



South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre

“For Excellence in Neighbourhoods”

October 2009
Edition 31
FOI No. 237

Welcome to our November newsletter. Please remember to give us your feedback about what you would like to see in future editions. Your articles are also very welcome.

Neighbourhoods Now Conference



The South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre, together with the South West Warden’s network held their regional conference in Torquay on 30 September 2009.

We were thrilled at the number of people from across the region who attended and the event was virtually fully booked (actually I think we might have sneaked in a few extra bodies).

The main purpose of the event was to give our warden schemes the opportunity to highlight the fantastic work they are doing in our communities and to demonstrate how they have been able to diversify their roles and add value – something that is going to be very important to all of us in the current climate.

We were very pleased to have Torbay Mayor, Nick Bye open the event, closely followed by Bryony Holden, Chief Executive of South West Councils. Both Nick and Bryony were full of praise for the work of our wardens.



Torbay Mayor,
Nick Bye



Tara Fowler

Several of our schemes took part in the event. Tara Fowler from Torbay and Nick Brain from Forest of Dean both did presentations on the value and diversity of the work that their schemes are involved in.

Sara Brown and Vicki Rooke from the South Ward Neighbourhood Management Team in Weston super Mare held a very informative workshop showing how they measure the success of their programme and the neighbourhood wardens.



The "What a Difference" workshop

Stroud Lead Warden Ashley Nicholson ran an interactive workshop on how his team have become a key resource for emergency planning. Everyone seemed to be having fun during the session which involved a board game and the chance to win chocolate.

Resource Centre Manager, Mark Walker delivered a session on adapting to change using the analogy of the Titanic's fateful journey to consider the implications of us not adapting to the current economic climate.



Mark Walker takes us for a trip on the Titanic

We were also delighted to have support from our colleagues in the Police and Fire Services.

Mark Evans from Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service spoke about the Salamander Project which works with young people to give them new skills and reduce anti-social behaviour. His presentation generated quite a bit of interest and was certainly one of the topics of conversation at our lunch table.

Chief Inspector Andrew Tomlinson from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary teamed up with Peter Haysted from the National Police Improvement Agency to talk about neighbourhood policing from both a local and a national perspective.

We are also very grateful to Sarah Pengelly and the staff and residents of the Shekinah Mission in Torquay who hosted a very informative visit to their new hostel in the town centre. This was the first time we'd attempted to take people for an off site visit during a conference and we were grateful to Torbay Wardens Sue Smith and Kevin Dinnacombe for looking after everyone during the visits.

We had some excellent feedback from the event. One delegate even commented that it was the best conference she had attended because the presenters "spoke from the heart". We thought that was a lovely tribute and that it really sums up the professionalism and dedication of our wardens throughout the region.

If you missed the event, or would like to look again at any of the presentation, there is a link to each session on our website www.swresourcecentre.org.uk/eventsandconferences

Resource Centre News

By Lynn Jarvie, Resource Centre Training Officer

Life at the Resource Centre is now getting back to normal after the conference. Although it was a very hectic time for us, it was great fun to do and we would like to once again thank everyone who helped us by presenting, running workshops and generally helping out on the day. I'd like to say a big thank you to Shane and James from Weston, and to Nick from Cheltenham Borough Homes for volunteering (or in Shane's case, being volunteered!) to help with the Restorative Approaches session at short notice.

We had a few worrying moments:

Nick Brain from Forest of Dean got a throat infection and was unable to speak on the Monday. We are very grateful to Chris Acock from Stroud for preparing a session just in case Nick didn't recover in time. However, anyone who knows Nick, will know that he never misses a chance to take to the stage and fortunately he recovered in time for his session on Wednesday afternoon.

On the day, our biggest concern was when we heard Mark Walker's train was running late. I had everything crossed that I wasn't going to have to cover his session. Anyone who knows me will know that I'm happy to wing most things, but Mark's presentation - consisting of several quotes about change and some photos of the Titanic, with no accompanying notes - would have been a step too far even for me!

Following the conference we have been encouraged to have had several enquiries from people interested in finding out more about how to go about setting up a warden scheme.

Finally I would like to say a special big thank you to Mathew, our administrator, for all his hard work. Mathew went above and beyond the call of duty and cancelled his leave to help us out when things got a bit more hectic than anticipated!

September was a busy month all round, with 9 wardens completing their NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Warden Core Training, 7 new candidates being enrolled for the City & Guilds Level 2 Community Warden NVQ and 3 new candidates starting their NVQ Assessors (A1) qualification. The Core Training certificates have just arrived on my desk, so hopefully by the time this newsletter goes out, all the successful candidates will have received them – postal strikes permitting!

We have also just completed an accredited Restorative Approaches course for 11 delegates from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and will be doing some more Community Engagement training with the Magistrates' Service in a couple of weeks.

We are now looking forward to some exciting work with community volunteers in Swindon and are planning some roadshows around the region to take place early next year. Watch this space!

The Latest From Plymouth Wardens

Titchy Park Fun Day is a Roaring Success

By Donna Milne, Neighbourhood Warden

Over 200 residents enjoyed a fun day held in Titchy Park, North Prospect, in September. The fun day was organised by local resident Barry Wilkins and the Friends of Titchy Park Community Group, Neighbourhood Management Team including our wardens and had help from North Prospect Partnership too.

The aim of the event was to entice local families back into Titchy Park and to consult residents on the children's play area within the park.

Barry and warden Alex Thomas visited other parks in Plymouth and took photos of the play equipment available. Residents were then able to vote for their preferred option.

The day had many attractions such as dancing, acrobatics from the Black Eagles, a bouncy castle, fancy dress and face painting. Local children joined in and learned to limbo. Luckily the weather held out and added to the great atmosphere.



Acrobatics added to the fun of the day

Neighbourhood Management and the Friends of Titchy Park are currently talking with contractors to get plans drawn up for the play equipment chosen on the fun day. The play equipment is likely to be installed in two phases and local residents will be consulted as much as possible during the process.

The new children's play area will make the park a step closer to becoming a thriving family orientated community space that can be enjoyed by all.

Renovation of Street Planters

By Shaun Roseveare, Neighbourhood Warden

The residents of St Mary Street, Stonehouse and the neighbourhood wardens have been working on improving street planters in the area. Residents have shown a very keen interest in replanting them to make the area look more attractive and to discourage people from using them as bins.

Shaun Roseveare, the local warden arranged for the Community Payback Scheme to help with the labour and Groundwork South West provided an experienced conservationist gardener who advised us on how to go about the replanting.

Over 2 days the wardens, Community Payback Scheme helpers and Groundwork dug out the planters removing, hazardous items, waste, weeds and dead plants. We then dug over the remaining earth and laid a good depth of compost. A group of residents then planted bulbs and plants which we obtained with the help of our parks department. These residents have now taken ownership of the planters and will be looking after them from now on.

This work has significantly improved the area, made it a more pleasing sight for residents when walking around and looking out of their windows.

From getting to know the residents, wardens have also found local people who are very keen to set up some kind of Residents Association, to further help and improve the area, which suffers from ASB, fly tipping and drug and alcohol related issues.

Swindon Warden News
By Lead Wardens Nick Brock and Joan Woods

Wardens Help Youngsters to Duke of Edinburgh Award



Dave Pestana and Nick Brock have been working with local youngsters in Ruskin Avenue in Upper Stratton. These five young lads were on the last part of their Duke Of Edinburgh Award in which they had to do some positive work towards their local environment.

The youngsters contacted the wardens to see if they could arrange for them work with them, and of course the wardens were more than happy to help. The boys all worked hard clearing rubbish from the area around Ruskin Avenue and have now all fully achieved their awards. Nick said, when we were asked, we were only to pleased to be involved and it was great to see local youngsters doing something positive to the area they live.

Wardens In Tune with Radio Wiltshire

Swindon Wardens Rob Stygall, Trevor Cole, and Nick Brock recently spent a day with a reporter from BBC radio Wiltshire who was eager to see and hear what we get up to. The reporter spent several hours with us and put together an item which was broadcast on the Radio Wiltshire Breakfast show.



Media stars - Trevor and Rob

During the visit we talked to the head teacher and two of the pupils from Ruskin Primary school in Upper Stratton about the work Trevor and Rob have done to help pupils through their cycling proficiency test. The Head was full of praise for the Wardens, and how they make a difference to the safety of her pupils - not just with the cycling, but also about dangers they might come across in the local environment and what they should do to keep themselves safe.

Trevor and Rob also removed some fly tip from a tenants garden, The tenant told the reported that she was very proud of her Wardens who have helped support her and the community in lots of different ways. Thankfully Nick did not break into song during the visit so the eardrums of Radio Wiltshire listeners (and his colleagues) were safe!

New Neighbourhood Warden Shop in Walcot

The neighbourhood wardens will soon be opening the doors of their new shop at 12 Sussex Square. The shop will provide somewhere for tenants and lease holders to pop in have a friendly chat, raise any concerns or issues they may have and perhaps even have a cuppa while they're at it.

Here you can see wardens Ian and Terry painting it ready for business.



W
I
L
T
S
H
I
R
E
R
E
S
T
O
R
E

W
a
r
d
e
n
s

R
e
c
o
r
d
s

U
p

Torbay Wardens Update By Senior Warden Pam Wood

JSW Crew Raise Money for RNLI



JSW Crew



Shaun the Sheep - Torbay Style

The TORBAY Junior Street Wardens have had a successful summer despite the inclement weather!!

They have been out washing cars and have completed a 5 mile sponsored walk to raise money for the RNLI, their chosen charity this year.

This is the second year that the Junior Wardens have chosen a charity to benefit from their fund raising - last year was the Devon Air Ambulance. The team have found that it is easier to raise money from bag packing, car washing etc when customers know half will be going to a local cause.

During the holidays, the junior wardens have also helped tidy several older persons gardens and served coffee and cakes at local coffee mornings. There were also lots of fun activities too, if you attended the recent Conference in Torquay might of spotted a sheep or two, all made by the juniors from recycled carrier bags to promote recycling. The youngsters also did a spot of crabbing and entered in the annual raft race in Brixham.

All in all a busy 6 weeks of activity!!

Torbay Take Action on Begging

A new partnership initiative is underway to help tackle street begging and related anti-social behaviour issues. Torbay Council (Safer Communities, Street Wardens, CCTV, Legal Services) Police and Shekinah Mission are working together to tackle street begging using anti-social behaviour enforcement powers.

The partners will be working with local communities and retailers to identify and warn continual offenders and consider enforcement action if their begging is persistent. Leaflets and posters will be available to encourage those who have been affected by begging or anti- social behaviour to report it.

This initiative will send out a clear message that street begging is not acceptable in the Bay and action will be taken. Begging is a criminal offence which can intimidate the public, leading to a disproportionate fear of crime. Research shows that two- thirds of people resent being approached by people begging for money and more than half of the public will not use a cash machine with a beggar next to it.

The scheme aims to make it easier for us to identify repeat offenders and deal with the associated anti – social behaviour to the satisfaction of the community.

Exeter Patrollers Report
By Bob Denford, Senior Patroller

First of all I would like to say how much we enjoyed the conference at Torquay. It was nice to see all the other Wardens and exchange ideas, and better still to see the wardens input to the conference. This is what it should be all about, and what a good job they did on the day!



Around this time of the year we work closely with the police and fire brigade to organise an event for Halloween. It's called football Spooktacular and is aimed at under 18's boys and girls. Teams are made up of 5 players and play each other in a league format.

Bernie and myself are too old these days to play so we assist by being referees for the day and help run the event which is supported by a number of sponsors including Heart FM radio station.

The event took place on Sunday 24 October and it went very well. We had 30 teams playing which was nearly 200 youths taking part, Bernie said he was the best referee and I was the one doing the running around keeping the score and organising the next match. Everyone who took part was presented with medals and tee shirts.

South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre – examples of our training programmes

Accredited Training Programmes

- NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Warden Core Training
- NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Restorative Approaches
- Level 2 NVQ for Community Wardens (City & Guilds)
- NVQ Assessor (A1) award (City & Guilds)
- City & Guilds Certificate in Conflict Management
- City & Guilds Certificate for Community Safety Accredited Persons

Non-Accredited Programmes

We offer a range of non-accredited programmes including:

- Community Engagement
- Community Cohesion
- Introduction to Mentoring
- Partnership Working
- Presentation Skills
- Report Writing
- Team Building

In addition, we can design training to meet individual needs. Please contact any of the Resource Centre staff for further information.

Stroud Neighbourhood Wardens
By Chris Acock, Lead Neighbourhood Warden

Partnership working to bring pedal power to the community

Stroud Wardens Pete Glead and Dan Barker have recently been helping The Bike Shed at the GL11 Community Project in Cam.

The project collects unwanted cycles from around the region and refurbishes them before selling them for a nominal fee to local people who would not otherwise be able to afford to a bike.



A few of the 21 bikes collected by Pete and Dan

The wardens helped the project with a recent publicity campaign requesting donations from members of the public. Dan and Pete then collected 21 bikes from across the district which are now being repaired and refurbished, ready to go to their new owners.

Wardens help prevent under age drinking

PC Jaime Simner from Gloucestershire police recently organised a “Don’t buy for under 18s” campaign alongside the Cam branch of Tesco.



Dan Barker promotes alcohol awareness

Neighbourhood warden Dan Barker went along to help with the event which aimed to raise the awareness of issues such as anti-social behaviour related to underage drinking. Dan helped to interview young people on their drinking habits and also surveyed adults about whether or not they had been approached to buy alcohol and other age restricted goods.

As part of Alcohol Awareness week the wardens also gave talks to local youth groups about the problems caused by drinking as well and set up stands across the district where they could discuss alcohol related issues with local people and seek to gather intelligence about how young people were obtaining alcohol.

Wardens can be volunteers too

Not content with working for the community in their day job, Pete Glead and Dan Barker recently spent a day doing clearance work on the Cotswold Canal project.

The project aims to re-open a section of canal linking the Rivers Thames and Severn. The canal has been closed for over 50 years so a lot of work is required to get it ready to re-open.



Working on the canal by the Council Offices at Ebley Mill

Dan and Pete spent an energetic day clearing the banks which were very overgrown in places.

News Round Up

Next Regional Wardens Network Meeting:

Friday 27 November 2009
At Ebley Mill Stroud
From 10.30am – 3pm

Please confirm attendance to Mathew by Friday 20 November.

Many thanks to the team in Stroud for offering to host this meeting.

If anyone is interested in attending any of our network meetings, please contact a member of the Resource Centre staff. You will be very welcome!

A fond farewell to:

Pete Gammon, Neighbourhood Warden and Rory MacDonald, Deputy Neighbourhood Manager, Transform North Devon and Alex Thomas, Neighbourhood Warden, Plymouth

We would like to wish Pete, Rory and Alex all the very best in their new roles.

Congratulations to:



Cherif Benkanoun (Transform, North Devon), Ollie Cross, Donna Milne and Ehsan Rastaghi (Plymouth) Phil Drew, Debbie Miles and Tracy Young (Stroud) and Jamie Fortune and Lindsay Gatley (Torbay) on completing their NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Warden Core Training.

And a warm welcome to:

Plymouth Warden Donna Milne, who has been successful in her application to be Alex's successor!
and
Debbie Miles, Community Safety Manager, Stroud who is covering for Paul Helbrow while he's on secondment to Gloucester City Council.

Well done

to Stroud Lead Warden Ashley Nicholson who recently completed the Leicester Marathon in a time of 5 hours 30 minutes despite not having done any training for the event (or so he tells us!)

Contact details

Recourse Centre website

www.swresourcecentre.org.uk

Resource Centre email

Swresourcecentre@swindon.gov.uk

Training officer: Lynn Jarvie

Ljarvie@swindon.gov.uk

01793 464003

Development officer: Sue Stevens

Sstevens@swindon.gov.uk

01793 464006

Administrator: Mathew Randall

mrandall2@swindon.gov.uk

01793 464001