

Welcome to our 20th Edition of the South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre newsletter.

Transform Neighbourhood Management Young Advisors in Ilfracombe

by Julia Turner, Project Administrator, Transform North-Devon

Local teenagers Danni and Tristan both aged 15, appeared in the controversial nothing-to-do film, Teenage Kicks commissioned by Transform and for the first time felt that they were being listened to. They subsequently spent a week on work experience at the Transform office in Ilfracombe gaining confidence and getting behind the scenes with the local Neighbourhood Management Programme.



Danni and Tristan with Transform Deputy Manager Rory McDonald

The Teenage Kicks film was shown to local dignitaries, politicians, councillors, businessmen and the press and as a direct result of the film the Young Advisor scheme was set up in the area. Danni and Tristan became North Devon's first Young Advisors. This is an exciting project aimed at breaking down barriers between young people and adults who run services. The scheme provides young people aged 16-21 with skills to begin to influence changes in their areas and to develop a role in decision making.

A further 5 young people from the area were recruited and followed an intensive 10 week training course including residential courses in Essex and Chester. This has helped them build on their confidence and self-esteem and has enabled them to communicate and consult with local authorities on community affairs.

They are now qualified as young consultants and will be working with the District Council, Police, County Council and Town Council.



Young Advisors with Transform Deputy Manager Rory McDonald and Neighbourhood Warden Helen Frisby.

The Young Advisors accompanied by local councillors visited Westminster and the Department of Communities and Local Government. They had the opportunity to meet and question ministers and the local MP on the lack of provision for the youth of North Devon. They have met with the executives of Devon District Council and have consulted with North Devon District Council on improving recreational facilities for young people in the area.

The primary role of the Young Advisors will be to act as good role models, to encourage a two-way understanding between adults and young people and to empower youths in the area to make a positive contribution to the community. New Young Advisors are due to be recruited in September and the current Young Advisors will help train others to eventually take over their roles.

Many thanks to Julia and the team at Transform for this interesting article. If you would like more information on setting up a Young Advisors programme please contact Sue or Lynn at the resource centre. We are able to provide information and advice on setting up a scheme and Lynn is now able to run the Young Advisor Training Programme.

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Congratulations to:

Helen Frisby, Neighbourhood Warden, Transform North Devon
And
Nick Brock, Lead Neighbourhood Warden, Swindon

On successfully completing their Community Warden NVQ.

Well done Helen and Nick!



Exeter City Council Community Day

Written by Bob Denford, Senior Patroller

We had a really good community day on the 24 August; the weather was kind to us and a steady amount of people turned out to support the event. Also attending were the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service, Age Concern and Youth Workers.



We had a Bouncy Castle and Face Painters as well as an artist and not to forget our usual penalty shoot out, which was very popular as always. The day went well and was worth all the hard work organising it to make it a success.



National Neighbourhood Management Network Awards 2007.

These awards are to recognise the hard work of individuals and groups working in the community.

The award categories are:
Neighbourhood Management Team of the year
Community Volunteer of the year
Cleaner and Greener Innovation Award
Community-led- Crime and Safety Initiative
Neighbourhood Entrepreneur Award

All awards will be judged on
Innovation, Partnership Working, Resident Engagement, Impact

For an application form or more information please contact the neighbourhood management team on info@neighbourhoodmanagement.net

The deadline for applications is Monday 24 September at 5pm.
If you would like help with your application, please contact Lynn on 01793 464003.

Boscombe & Springbourne

Summer Junior Wardens Scheme

Written by Hannah Beech, Neighbourhood Warden

This summer the Boscombe and Springbourne Neighbourhood Wardens put together a six week Junior Wardens programme to work alongside the Teddies Learning Centre who are based on Somerset Road in Boscombe. The content was aimed at educating the children in a fun and informative way in a variety of topics.

Teddies Learning Centre works with many families from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and a high percentage of low income families. The activities consisted of a mixture of safety, environmental and local history issues and activities.

The children were aged between 5 and 13 years of age and visited the centre either on the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday depending on the age group.

The activities included: street monitoring, litter picks, recycling games, visits to the police station, visit from a fire engine crew where they could have a go with hoses etc, visit to street wise, nature and history walks, word searches and quizzes.



The Wardens worked with over 40 children and built up some very positive relationships which should hopefully prove beneficial when meeting these young people out and about on the street in the future.

Evaluations were done at the end of each day to establish what the young people had learned. The evaluations took the form of large sheets of paper where the children had to draw or write down what that had done and enjoyed that day.

The results showed that they enjoyed all the activities and were keen to take part in all of them, with surprisingly the litter picks being the most popular.



Swindon Neighbourhood Wardens

Summer Activities

By Joan Wood, Lead Warden

In the month of August the neighbourhood wardens of Parks and Walcot have been carrying out summer activities with the children of these areas.



It was all happening on a Monday and a Wednesday afternoon between the times of 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

On Mondays children aged between 5 and 10yrs did crafts, football and basketball in the Walcot Dome community centre.

On Wednesday afternoons children from the age of 11 - 14yrs played football in Buckhurst Park.



The neighbourhood wardens and children ended the summer activities with a BBQ funded by Swindon Borough Council on 31st August.



On the day of the BBQ the children did a litter pick around the community centre and on Buckhurst Park. The fire brigade came along with two of their trucks and the PCSO's came with a police car. Great Fun !



“Getting to know you”

Name : Joanne Brain

Scheme: Bath & North East Somerset Community Warden

Job Title: Community Warden for Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Westfield.

Length of Service: 3 Years

What do you like about your job?

The freedom to be outside, talking with the community, helping resolve issues and generally being aware of what is happening in our area.

Is there anything you don't enjoy about your job? The weather sometimes.

What takes up most of your day?

It varies, some weeks we have quite a few meetings with other agencies and the police, but mainly we drive or walk our area interacting with the community. My colleague, Gerry Kelly and I also cover the dog warden's job when she is on leave, and that is a very busy role, which is quite demanding and stressful.

What would you like to be more involved with?

Enforcement, although we are supposed to be non confrontational, I particularly have a problem with dog owners not clearing up their dog mess and litter.

Any Tips? Never promise to do something and then you don't do it – as people lose faith in you.



Any advice to a new starter?

Attend as many courses as possible, listen to the people who know and have the experience. Go with your 'gut feeling and intuition. It's always works for me.

What have you learned from your job?

Expect the unexpected, I did not realise the amount of different issues that crop up within our communities, and with experience gained you can handle most situations.

Any Hobbies or Interests?

I like watching my son Alex play football: he is captain of our local team Radstock Town, and football in general, Bristol Rovers & Liverpool.

Favourite Book? Never been a passion of mine, prefer magazines.

Favourite Film? Pretty Woman, watched it many times, and never get bored with it.

Favourite Food? Sunday roast dinner.. preferably NOT cooked by me!

Memorable Holiday? Corfu, before we had the children.

Best Moment in Life? Childbirth, although you would not think so at the time.

Regional Network Meetings

Next Meeting: Friday 14 September at Taunton Rugby Club at 11.30 am

Christmas Get Together: Friday 14 December at Taunton Rugby Club

For further details of these meetings, or to add an item to the agenda, please contact Barbara on 01793 464006

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Those of you with sharp eyes will have noticed our new logo. To reflect the fact that we don't just work with wardens, we have changed our name to South West Neighbourhood Training & Resource Centre. But be assured this will not affect the work we are doing with you!

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