnson, Sheila Brandes Naomi Laffoley, Angus Miller; Elaine Dennis; Rebecca Butcher; Lisa Whitwell, Jamie Clarke, Ross Emmerson.

Youth Volunteers; Joseph Doran

More Volunteers Welcome

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Hi, I decided I would start by mentioning the Headteacher of Merton Junior School, Mr. Strauss, as he is leaving which most of you will probably know. He used to be my Headteacher and so I just wanted to say that I think he has been really great and has supported the school and every student in a huge way. So I would like to say thank you to him for being a brilliant Headteacher and it is sad to see him go but I wish him all the best in the future.

Like most of you I am really glad that the summer holidays are finally here and I think everyone deserves a break, especially all the students at ECC as we have all worked so hard for the past year of being at our new school. Also on the subject of Everest, I thought I would say that our school got an education award not so long ago and I know that Ms Rose was really pleased about this achievement and I guess it does just go to show that our school isn't as RUBBISH as people make it out to be. Anyway I bet everyone has already planned what they are going to be doing this summer because I know I definitely have as I am going to Cornwall for a week with my family so I am really looking forward to that. Also some of my friends are going on holidays as well in the six weeks off and I think everyone is just glad to be having a rest.



I know it's sort of a boring subject but lately I have noticed that everyone has been talking about how much everything is increasing in price, especially bills and houses. I mean I know I am only 15 but it is ridiculous because how are young people my age ever going to afford a place of their own. So I guess this means that all us teens are going to be staying with our parents for a long while, which also means we will have to help out with all the bills (so no chance of a rise in pocket money, just bills!).



The other week I noticed some boards up in school about the Aldermaston Open Space and how there might be some new parks and things for us teens and kids, and I was really pleased about this as I know a lot of other students were. Also there was a part up about a skate park and I was really pleased about that as well because if these plans went ahead then I know they would get used and respected by so many kids, teens and skaters around Popley. So many kids and adults have wanted places like this for a long time. Also if I remember rightly in my first article I wrote for Popley Matters I talked about a skate park or something that I thought would have been a good thing to build and it would be great to see some of these plans to go ahead. Also I think so many other people in Popley have campaigned for things like this to happen for years so I was really delighted when I heard about these plans.

I guess that's all from me this month, and all that's really left to say is that I hope everyone has a great summer whatever you do and I hope everyone stays safe too. And don't forget next month's article! Bye!



Hello to everyone in Popley.

During our patrols a number of people have stopped us to talk about the issue of dog fouling. They are concerned that a minority of dog owners let their dogs foul on paths, parks and play areas and then do not clear up the mess. Unfortunately, we have also witnessed this ourselves.

Dog mess is not only unsightly and unpleasant, especially when it gets on shoes and carpets, but also spreads diseases. Dog fouling is also against the law. The law states that dog owners must clean up after their dog if it fouls in a public space. A £50 fixed penalty fine can be issued on-the-spot by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs) and the Council's Dog Wardens.

We would ask dog owners to please clean up after their dog if it fouls in a public space. Please carry a plastic 'dog mess' bag in your pocket when out walking your dog. Always pick up after your dog and dispose of the faeces in an appropriate litter bin.

Please get into the "clean up" habit wherever you go and help us to achieve a 'cleaner, greener borough'. Thank you very much for being a responsible dog owner.

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.

Have a lovely summer,

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A340 Improvements and Merton Rise Access, Basingstoke

The third phase of the traffic management, enabling the reconstruction of the southbound carriageway is now complete. Phase Four will allow for the reconstruction of the northbound carriageway and the completion of associated works, including drainage, provision of safety barriers, street lighting and signage.

During this phase, all traffic will be moved onto the newly constructed southbound carriageway, now wide enough to accommodate two lanes of traffic and a one metre overrun strip. The strip is designed to be used by Heavy Goods Vehicles to allow the safe passage of emergency vehicles in an emergency situation.

The switch over of traffic will be instigated on Tuesday 22nd July. In order to minimise delays during Phase Four, a feeder lane for northbound traffic turning into Priestley Road will be constructed in advance of the traffic signals. It will be necessary to close Priestley Road at the junction with the A340 overnight for approximately five consecutive nights in order to reconstruct the carriageway at the junction. This is not programmed until early September, and details of the closure will be given at a later stage.

Work to the centre island of the Aldermaston Road Roundabout is still taking place. Update on programmed closures will also be sent out in due course.

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

Magnolia Court Summer Fair

A big thank you to everyone who supported us at the Magnolia Court Summer Fair on the 21st June 2008. The money we raised will allow residents to go out on outings and enjoy entertainment in their home. If anyone would like to know what living in sheltered housing for the elderly is really all about, then give me a ring on Julie Pior 462140.

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Message From Iris King

Some personal requests/information: From Iris King your friendly Popley Matters Distribution Manager. Do you have any spare wool that you no longer require? Or maybe you have spare clothing that no longer fits (I know, don't we all!!). Feed The Children would love them and the lorry collects from my home. Tel: 411113.

Information for Popley volunteers of Basingstoke Neighbourcare and the clients; the fund raising event that our patron Lady Portsmouth kindly hosted for us by opening up her gardens at Farleigh House was a huge success. Despite the rain, over 100 people attended and the rain stopped for the champagne and nibbles as well as the tour with lots of interesting info from the head gardener. Everyone I spoke to wants another event soon as they enjoyed it so much. The sum raised at the event was over £1,000. A big thank you to all, and maybe we will see new faces at the next event.

Two Popley residents received 3 awards between them at the Basingstoke and Deane Community Forum event. Doris Saitch received hers for her 25 years of service. The comment was "Doris has lived in Popley for over 40 years and is the longest serving member on the committee with over 25 years of active service. She has fully committed to ensuring that the centre runs smoothly and efficiently. Ann Souliah's award was for over 10 years service comment was "Ann has been a trustee at the centre for over ten years. She is always the first to arrive and the last to leave and devotes much of her spare time to the centre". The third award was a Special Achievements Award. The comment was "Ann uses her dedication and enthusiasm to ensure that the twice weekly Friendly Cafe, of which she is one of the main organisers, runs smoothly. She ensures that everyone is made to feel welcome and enjoys themselves." I would like to add my own comment here Ann turns up week after week despite her disability and is admired by all who know her.

STOP PRESS: My delivery friends do occasionally take holidays, I know it is totally out of order but what can a distribution manager do but say 'Yes OK' if she does not want to lose them for the rest of the year!! So I am saying this on my knees – is there anybody out there who would be willing to go on a standby list in their area when that distributor goes on holiday or is sick? If you don't help the next request will not be on my knees, but from my sick bed, as nine times out of ten yours truly has to take up the slack. If there are any young people over 14 out there (with their parents permission) who could help ring Iris on Tel: 411113. Or call in at 55 Tintern Close for more information.

TO ALL YOU YOUNG PEOPLE OUT THERE. Have a great Summer Holiday, enjoy yourselves BUT KEEP SAFE. *Iris King Distribution Manager*

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Councillors Page: A New Park for Popley, as reported in the centre pages has come about from HCC land being sold for the new school and housing. The park will be a great family park for everyone to enjoy. It is to be funded out of developer contributions and not from council taxes. This type of opportunity comes rarely so I hope you all welcome the chance to take the family to have some fun without having to pay out what sometimes seems a fortune. You have the opportunity to shape what we have in the park so please do contact me or Cllr Paul Frankum if you have any comments or ideas.

After what seems many years of asking for on the premises night cover Hampshire County Council common sense has won and HCC has approved that Abbey Court. can go back to being special care again. It will be upgraded, this facility is much needed and appreciated in Basingstoke. Jane Frankum County Councillor 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: The replacement bus shelter on Popley Way is due this month also a new one in Abbey Road. A problem in the changes in charging for the Active Life Centre were brought up at the last full council meeting. We expressed our concerns that people were being expected to find a full term's fee all in one go at the beginning of each term. This is almost impossible for many families One parent would have to find £230 for her two little ones who love going to gym class. Council Tax payers money has gone to help this worthwhile club so it does seem unfair that by changing the way you pay means that many families will find they will have to withdraw their children. Empty homes for months at a time and even up to 14 months is disgraceful we have asked for a review to find out why and what can be done to bring these homes back into use.

Dog fouling is another issue again. Most responsible owners do pick up the mess it is a shame that a few can spoil it for so many. Paul Frankum Popley West 472496 paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East. We have had a record number of complaints about the building works in Longfellow Parade; parking; access issues; utilities; lorries; dumper trucks; noise and early morning starts.

A lot of you work full time and are unable to make Sentinel's drop-ins at 2-4pm so we want them to agree to an evening meeting.

Faroe and Maldive regeneration: a lot of concerns have been raised and a 1200-signature petition has been handed in to Civic Offices. We met with Sentinel's Chief Executive and discussed changes. The date of the planning hearing is now 20th August.

Chineham Park paddling pool: finally we have had word back that it will be cleaned in time for the summer holidays. It was in a very bad state with leaves from last autumn. We are constantly battling within Civic Offices to get the pool cleaned more regularly and open for a longer time than the paltry 6 weeks in the summer.

The Sure Start children's centre is set to open in September.

Finally, we've been having some complaints about the electricity works in Carpenters Down and Shetland Road. These have dragged on and the traffic lights break down from time to time. We hope to get a revised target date for completion and as soon as we know, we'll let you know. Andy McCormick Popley East

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I have received a number of complaints from residents in Marnel Park ref. speeding drivers who reside in the new development, particularly along Penton Way and the surrounding roads. This occurs primarily during the morning and evening commutes to work. I would ask those who use this road and any other to remind themselves of the local speed limits and will point out the obvious. The area is still under development, therefore plant traffic is common place and the road conditions are often poor. Parked vehicles are also causing obstructions to views in an area frequented by pedestrian traffic.

I have already high lighted this issue to the Roads Policing Department and will monitor the situation.

PCSO Smith is looking for any persons who are interested in establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. He is particularly interested in the new developments on the old John Hunt site, Marnel Park and Merton Rise. Anyone interested can call him on 0845 045 45 45 or e-mail on steven.smith@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Overall crime in Popley remains at a low level. However please continue to remain security minded and ensure that windows are shut when your property is unoccupied and valuables are not left in sight of open windows. Also please continue to remove valuables from vehicles. Any property which you believe has any value either financial or sentimental, please consider marking it in some way. Consider a photograph with you and the property together. This will help us to return property when it is recovered.

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In June The Beavers joined with a hundred other Beavers from Basingstoke East Scout District for a visit to Moors Valley Country Park in the New Forest. They particularly enjoyed the trail through the woods and the train ride but more especially the chocolate cake to celebrate 'Gold' Beaver's birthday. Some of the older Beavers will attend the District Beaver 'sleepover' in September.

The Cubs camped at Paddicks Patch near Woodley at the end of July and visited the Bader Museum during their stay. The Scouts are going further afield to Buddens Scout campsite near Wool in Dorset. Plans include visits to several local places of interest and possibly Monkey World (they should feel at home there then!).

The Group Annual Meeting for Parents was held in July. Andy Smale was appointed Group Chairman, Roland Martin re-elected as Group Secretary and Mike Mullender as Group Treasurer. Other members of the committee are Jan Saunders, Sue Shillitto, Chris and Frances Oatham and Sue Keetch together with the Group Scouts Leader and Section leaders. The Group Committee is responsible for the finance and administration of the Group and for keeping the Headquarters in good order.

Base 2000 will be closed from 8th – 14th August whilst the main hall is repainted, the carpets steam cleaned and other minor maintenance completed. Enquire's to use the building for parties and meetings are welcome – please contact the Bookings Secretaries, Jan or Pete Saunders on 01256 410514 or base2000.bookings@ntlworld.com to establish availability and cost.

All sections are now closed for the summer break. Meetings will start again week commencing 8th September. New recruits, both boys and girls, are welcome and all sections have vacancies. Simply come along to Base 2000 and speak with the Section Leader or give them a ring to discuss the opportunities. Membership fees are £1.50 per week which can be paid termly in advance if preferred.



Boy and girls 6-8 years

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Eve Alexander 346510



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Elaine Devenport 323453



Boys and girls aged 10½-15

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Colin Karlake 410559



Letters to The Editor.



Dear Editor, I went to Melrose Hall to see the plans for the new park for Popley. It looks like it will be an amazing place for people to go to with so much to do. I was worried when I heard later at the shop a lady saying that the fence was coming down and it would be all open. She was concerned only for dogs running out into the road. I am sure she could not have seen the drawings because there were hedges or some fencing in them. The idea was to go and see the ideas and make comments and give ideas of what you would like. I was glad to see so many youths go and make their thoughts known. Is there still time if people want to see the drawings and say what they feel?

Editor's reply; It is no secret how we feel about having a park and so I would be positive wouldn't I. I agree it must be right for everyone and a place where families can go and spend time as safely as possible. It is obvious to me that there would have to be barriers of some kind because we will need to protect children from running into the road and stop the possibility of travellers getting access onto the park. So like you I was surprised to hear the unfounded rumours about no fencing. The rusting, tired looking fencing that is there now would not do the park justice so we have an opportunity to put something much better in its place. You can contact myself, Paul on 819924 or the council officer Margaret Magrath on 844844 to pass on comments.

Dear Editor, I have written to Popley Matters before and I am sad that it fell on deaf ears. I am a responsible dog owner

and I always pick up his mess. I might add so do most other dog owners. But why do people let their dogs do their business and they just walk away? Who do they think is going to clear it up? Surprise, surprise it does not just disappear. Why is it that they go to the large green areas where other people want to use them for their recreation? I think it is selfish beyond belief that these very few unthinking people can give dog owners a bad name. **CLEAR YOUR OWN MESS UP!**
Editor's reply; The wardens have written about dog fouling on page 1. I do agree that most people do pick up the mess and it is a shame that a few irresponsible owners do not.

Dear Editor, Just a quick note to say thank you for the magazine every month. It must take a lot of effort and time. I just wanted you to know that I read every page and appreciate how it keeps us all informed
Editor's reply; Thank you, Yes it does take a lot of work and time to try and keep you all informed of what is going on in Popley. I would like to thank the fantastic people who deliver the magazine to your door. We always need more though. Any volunteers?

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





BBQ Safety.

- ✔ Never leave barbecues unattended.
- ✔ Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby in case of emergencies.
- ✔ Only use barbecues in suitable and safe areas.
- ✔ Set up your barbecue on level ground away from bushes, tents or other buildings and do not put it where you have to squeeze past it.
- ✔ Only use recommended fluids or fire lighters and never petrol.
- ✔ Wear suitable clothing and use appropriate long handled tools.
- ✔ Be careful when cooking fatty foods, the dripping fat can cause the barbecue to flare up.
- ✔ Make sure the coals are cool before you move the barbecue. Once cool, dispose of the ashes safely - never place them in dustbins.
- ✔ Keep young children, animals and ball games away from the cooking area.
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Useful contact points and further information:

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Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



M.F.C. Popley.

On the 19th July we held our Popley pre-season tournament sponsored by Sentinel at the Everest Community College, but not everything went accordingly to plan, with several teams not showing up, which caused havoc with the fixtures, which I had spent a couple of hours sorting out the night

before.

The Tornados stole the show, winning the U10's category, with an impressive display throughout, scoring 15 goals and conceding 0. Kallum Brown, Jack Parratt, Cameron Grist, Billy Wagstaff, Christopher Blissett, Ellie Dawber, Jacob Austen, Guiyian Barry, Nathan Parker, Gorden Mahoney and the goal machine Fynnlie Judd.

Jacob Austen received the trophy from guest of honour, who is also Jacob's proud uncle, Mr. James White, and all the boys and Ellie went on to celebrate with a smile on their faces, fully deserved. Well done. ***Personally, it was one of my proudest moments ever!***

The U9's Spurs also got to the final, but were denied at the end and came runners up. Well done boys. Kevin and Minnie have got a good little team there and I think they will do well next season.

I would like to wish Guiyian Barry and Jacob Austen good luck for Tuesday 22nd July. Both are going for a trial at Chelsea FC, Fynnlie Judd has got his trial in October and I tried talking Jacob out of going and telling him he's going backwards in his career, but he said United will come for him one day! Ha!

Well done everybody who turned up and thanks for the support
Any info contact lee on: 07810 444995

mfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

Julie's Gardening Tips

We haven't seen too much summer weather yet, so here's hoping for some sunshine this month.

The slugs and snails will be out in force overnight merrily chomping on your favourite plants. Keep them under control by taking away places they can hide. They like it dark and moist, and watering at night will encourage them to come out and play. Water your garden in the morning if you can, before the heat of the day gets onto the plants. If you water in full sun, the drops act as magnifying glasses and will burn the leaves, so the earlier the better. There are loads of gadgets available to trap slugs which are environmentally friendly, but none will completely eradicate the problem. If you must use slug pellets, make sure they cannot be got at by animals and children.

Keep those weeds under check. You will find they are usually healthier and faster growing than the plants you want. An old gardeners saying is 'one years seeding, seven years weeding'. If the weeds get a chance to drop their seeds it can take years to get rid of them. Deep rooted weeds like dock and dandelion really need to be dug out carefully. If you break off the root, it will regrow with branches, making it harder to keep it under control. Pull them up while they are young and the root system won't be so deep. Stinging nettles also need careful digging as their root system is like a carpet. Bind weed looks pretty, but strangles everything it wraps around, and the roots break easily while you dig it up. Remove even the smallest pieces of root as anything over half an inch will regrow.

Tomatoes and beans will be fruiting now. Feed them weekly to encourage them to produce lots of flowers, and pick them regularly to encourage them to produce fruit. The same goes with flowers, picking the dead heads off will encourage new flowers. Prune or tie back any long growth on climbing plants to keep them tidy. If you have plants growing up walls and fences, they will harbour lots of the pests you don't want, so keep watch for those.

One of the lovely things about gardening is the amount of wildlife you can see. Some birds and butterflies like certain plants, and you can watch a whole life-cycle if you provide the right environment for them. If you notice particular birds in your garden, you can encourage them next year by putting up nesting boxes and growing suitable plants to encourage the insects they eat. Bees are becoming scarce, and can also be encouraged by providing nesting sites and flowers that produce loads of nectar. Basingstoke Conservation Society may be able to help with advice on suitable nest boxes and planting schemes to encourage wildlife. If your garden is big enough, try to leave a small area especially for wildlife.

There are lots of local gardens open to the public at this time of year. If you get a free weekend, do go and see one. The Walled Garden is just off Pack Lane, and the Rotary Club Aromatic Garden in Church Square in the town centre, are both free and full of plants to give you inspiration. The Walled Garden holds events during the year (where they do charge a small amount for admission), the next one being the Celebration of Nature's Harvest on October 14th 11am till 4pm. Mark it in your diary as there will be loads of traders there that can give you answers and ideas for next year too. The Millenium Garden on Popley Poets, and the gardens at the community centres across Popley are also good places to go for ideas. In the meantime, if you are planning to go away for more than a couple of days this month, make sure someone will keep an eye on things in your garden.



Why not have some fun
together as a family?

Everest Community College 

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Come along to our Family Courses at Everest Community College this Autumn and take up this opportunity. Contact us **NOW** on 01256 337574/573 between 10am-2pm OR email: lucy.gaitskell@everest.hants.sch.uk or marilyn.botham@hants.gov.uk

Woodwork classes for dad's & lad's~ Saturdays from 10.00—12.00 starting 4th October (5weeks)
Healthy Eating ~ weekday evenings from 4-6pm
dates to be confirmed
Strictly Come Dancing ~ tbc

Special Event at Shakespeare House Surgery

Please allow me to introduce myself – my name is Alison Hood and I am the Practice Business Manager at Shakespeare House Medical Centre (previously known as Marlowe Partnership).

The Practice has seen 'considerable change' over the last two years with most of the existing partners having now retired. In order to introduce the new Partners and to let people know the plans for the future, we are organising a FREE Open Day with a Health and Safety theme on Saturday 13th September from 2pm – 4pm.

I will be inviting the police, fire brigade, ambulance service, Basingstoke Sports Centre to name but a few! – and, the Mayor of Basingstoke Cllr George Hood has also been invited.

I believe that a Doctors Practice has a great part to play in the community and we need to hear people's views on the services.

I look forward to hearing from you the residents and patients for further information:

Alison Hood
Practice Business Manager
Shakespeare House Medical Centre
01256 392982
alisonhood@nhs.net

Dear Friends

The following was sent to me on an e-mail from friends of ours in Canada and I couldn't resist sharing it as my article this month. Isn't it amazing that George Carlin – American comedian of the 70's and 80's - could write something so very eloquent...and so very appropriate?

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider Freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudices. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships.

These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom.

Remember; spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember to say, 'I love you' to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for some day that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.....

Have a blessed summer break.
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Arthur.

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**Contact Clive Hills on
07879228256**

This time last year I invited Popley community to join me at Everest Community College as we started a new "learning journey". One year on and that journey is really underway. The first year of the new Everest Community College has been exciting and rewarding for all staff and students, culminating in the recognition of all our hard work by a successful Ofsted. This Ofsted recognised the rapid pace of improvement since the last inspection, the strong capacity to improve further and our ability to sustain the College's inclusive ethos of which we are rightly proud.

Of all the nominations and awards that the College has been put forward for this year, the one that I treasure most is the Basingstoke's Place to be Proud of Schools & Education Award which I had the pleasure of receiving last week in a ceremony in Festival Place. The reason that it is so special is that the College was nominated for the award by a student who in her nomination said "I wanted to get the school noticed because there's so much potential in the school. People still think that the students are bad and it's only a new building, but there's a whole new attitude at the school and it needed to be recognised". The judges acknowledged that intelligent planning supported by hard work and determination had turned the College around in a relatively short space of time. I think this award is a real endorsement of the work we have done over the past year. We now need to sustain this success and continue our focus on teaching and learning.

Our children are our best asset and we need to get the message out there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the College and to you the parents for the support that you have given me since I joined Everest. I hope you all have a restful summer break and look forward to working with you all again next year.

Julie S Rose
Headteacher
Everest Community College



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Managing your debts how the Citizens Advice Bureau can help

As the credit crunch bites, keeping up repayments on credit cards and loans becomes more difficult. As fuel and food prices go up, our salaries are stretched even further. The Citizens Advice Bureau is seeing more and more clients who are having problems paying rent, mortgage payments and fuel bills. While we can't make your debts disappear, we may be able to help you manage them more efficiently.

There are two types of debt. Those which affect your home, essential services and your liberty are called **priority debts**. This means you could be evicted, repossessed or ultimately imprisoned if they aren't paid. This would include rent, mortgage payments, secured loans, some utility bills, your TV licence, council tax, court fines and CSA payments. These should be paid before anything else is paid, even if other creditors are calling you up or writing frequent letters.

Overdrafts, store cards, credit cards, unsecured loans, mobile phone bills and some utility bills are **non-priority debts**. It's unlikely you'll go to prison or lose your home for not paying these. Whatever money is left after priority debts have been paid should be used here.

Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau helps hundreds of clients each year manage their finances. And though we're a charity, we won't charge you for it. First we review your current position and work out some options for you. These might be managing your debts, bankruptcy or possibly an IVA. We look at increasing your income and cutting your expenditure. We work with Payplan, a debt management company who won't charge you for their services either. They can devise a plan in which they take one monthly payment from you and distribute it among your creditors.

For some clients, we can work out a debt management plan – working with your creditors to make payments affordable each month. We can help you consider the pros and cons of bankruptcy – and then help you fill out the forms. In rare circumstances, an IVA might be suitable for you, and Payplan can help you with that.

So if you're struggling under a mounting burden of debt, don't keep ignoring it. It won't go away. Come down to the CAB – our drop-in service is open 10-3.30 Monday – Friday (except Thursday, which is 9.30 – 11.30) and Saturday mornings from 10-12. We'd be delighted to help.

Kingfisher Family Fun Day!

To celebrate the launch of Skippetts Gardens, a superb development of 32, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, Kingfisher Housing Association are holding a Family Fun Day on Saturday 30th August between 11am and 3pm.

Come along and have a look at our stunning show apartment. We think you will be impressed! Members of our sales team, as well as local solicitors, will be on site to answer any questions that you may have about shared ownership.



This should be an enjoyable afternoon for all the family. There will be plenty of stalls to browse plus a bouncy castle and face paints. 2ten fm will be on site, so why not sample the tasty hog roast and enjoy a drink from the bar, while the black thunder crew entertain the kids?

We look forward to seeing you there!
Kingfisher Sale Team

What is the MPS?

The Mailing Preference Service (MPS) is a free service set up 20 years ago and funded by the direct mail industry to enable consumers to have their names and home addresses in the UK removed from, or added to, lists used by the industry. It is actively supported by the Royal Mail and all directly involved trade associations and fully supported by the Information Commissioners Office.

The MPS Consumer File is a list of names and addresses of consumers who have told us they wish to limit the amount of direct mail they receive. The use of the Consumer File by list-owners and users is a requirement of the British Code of Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing administered by the Advertising Standards Authority. It is also a condition under the Code of Practice of the Direct Marketing Association.

The MPS can remove your name from up to 95% of Direct Mail lists. It will not stop mail that has been sent from overseas, un-addressed material or mail addressed to The Occupier. You can expect to continue to receive mailings from companies with whom you have done business in the past. You may also receive mailings from small, local companies. If you wish these mailings to be stopped, you must notify these companies directly. It will take up to 4 months for the Service to have full effect although you should notice a reduction of the mail during this period.

Wild About Wildlife in Popley Popley Conservation Group

From time to time I read and hear what I believe are some misconceptions about wildlife and natural habitat in and around Popley.

Many of us, including myself have had misgivings about the new building developments. It is true that they have swallowed up a large field but was this a natural habitat? By no means. Usually the field was a monoculture of corn which was sprayed with weed killers and fungicides. Not exactly a beneficial habitat to most wild life.

Although we have lost a field and gained some houses we have also gained something else.

Most people will have noticed the Conservation signs along the side of Carpenters Down road. This is part of a green corridor that is still being developed that will go around and through the new houses. But this is not any old green space. It has been designed for wildlife and although some of it has only been in existence for two years some parts are already showing a diverse variety of species.

The corridor was sown with a wild grass and flower seed mixture and is now maturing. A walk through the meadow south of David Wilson Homes is a treat. There are many wild flowers including, Knapweed, Ladies Bedstraw, Scabious, Ragged Robin, Campion and many more. They did not get there by chance they were planted. It is a picture and certainly more colourful than the corn crops of previous years. Butterflies are moving into the meadow. The handsome Marbled White has made its way this far. This area has also been planted with a hundreds of native trees and shrubs such as Holly, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Cherry, Ash and many other species. Around the new development there must be many thousands. There are now probably more native trees and shrubs around Popley than there has ever been. This must be good for wildlife in the future.

Mammals are also moving in. Harvest mice, voles and shrews have all been seen.

Not only has the corridor been designed for wildlife but it is being actively managed to enhance wildlife. So for instance Popley Conservation Group spent three sessions there during the winter doing conservation work. A few weeks ago a team of landscape contractors spent about a week there working on habitat improvement. Part of their work was to put in some Lizard basking stations. I doubt very much whether there has ever been that amount of effort specifically put into enhancing wildlife in Popley.

But this is not the end to wildlife habitat development. Not only have new ponds been dug, more are scheduled. The new pond just off Carpenters Down road is a big success, now supporting numerous colourful Dragonflies and Damselflies as well as many other forms of wildlife. This pond is also being managed for wildlife.

The reason all this is happening is – yes you have probably guessed – those Great Crested Newts. Without them there would be a lot less green space in the new development. It is important that conservation work should continue to make sure they thrive, because if by any chance they should become extinct there is still a great deal of prime wildlife land just waiting to be developed.

I wonder how much of this you already knew? Sometimes I think we do not shout loud enough about all the wonderful wildlife there is in and around Popley. For instance do you know about the wildlife enhancement plans for Chineham Park or the proposed recreation and nature area in Aldermaston Road Open Space or the wildlife, play and recreation enhancement planned for Basing wood? Unfortunately there is not enough space to go into all that now.

If you care about conservation and green space in Popley and would like to know more about conservation in Popley or about Popley Conservation Group, contact Lee Roth 01256 330738

Popley Conservation Group are supported by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

Diaries from The Old Codger



I can't believe how time flies, looking back over the years to see all the changes that have been made on Popley. Going back and looking at the East End would make many people weep. Gone are the good old fashion as pubs where on a Saturday night you could be sitting drinking. Someone would come in buy a pint then go over to the old Joanna (piano) and start to pump out a few old favourites. Then others in the bar would get out the bones (spoons), a mouth organ and before you knew it a good old sing song was going on, and the pub would be full. Where were all the kids? Mostly sitting outside on a long bench if the pub had one, or just sitting on the floor outside. Every now and then they would get a drink. It was always Thank you Auntie or Uncle. All friends were called that back then, it was being polite. You are lucky now to get a grunt from them. Kids would sit in the street no worries about getting abducted. We would try to get numbers off the side of trolley buses as they went past. Or take the Mickey out of the conductor because the driver had gone round the corner too fast, and the overhead arm had come off the electric cables. He would have to get a long pole and hook it back on. We had metal hoops and a stick pushing it up the pavement to the next kid. If you let the hoop fall you had to do a forfeit like kiss the nearest girl. As kids we hated that. Girls. "yuk". I expect the girls said the same. We called this fun. My sister and I tap danced. We could make a few bob out of it in the pubs if they had music. By the way a bob was a shilling or five pence. As I got older, dancing and dressing up for shows was too sissy my friends said. So, But in the streets with go carts shooting down the nearest hill. Never mind at the bottom if a car came along. Well, back then they were few and far between. If you had a car you were posh. I do think kids are wrapped up too much now, but then we have so many evil people around you can't be sure what to do for the best. I do keep harping on about it, but let kids get dirty. It washes off at the end of the day Let them play mud pies. This is how kids get their immune system built up not running after them with hand wipes. Wash their hands if they are going to eat of course. Limit the time they spend on computers or sitting in front of TV. Make them get out into the garden or go for walks together. They can get fat and lazy by just sitting and eating. There is a life outside the house. Going back to the top of the page, will we all be weeping in the years to come over the way our countryside is being developed? I know when we first came we could not get over how green it was, now all you see is flats and houses everywhere you go. We could lose the community spirit everyone has. It is time to say STOP, enough is enough. Leave us alone we do not want high rise flats. We had them in the 60's and they pulled down most of them. We need our own green space not concrete. Just a few things before I go this month. If you are taking children on holiday keep them safe from the water we see too many accidents this time of year. Along the south coast we have what are called Weaver Fish. Many people tread on these fish in shallow water It is very painful for the person and can lead to being hospitalised. Buy a cheap pair of plastic shoes to wear in the water, it stops the spikes penetrating the sole of the foot

Till next month The Old Codger

Phone: 01256 414494

Fax: 01256 418529



Charity Reg No: 1052133

popleyfields@hotmail.com

Popzone Youth Club

This will be open throughout the summer holidays except for Bank Holiday Monday for all our regular users.

Sheila's Barn Dance: There is a barn dance to be held on Friday 29th August 08 7.30pm – 11.30pm in memory of Sheila Matthews. Any money raised will go to Cancer Research. Ticket prices are Adults £7.00 in advance, on the door £9.00, Children £2.00 in advance, on the door £4.00, under 6's go free. This is a great night out for all the family with a small buffet included in the price. There will also be a licensed bar. Please contact Rachael on 07834 780766 or Tracey on 01256 414494

Family Fishing Trips funded by the Big Lottery Fund: As last years fishing was so successful, we are hoping to arrange family fishing trips for over the summer, where children must be accompanied by a family member. So any of you mums, dads, granddads etc who would like to have a go at fishing, please contact Derek at Popley Fields Community Centre for more information.

Free Computer Classes: Classes have now finished for the summer, but 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-11.15pm – '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



Basingstoke
and Deane

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR ABBEY ROAD EAST

Our update reference: **resfdback_abbey_02**

June 2008

Dear resident,

Further to the initial consultation exercise undertaken in March 2008 may I firstly take this opportunity to thank all those who responded. Based on the comments and suggestions received along with officers observations of the site, initial work areas have been highlighted as shown on the reverse of this letter.

The top priorities identified by residents were:

1. Creating additional parking
2. Tackling ball games issues
3. Regenerating the public courtyards
4. Generally tidying up open space areas

We are now using these priorities to develop our proposals for your neighbourhood, which will include:

- Constructing additional parking where feasible along with complimentary planting to soften its impact on the street scene
- New shrub and street tree planting to screen walls and fences from nuisance ball games
- Improving the public courtyard areas by replacing inappropriate planting, addressing un-even or untidy surfacing and removing & replacing benches where appropriate
- Tidying open spaces and existing areas of shrub planting

What happens next?

Once we've developed the proposals in more detail a full update will be circulated to residents providing details of what we are planning to do and giving the opportunity for you to comment or make suggestions. At this stage we are aiming to have this information with you sometime during August 2008.

In the meantime, your views and comments are important in helping us shape this project so if you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this project further please do not hesitate to contact either Jamie Daly or Paul Johnston by no later than 20 July 2008 using the contact details at the bottom of this letter.

For your information, this initial phase of work is due to be completed by April 2009 however we are currently seeking approval for funding to undertake further works during 2009/10.

How to contact us:

Jamie Daly
[t] 01256 845753
[e] jamie.daly@basingstoke.gov.uk

Paul Johnston
[t] 01256 845763
[e] paul.johnston@basingstoke.gov.uk

By post: Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Neighbourhood Development, Civic Offices,
London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7EA

Sentinel

Longfellow on the Home Straight

Sentinel Housing Association is fast approaching completion of the first phase of new homes of the £14m regeneration project in and around Longfellow Parade.

Readers may recall that the site attracted some vandalism and nuisance behaviour earlier this year, but Sentinel, contractors Mansell PLC, police, wardens and other agencies acted fast and report that there have been no reported incidents for over two months.

Sentinel Project Manager Andrea Weeks explains: "We've reiterated the risks of illegally entering building sites in a newsletter to all local households, and have been working closely with local schools to raise awareness of site safety issues. This involved a presentation to younger children at Chineham Park School, which was held jointly between Mansell plc and Sentinel Housing Association which all involved felt was valuable and educational."

"Overall, everyone who's been involved in this project is looking forward to the first new homes being occupied this year. We're well underway with this record investment in Popley, and thank local people for their continued support of our efforts."

The first new homes are expected to complete in October 2008.

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Little Pearls

(currently known as Chineham Park Preschool)



Opening September 2008

Based within Pebbles Children's Centre, in the beautiful grounds of Chineham Park School, the Nursery will provide a safe stimulating and fun environment for children to grow and learn.

Education grants are available for children from the first term following their 3rd birthday. Unfortunately, there are no free places for children under 3.

We can take up to 56 children aged from birth to 5 years and we are working in conjunction with the NCMA and local childminders to provide continuity of care.

Places are available 5 days a week (8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday) all year round and the children have either a full-time or part-time place, depending on the availability of places and the family's needs.

We are currently taking enquiries and booking places for September start.

For further information please contact 01256 464750
(incl over the Summer Holidays)



A New Park For Popley Questionnaire

Would you like to see a Park with facilities for all on the Aldermaston Open Space

Have you seen the proposed Lay out of the Park? Yes No

Are there any changes you would like to make _____

If there is not enough money from developers to have all that is proposed what would you think should be the priority to keep (Order 1 highest to 9 lowest)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler Play area | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Play Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Teens Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheeled (Skate) area | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi Use games Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Open Air Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing Point Seating | <input type="checkbox"/> Footpath Lighting |

Any other comments? _____

Name, address or contact details (not obligatory) _____

Contacts:-
 Margaret Mcgrath, Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer, Environmental Care, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH phone 845407 email margaret.mcgrath@basingstoke.gov.uk
 Cllr Jane Frankum 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9EL Phone 819924 cldr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk
 Cllr Paul Frankum 405 Abbey Road Basingstoke RG24 9E phone 472496 cldr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk



A NEW PARK for POPLEY

The new Park is aimed as a Community Park for all the people of Popley of all ages to meet and play. The proposals will retain and enhance the landscape and character of the open space using the tree and shrubs as landlines.

The existing boundary fences could be replaced with landscaping to prevent unauthorised vehicular access and for the safety of the children as they play.

A new 4m wide Avenue Path would connect Popley Way and Merton Rise with a feature main entrance to the Park off Popley Way and this would also allow access for emergency vehicles if they were ever needed.

The area previously used as a BMX track has banks and hollows which are reminiscent of ancient earthworks so using this loosely it can become a theme for the design. The Community Area together with the Play Areas are sited centrally so it can be enjoyed by all.

There could be standing stones, masts and serpentine walls and edgings to snake their way round the area dividing, enclosing and providing informal seating.

The Junior Area could provide a range of challenges and opportunities for slightly older children.

The Wheeled Play Area is also sited on the disused car park and is a street course designed for beginners and juniors.

The Community Open Air Facility is enclosed by a natural amphitheatre with grass terracing to the north and 'standing stones' to define the space.

The Toddler and Junior Play Areas are situated adjacent to the Meeting Area for ease of access and providing open supervision. Both areas are fenced and have seating.

The Toddler Area is designed around a moated mound and Lookout Tower. Its robust, and colourful equipment, surfacing and graphics could provide a wide range of equipment and play area.

The Teen Play Area is open and its activities are sited away from the other areas providing teenagers with a variety of challenging and meeting places.

The Multi Use Games Area is set away from the new and existing housing, on the disused car park facilitating easy access.

The Nature Area will give the opportunity for schools to take the children to learn about the environment and is designated for further development in association with local groups and schools.

The area will be disabled friendly and all age groups (yes even the old dears like me) will be able to enjoy the facilities from picnics to sports.

There have already been quite a few comments most of which are very positive from giving the park a new name to what about the dogs that are let off their leads to run? What about Travellers, and will we be able to hold community functions on there?

What do you think? Would you like to know more? For further information or to give your thoughts and idea contact Jane or Paul Frankum on 819924 or email cldr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk We have also provided a questionnaire for you to fill in. You can return it to 405 Abbey Road or to BDBC at the Civic Offices. We will try to keep you all informed in the monthly Popley Matters. *Jane Frankum (Editor)*

