

Junior Wardens' Success

The Junior Wardens continue grow from strength to strength. Just to remind you, here are a few of their success stories during 2007.

Make the Commitment - working together with West Sussex County Council, Tangmere Primary School and Chichester District Council, we campaigned through the summer for safer driving on the streets of Tangmere. The Junior Wardens carried out a survey of road signs, parking problems and suitable locations for safety messages. We followed this

Celebration Day - Tangmere's Junior Wardens joined forces with the Juniors from Chichester and Selsey to spend a few fun filled days at the Festival Theatre's art and crafts workshop, making dolphins, jellyfish and banners to carry in the parade. Their colourful creatures made a wonderful contribution to the day's celebrations.



up by running a poster competition at the school for all of the pupils to enter to raise awareness of road safety issues.

At Tangmere's Celebration Day, we announced the poster winner and asked residents to sign a declaration to Make the Commitment to slow down and drive safely. We managed to collect about 100 signatures! The road signs are now on display in Tangmere and we are working on the next stage of the project. The children are designing a banner which will be displayed on Meadow Way.

Bonfire Night Safety

In December, ten Junior Wardens, ranging in age from 9 -11 years old, demonstrated the range of work they carry out and the skills they have acquired since becoming Junior Wardens to their fellow pupils at an assembly at Tangmere Primary School.

At the end of the assembly, Councillor Derek James, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety at Chichester District Council, presented each of the youngsters with a book token, in recognition of their hard work and for the posters they had created to highlight Halloween and Bonfire Night safety.

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.

“ Sue and Carol (not forgetting Declan) have made a huge difference to our community by being a contact who we know - not a faceless person on the other end of a phone miles away. They have helped to clear abandoned cars, fly tipping and encouraged the Junior Wardens to be vigilant in reporting damage, litter and graffiti. We couldn't do without them and hope they will be with us for many years to come. ”

John and Betty Rudkin

“ Our involvement at Tangmere Primary School with our local Community Wardens (Sue and Carol) continues to develop in a very positive way. Since their posts were created we have had regular contact and communication with them so that many problems that affect the community, which were once beyond the community budget, are now being addressed.

The children in our school have had the opportunity to become actively involved - with a number of them becoming Junior Wardens. They meet weekly with the Community Wardens and work on ways to improve life in Tangmere. This work has led to a rise in self esteem for children who would not have had a chance to become active in caring for life in the community.

The work of the Junior and Community Wardens has also extended into many other aspects of village life, including village clean-up days, Village Celebration day as well as helping to be the “eyes and ears” of their friends and neighbours in a most constructive way. We look forward to a continued and productive relationship with our Community Wardens! ”

Hugh Parsons, Deputy Headteacher, Tangmere Primary School

“ Oving has found the wardens to be valuable members of our community providing a great service on behalf of all residents. They are wealth of information on a whole range of subjects and always a first port of call with any anti-social issues and solutions.

Rod Hague, Oving Parish Council



TRACTOR & BIKE THEFT

You may have read in the newspapers about the recent increase in tractor and plant machinery thefts. Tractor theft in the UK now totals £3 million and according to newspaper reports, many of the vehicles are stolen to order.



The crimewave affects most counties across rural Britain including the Chichester District. Since August 2007, there have been 29 thefts of tractors, diggers, ride-on mowers and plant machinery. The thieves are cutting through gates to allow loaders to enter and pick up the machinery, where it is then smuggled abroad.

Lead Theft

Across the country, lead theft is currently spiralling out of control and with the cost of lead set to remain at record highs, the problem shows no sign of going away soon.

Since October, there have been 16 thefts in our area, mainly from schools and churches.

If you spot anything suspicious in your neighbourhood, please contact both the police, and then us, so that we can respond immediately to your call.

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. Read the questions and answers below for further advice.

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.



OVING & TANGMERE
Call Carol on: **07768 210358**
Call Sue on: **07768 202356**
www.ovingwardens.org.uk

HOME DELIVERY

If you have email access and would like to receive our newsletter electronically just visit one of our websites: www.ovingwardens.co.uk, www.tangmerewardens.co.uk and click on the newsletter button.

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 started to plan our work for 2008, we took the opportunity to look back over 2007 and think about what we had achieved. Here is our list of what we consider to be our top three success stories – what do you think? Let us know your views.

MOTORBIKE NUISANCE

During 2006-07, motorbike nuisance topped our list of anti-social behaviour incidents in the area. Many residents complained about the noise and the dangers of these vehicles, which ranged in size from 50cc mini-motos, to large Kawasaki monsters, tearing around the village and on the airfield.

By working together with our PCSO, we achieved great success by issuing Section 59s, which warned of seizure of the vehicle by the police. We backed this up with regular patrols, handed out information leaflets and advised riders about where they should ride their bikes safely.

Recently, due to an open gate on the airfield, the problem resurfaced; but we are pleased to report that West Sussex County Council have supported our community by installing an electronic barrier to keep out unauthorised vehicles to the airfield.

As a result, Sunday afternoons are much more peaceful in the area.

FLY TIPPING

Fly tipping continues to blight the beautiful country lanes around Oving and Colworth. Recently, we discovered entire bathroom suites and kitchens that had been ripped out and dumped in our neighbourhood. As we regularly patrol these areas, we have been able to get the rubbish removed in double quick time. This avoids the problem of people adding to the fly tipping and keeps the rural areas clean and tidy. We have also been working closely with the District Council's Environmental Health Officers, who have installed CCTV cameras at regular fly tipping hotspots to help us catch the offenders.

JUNIOR WARDENS

We are very proud of our Junior Wardens and the contribution they make to our community. Seeing them out in the neighbourhood, picking up litter and cleaning the bus shelters during their own time, makes us feel hopeful for the future of the village. It's fantastic that these young people are prepared to work towards making their village safe and clean – it puts many adults to shame!

We're not the only ones who recognise our successful Junior Wardens. Last year, the scheme won a national award – the government's Respect Award. Since then, we've hosted visits from several other Warden Schemes from across the South who wanted to find out more about why our scheme works. Recently, the Wokingham Wardens came to see our Junior Warden in action and find out how we link our activities to the National Curriculum. We've also had phone calls from as far as Bridlington, in the north of England, asking for help in setting up their own Junior Warden scheme.

2008 Projects Junior Wardens

This year, the Junior Wardens will be concentrating on health and wellbeing - particularly how food affects the body and the impact of food miles on the environment. These subjects form part of the National Curriculum. They will be visiting Chichester's Farmers' Market and learning about local food.



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."