

Local Councillor out on Patrol

Selsey Parish Councillor, Carol Purnell, accompanied us on one of our patrols to get hands on experience of what we do. The following article explains what Carol discovered about our role in the community.



car park, Co-op car park, Selsey Business Centre, West Beach, Oval playing field, Selsey Centre and Manor Green park, High Street and alley ways off High Street plus a lot of areas in between. We covered 11 miles in a van and nearly as much on foot.

After receiving a call from Budgens to a group of youths causing some upset near their shop, I had the opportunity of watching Jacqui deal with the group and solve the problem, all in a very non-confrontational way.

I have always thought that the Community Warden scheme was a good idea, now having been out on patrol and having seen things first hand, I don't just think it - I know it.

If all wardens are as good at their job, and as committed, as Jacqui so obviously is, then every area that has wardens should be very pleased with the results.

Carol Purnell

The patrol area covered Church Norton, Bluebell Woods, East Beach, Hillfield Park, the recreation and football grounds, Budgens'

Your Views . .

As Community Wardens, we work in partnership with many different agencies including the Parish Council, Housing Associations and the emergency services. Here are a few of their comments about our role in the community.

“ The Community Wardens have been a valuable resource in the local community. They work as the eyes and ears of the locals and people of all ages find them approachable and helpful.

Chair, Mike Beal, Selsey Town Council

“ I have been working as a Tenancy Enforcement Officer for Home (one of the largest housing providers in the UK) since June 2007. Home manages over 200 properties in Chichester, 49 of these are in Selsey.

The Community Wardens play a vital role in both addressing and preventing anti-social behaviour locally. They provide an invaluable service to both the community and key local agencies and have been of immense help to our staff when conducting home visits and facilitating meetings.

One of their key strengths is to be approachable to people who may feel uncomfortable talking to Police Officers or Police Community Support Officers. I thoroughly enjoy working with Jacqui Averis and Gareth Jones, Wardens for the Selsey Area. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them and they certainly make a huge contribution towards helping our housing staff establish a sense of community for our residents.

Sue Cooke, Tenancy Enforcement Officer for Home Havant

“ I would say that the role of the Community Warden is very much valued by the community, and external agencies. They are able to be in the area to swiftly respond to issues.

Downland Housing Association Ltd



Bicycle theft has doubled in the UK since the mid 1990s, with reports showing that over half a million bikes are currently stolen every year. There are, however, many ways in which you can stop your bike from being stolen.

Lock it or lose it

It is essential that you have a good lock for your bicycle, and that you never leave it unlocked in a public place. Leaving your bicycle unattended even for a minute can mean it is gone when you return. According to the British Crime Survey 2005/06, more than half of all bicycle thefts take place from an owner's

property. Simple crime prevention methods can lessen your chances of having your bicycle stolen.

- Keep your bike in a secure garage or shed and keep the door locked.
- Keep it out of public view.
- Secure it to an immovable object or consider installing a floor or wall-mounted anchor lock for extra security.

Security marking for your bicycle

Many insurance companies will ask you to security tag your cycle. Even if you don't insure your cycle this is a good idea, as it means you have full record of your cycle on file somewhere, which could help you to prove it is yours, if it is stolen and then found.

Your questions answered

REMEMBER, IF IN DOUBT, CALL YOUR COMMUNITY WARDEN

Q. What do I do if my bike is stolen?

A. Advise the police via the non-emergency number **0845 60 70 999** and then report the theft to your Community Warden. Provide as much information as you can, including the frame number, type of bike, any distinctive details, where and when it was stolen, and if you can, a photo.

Once informed, the Community Wardens will keep a look out for your bike when out on patrol and make enquiries on your behalf.

Q. Where should I park my bike?

A. **On the street**, it's generally best to use cycle parking stands if these are available. Look for secure, immovable cycle parking. It should ideally be possible for you to lock both your frame and your wheels to the stand - parking that only allows your front wheel to be locked should be avoided as thieves can remove your

front wheel and make off with the rest of your bike.

Q. Where shouldn't I park my bike?

A. **Dark alleys** - even if your bike is locked, a thief will have an ideal opportunity to break through your lock.

Butterfly racks - avoid parking which only allows you to secure your front wheel to the stand. Even if you don't have quick release wheels, it's very easy for a thief to detach your wheel and make off with the rest of your bike.

Short posts, or even tall posts - your bike will be lifted over the top. Even if there is a sign at the top that your lock can't fit around, bear in mind that a very determined thief could unscrew the sign and lift your bike over, so it's not a good idea to leave your bike locked to a sign post overnight.

Drainpipes - easily shattered.

Q. What do I do if I find an abandoned bike?

A. Contact your Community Warden immediately with the exact location and description of the bike. Alternatively, contact your local police station. If you are unable to take the item to a police station, contact the police via the non-emergency number **0845 60 70 999** who may advise you to secure the bike, until the police or the owner can collect it.

Q. Where can I get my bike marked and registered?

A. If you would like your bike security marked and registered, then come along to one of the Community Wardens's Cycle Security Events. For further details contact your local Warden.
There is a small charge of £3.00 for this service.



SELSEY

Call Jacqui on: **07768 210920**
Call Gareth on: **07768 206974**
www.selseywardens.org.uk

HOME DELIVERY

If you have email access and would like to receive our newsletter electronically just visit our website:
www.selseywardens.org.uk and click on the newsletter button.

SELSEY

COMMUNITY WARDEN news

spring 2008



COMMUNITY WARDENS tackle bike thefts

In response to recent bicycle thefts in the District, the Community Wardens are supporting a bike marking and registration scheme in each of their areas.



“During the past 12 months, there have been 260 cycle thefts in the Chichester District, up from 206 in 2006” explained Sue Long, Community Warden for Tangmere and Oving. **“That’s an average of 20 bikes reported stolen each month. The security marking scheme will act as a deterrent to thieves, as they will not be able to pass the bike off as their own and it also makes it much easier for people who have had their bike stolen to reclaim it.”**

The Wardens were first in line to take advantage of the bike marking session, launched in Chichester City Centre, by the Chichester District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The scheme

allows cyclists to have a unique registration number stencilled onto their cycle frame and join a national online register of cycle owners.

The Wardens were joined by over 100 other cyclists, including Keiko Iwamoto, a student at Chichester College, who was lucky enough to get her bike marked for free as one of the first 100 cyclists to take up the offer. She was keen to get her bike marked and registered: **“I don't have any other means of transport so if I lose this one; I would have to buy another, which would be expensive. I'd encourage all bike owners to join the scheme and safeguard your cycle – it makes sense.”**



RECYCLING IN THE COMMUNITY

Find out how the Wardens are recycling milk bottle tops to help the Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice.



During the next few months, the Community Wardens will be promoting bike marking, cycle security and safe cycling in each of their neighbourhoods.

If you would like to get your bike marked and registered, and want to find out how, then turn to the back page of this newsletter for further details.

Declan Moody, Community Warden for Bracklesham, is keen to get every cyclist to join the scheme. **“We often come across stolen bikes on our patrols and spend a great deal of time trying to find the owners. This scheme will make that job easier, as well as reducing thefts. It costs £3.00 to mark and register your bike and it is well the small charge.”**

What have we achieved so far?



When we sat down to plan our work for 2008, we took the opportunity to think about what we had achieved so far. We believe that our main successes are the reduction in anti-social behaviour and the formation and development of the Selsey Magpies? What do you think? Let us know your views.

SELSEY MAGPIES

The formation of the Selsey Magpies has proved rewarding for both the children and adults involved and the local community. The Magpies have not only helped to keep Selsey clean and tidy through regular litter picks, but have also supported community events including Beachwatch, the Carnival, Fireworks Display and Christmas Lights installation. They even designed a Christmas Light for Selsey High Street.

Currently, the Magpies are working on two major projects at their weekly meetings. The first involves learning how to make a film about the environment with the help of a freelance reporter, Stuart Robinson, and the loan of a camcorder from Chichester District Council. Once completed, we hope to show the film in local schools.

The second project involves designing our float for the Selsey Carnival.

SECURING THE FUTURE

To ensure the Magpies' future growth and to be able to take advantage of grants for community projects, we have set up a committee, constitution and bank account.

This organisation secures the future of the Selsey Magpies. Currently, their work is restricted by the amount of time we can give them; in future the committee of local volunteers will be able to provide them with more time and resources. This means that they will have the freedom to:

- Choose the projects they want to carry out in the community
- Find better funding opportunities
- Grow with the support and commitment from the community

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Chair: Jacqui Averis*/Jason Bream

Vice Chair: Gareth Jones

Secretary: Shirley Brown

Treasurer: Cathy Thomson

Events Co-ordinator: Chris Thomson

Press: Steve Sanders

Committee Member: Trish Greenwood

*Jason will be taking over the chair in September.

If you would like to get involved and support the work of the Selsey Magpies then please call us and let us know how you could help.

REDUCTION IN ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

During the past three years, we have made dealing with anti-social behaviour our top priority. As a result, we now are familiar with all of Selsey's trouble hot spots and the background to many of the issues in these areas.

We have now reached a situation where, instead of getting involved in a situation once it has become a major issue – we are able to nip it in the bud before it escalates. For example, recently we received a complaint about children throwing bricks and immediately responded to the call. We asked the youngsters where they had found the bricks and discovered that they had stolen them. We persuaded them to return the bricks and apologise to the owner. As a result, there haven't been any more problems.

Residents call us because they know that we will take immediate and effective action. This successful partnership, between residents and Community Wardens, has resulted in an overall drop in incidents of anti-social behaviour in Selsey.

2008 Projects Junior Wardens

During our patrols we have been talking with Selsey's teenagers to find out what activities they would like to take part in during the summer.

The most popular idea is for a **DJ workshop** followed by a **Skateboard competition** at the Skate Park. We'll also be organising a clean up operation and supporting Selsey's summer activities including the carnival and SeaSelsey.



BIKE MARKING

In a bid to reduce bike thefts in Selsey, we have launched a local bike marking service. For just £3.00 we can register and mark your bike which will act as deterrent to thieves and ensure that if it does get lost it will be easier for you to reclaim it.

Just call us for further details on how to get your bike marked.

GLASS COLLECTION

Gareth has started the 'Cress Run' at Lapwing Court every two weeks. He will be collecting milk bottle tops and glass from Lapwing's 40 residents, who are very supportive of the scheme.

Reasons to be Cheerful

To celebrate 400 issues, **New Start** magazine, a publication highlighting community regeneration in Britain, compiled a list of the top 400 community projects undertaken in the UK during their 10 years of publication. We're delighted to announce that the magazine listed our **Junior Warden** scheme, twelfth out of the 400 projects. The news appeared in a special issue of the magazine entitled 'Reasons to be Cheerful'. The recognition of our success certainly makes us feel a lot happier!

Helping the elderly to recycle



Despite their age difference, Tyler Sandalls (left) and Sheila Bell (centre), pictured above with Community Warden, Greg Ockwell and Martin Cooke, have one thing in common: they both give up their time on a Saturday to help the Community Wardens recycle glass and collect plastic milk bottle tops to raise money for the Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice.

Helping the more vulnerable members of our District is one of the key roles of the Community Wardens. That's why the Chichester based team jumped at the chance to work with St Paul's Church Eco-congregation group, on a project to collect and recycle glass and milk bottle tops from local residential centres and nursing homes.

Martin Cook, St Paul's Recycling Co-ordinator, had visited several residential

homes in Chichester and asked if residents would like to raise money for the Chestnut Children's Hospice, by collecting plastic milk bottle tops. Their answer was a resounding, 'yes'. The question was how to make the collections happen? That's when Chichester District Council's Community Wardens stepped in and volunteered to run the scheme with the help of teenage volunteers.

WORKING TOGETHER

The Wardens realised that many elderly residents at these centres would like to recycle more of their rubbish but were not able to get out to the community recycling centres. As Sheila Bell, a resident of Joys Croft Court explains,

"When we heard about how recycling our milk bottle tops can help the Children's Hospice, we all wanted to join in, as well as do something for the environment. However, it's too far for a lot of the residents here to get to the collection points or bottle banks. Without the Wardens and the youngsters' support, our glass and plastic milk bottle tops would go into the landfill sites with the rest of our rubbish."



Teenagers, Tyler Sandalls and Grant Powell, help the Wardens collect the glass and milk bottle tops and take them to the recycling centres. Community Warden, Greg Ockwell, enjoys working on a project that shows youngsters in a positive light and helps the environment:

"As Community Wardens, we spend so much of our time picking up broken glass from public areas, particularly play areas, we are happy to do anything we can to safely dispose of glass and reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill sites.

We take the glass to the bottle banks where Tyler and Grant sort out the different coloured glass and putting them in the appropriate containers. The bottle tops we take to St Paul's Church collection point in Chichester."

YOU CAN HELP TOO!

If you would like to recycle milk bottle tops for the Children's Hospice and you live in the Chichester area, then you can take them to St Paul's Church located on the Northgate roundabout, opposite the Fire Station. St Paul's has a collection point in its car park - the only collection point for milk bottle tops to be found in West Sussex.

Please ensure that you remove any card from inside the bottle top and wash it thoroughly before recycling.



WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RECYCLED BOTTLE TOPS?

The plastic tops are sent to GHS Recycling in Portsmouth where they are granulated (chopped into tiny pieces) and then sent to be made into more bottle tops or hard plastic toys for children. GHS Recycling pay for the milk bottle tops and this money is donated to the Children's Hospice.



WHAT A LOT OF BOTTLES!

So far, the Wardens have collected and recycled over a ton of milk bottle tops, nearly 3,500 glass bottles and 1,287 glass jars, and raised £50.00 for the Chestnut Tree Hospice.

Martin Cook, is convinced that the project would not have happened without the support of the Community Wardens: "I've been impressed by how willing they have been to support CRESS and take it to the next level by involving the youngsters. Without their interest the scheme wouldn't have got off the ground."



COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

This year, the recycling scheme - nicknamed CRESS (Chichester Recycling Excess Saturday Scheme) is set to expand to each of the Wardens' areas, starting in Selsey.