



South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre

“For Excellence in Neighbourhoods”

October 2008
Edition
FOI No. 237

Hello! and welcome to our October 2008 newsletter. Thanks to everyone who sent us articles – remember its your newsletter, so if there is something you want to share, make sure you tell us!

National Warden Conference 2008

The Conference, sponsored by New Start Magazine is being held at Austin Court, Birmingham on Tuesday 28 October. The South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre will be running a workshop on Innovation and Added Value with a bit of help from Torbay, Stroud and Swindon warden schemes.

Places can be booked at www.wardens08.co.uk/register. We look forward to seeing you there.

South West Wardens in Running for National Awards

We are very proud that two members of our excellent Warden Team in the South West have made the final of the National Warden Awards.

The top two nominations in each category have been selected by a panel of judges and will now go to a public vote. The awards will be presented at the Warden National Conference, sponsored by New Start magazine, which is being held in Birmingham on 28 October.

Our Nominees are:

Sue Smith, Warden, Torbay Council for Supporting Vulnerable People

Chris Acock, Lead Warden, Stroud District Council for Creating Sustainable Communities

Please support Sue and Chris by voting for them at:

www.wardens08.co.uk/awards

The closing date for votes is 21 October.

Roadshows

Have you booked onto one of our:
Empowering Citizens and Communities South West Roadshows yet?

Places are still available on these events and are free of charge.

Cornwall – 22 October, Wadebridge
Devon – 23 October, Plymouth
Dorset – 6 November, Bovington
Gloucestershire 19 November, Cheltenham
Bristol, Somerset & Avon – 4 December, Bristol

These are just a few comments made by delegates from our first event:

“Interesting subjects/topics – good range of speakers.”

“Very useful information.”

“I enjoyed this and found it useful. The length was good as was the change of speakers.”

The South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre has worked closely with Sue and Chris over the past 4 years and fully endorses their nominations.

Sue Smith

Sue, who has been a warden for 5 years, works tirelessly to help people with drug and alcohol dependency and homelessness problems in Torbay. This includes making around 25 referrals a month to help people with housing and benefit needs and arranging for people to have some furniture and home comforts to set them up in their new homes.

By helping people access the help they need, Sue aims to reduce their risk of re-offending.



Swindon Borough Council Chief Exec Gavin Jones presents Sue with her Community Warden NVQ Certificate at our 2007 Regional Conference

Chris Acock



Chris Acock,
Lead Warden, Stroud

Chris has been nominated for all the work he does in Berkeley, Sharpness and the surrounding area of Gloucestershire.

This is a rural community where support for vulnerable people and access to services is key and Chris has built up excellent relationships with local organisations, and residents who have difficulty accessing services. He was nominated for a whole range of work that he has done for his community.

Two recent examples are his work with local traders to develop a good trader agreement aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in the area and the help he gave a local resident who was the victim of escalating anti-social behaviour. This resident was at the point of leaving her home before Chris intervened in the situation, enabling her once again to feel safe in her own home.

EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES SOUTH WEST ROADSHOWS

You may remember from our August newsletter that the Resource Centre ran the first of our “Empowering Citizens and Communities” roadshows in Wiltshire.

We now have dates and venues for the other regional events. These are:

Cornwall	22 October	The Royal Cornwall Pavilion Centre, Wadebridge
Devon	23 October	The National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth
Dorset	6 November	The Tank Museum, Bovington
Gloucestershire	19 November	Cheltenham Racecourse
Bristol	4 December	The Arnolfini, Narrow Quay, Bristol

These roadshows are being held to highlight the importance of bringing Government closer to people, passing power from Whitehall to local councils and direct to local communities. The purpose of the events is to enable delegates to:

- Gain an overview of Government policy and the implications to local authorities and community organisations - Government White Paper on Community Empowerment : Communities in Control and the Duty to Involve
- Learn from examples of innovative best practice around the region from both a rural and urban perspective
- Listen to local residents talk about challenges and achievements made within their communities and how these met National Indicators
- Listen to how Government agencies can support you with your delivery plan
- Hear about engagement and empowerment training & development opportunities for those who live, work and manage in communities

Feedback from our Wiltshire event was very positive and we are really looking forward to hosting these events throughout our region.

Remember, the event is free to attend, and will be of interest to anyone with a remit for consulting and engaging with the communities in which they work.

Booking forms are available on our website –
www.swresourcecentre.org.uk/eventsandconferences or for further information, please contact any member of the Resource Centre Team.

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

BY LYNN JARVIE, TRAINING OFFICER

So the holiday season is over and we're all suitably refreshed as we huddle over our pcs hoping someone will turn the heating on!

It's a busy time for us at the moment, with the dates for our Regional Roadshows approaching at speed (October seemed a long time away when we first set the dates) and the national warden's conference just round the corner.

After our last regional conference I seem to remember promising myself that next time, instead of doing a workshop I was going to sit back and enjoy other people's efforts. However, I seem to have been stitched up yet again (thanks Sue!) and we will be running a workshop on Innovation and Added Value in the warden service. Not wanting to deprive some of my colleagues of the opportunity to join me in the spotlight, I've also roped in Tara to discuss the exciting work wardens are doing in Torbay and Ashley to look at how Stroud Wardens added value during last year's floods. With a bit of input from Mark about the work going on in Swindon, it should be an interesting session.

I have just completed my British Psychometric Society qualification so Sue and I between us are now able offer a range of personality questionnaires. Between us we are qualified in 16PF and OPQ, two of the leading questionnaires on the market for recruitment, and Myers Briggs Type Indicator for personal development and team building.

We are now putting the final touches to a training package on Restorative Justice Approaches.

This programme is designed to enable community workers to adopt a restorative approach to resolving problems in the community by getting people together to iron out their issues and empowering them to reach a mutually beneficial solution. By resolving issues at an early stage, it is less stressful for residents and less costly in terms of time and resources for organisations to deal with. Look out for details of the Restorative Justice Approaches awareness sessions that we will be organising shortly.

We will soon be confirming dates for Warden Core Training and Enforcement Training, so please make sure we are aware if you are currently recruiting any wardens.

Meanwhile Sue is out and about as usual building relationships with our partners around the region, while Mathew is working hard behind the scenes to keep us in order (I think he has the hardest job of all of us, especially when it comes to trying to keep Mark in order!)

Remember, do give us a ring and talk to us about any of your training needs.

Hopefully we'll see you soon at the national conference or at one of our roadshows.

Swindon Neighbourhood Wardens

By Caroline Henly

Behaviour Improvement Project in North Swindon



Kaine aged 14 spends a day with the wardens

The Neighbourhood Wardens are working with schools across the north of Swindon to help improve the life skills of pupils. The pupils spend the day with the wardens and help them to carry out their day to day tasks including removing graffiti, litter picking and removing fly tipping.

Recently pupils from 2 local schools helped clean up an area of the Pinehurst estate. This enabled them to see first hand how environmental issues can impact on an area.

After their first day with the wardens the pupils commented on how much they had enjoyed helping the community and giving something back to the area where they live.

Parks and Walcot Summer Activities

The school holidays have come and gone again, and the wardens in Parks and Walcot have once again provided a successful range of fun activities for the local youngsters.

Children who wanted to take part first had to earn their place by doing a litter pick in the surrounding area, before being able to take part in sports such as football, dodge ball and baseball, or in a wide range of arts and crafts activities. With a lovely packed lunch thrown in as well, everyone, including the wardens had a great time.

Salamander Project - Wardens help the Fire & Rescue Service

Two of the Neighbourhood Wardens, Joe and Caroline have recently been working with the Fire and Rescue Service to help prevent and deal with Anti-social behaviour amongst young people.

The project was targeted at young people who need help with confidence or behaviour. It gave them the chance to see how the Fire and Rescue Service work and to understand the high level of discipline needed to work in that environment.

The youngsters had to show that they could work in such a disciplined environment, using heavy duty equipment, hoses and ladders. They also had the opportunity to try out other skills needed in the Fire and Rescue Service such as abseiling, fire rescue, water rescue and dealing with traffic accidents.



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Transform – North Devon

By Helen Frisby, Senior Neighbourhood Warden

Inter-generational Work in Action

An exciting piece of work being carried out by the Transform team at the moment is our inter-generational work with schools. Our local museum in Coombe Martin was recently awarded lottery funding to expand into new premises and is also taking this opportunity to expand its outreach work into communities.



Rory and Julie from Transform put their aprons on to join the intergenerational work

The project started with some reminiscence work with older residents and has developed into intergenerational work with older and younger people in the community. Volunteers have been visiting local schools and sharing their experiences with pupils who are learning about World War 2. As well as speaking to the pupils, the volunteers and pupils cook war time recipes to ensure they get a real taste of life during the war.

Wardens Support Domestic Violence Awareness Week

Week commencing 24 November is National Domestic Violence Awareness Week and Helen will be working with North Devon Women's Aid to facilitate an education and awareness day for other agencies in the area.

Violence and abuse can take many forms including isolation and financial control. Traditionally we still have underreporting of the issues surrounding domestic abuse and it is hoped that identifying different types of abuse will raise reporting amongst professionals and ensure that the survivors of this will be able to access services and support.

Healthy Village Event

Transform Neighbourhood Management in partnership with Combe Martin Primary School, Devon Primary Care Trust and North Devon Volunteer Centre hosted a wide range of exciting activities and health awareness events throughout the month of June in Combe Martin.



Transform Wardens in action at the Healthy Village Event

Rural areas have difficulty accessing health services so this event looked at different ways of promoting health initiatives including out-door drop-in clinics offering advice and information on many aspects of health care. Transform Neighbourhood Wardens were on hand to help with questionnaires and activities ranging from Walk & Talks to Tai Chi on the beach. Transform worked with over 36 partners looking at improving access to services and better community engagement for all.

Plymouth Wardens
By Paul Elliott
Community Payback Round Up

Unpaid Work – formally known as Community Punishment, and as Community Service before that, is one of 12 Requirements which offenders may be sentenced to do in the community. It is one of the Probation Service's most successful interventions. Offenders on unpaid work do 40 – 300 hours, generally over a period of a year. Projects range from graffiti removal, ground clearance and repairing playground equipment to bringing derelict areas back into use and painting and decorating community halls.

The Scheme has been running in the Stonehouse area of Plymouth since November 2007. The wardens' role, in addition to promoting the scheme is to work with local residents identifying local priorities for the work that the offenders will undertake. The type of work carried out can vary tremendously, and includes litter picking, graffiti removal, gardening and decorating and painting. Since the scheme was set up 27 jobs have been completed and others are in progress.

It's a Jungle Out There!

There are many legendary wild cats allegedly roaming our countryside – the Beast of Bodmin Moor, possibly being the best known. However, did you know that Plymouth also until recently had its own wildcat – the Puma of Plymouth (well tiger actually, but that doesn't have the same ring to it!).

When the Plymouth Puma was captured by the brave wardens during a recent safe & clean day, he was already in a poor condition and looking somewhat undernourished.

Sadly, local vets were unable to save him. When asked to comment on his condition they concluded that he'd had the stuffing knocked out of him.



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Weston Super Mare
By Vicki Rooke
Month of Action - Action on Tidying Up

September has seen action on tidying up on the Coronation and Potteries estates in Weston super Mare. The South Ward Neighbourhood Management Partnership and the Connect4 Community Wardens began the month with high visibility walkabouts with Police, NS Housing staff, local residents, the Fire Brigade and NSC officers to deal with rubbish, graffiti, vandalism and other environmental issues.

The Month of Action also coincided with The Big Tidy Up campaign run by ENCAMS and local groups such as Brandon Trust and 1st Uphill Scouts took part in litter picks and collected 7 bags of litter across the area. These litter picks were arranged and supported by the Community Wardens.



The SWNMP and the Connect4 Community Wardens have been organising Months of Action for the last 18 months across the 4 estates and over this time the number of issues reported have drastically reduced.

One resident who attends the Coronation coffee morning said 'I have lived on this area for over 40 years and I have never seen it looking so good'.

Ilfracombe Young Advisors Update

Young Advisor Joins Crime Prevention Panel

Nathan Rutherford, who is one of the original group of Young Advisors has recently taken up a seat on the Ilfracombe Crime Prevention Panel.



Young Advisor
Nathan Rutherford

The panel which was started in 1989 and is designed to support local police and who politely describe themselves as mostly of mature years, have been anxious to attract younger members.

The panel support local Neighbourhood Watch, help to deliver crime prevention advice and are a strong lobbying group for issues such as getting CCTV installed around town. Nathan feels that young people are not always aware of the work that the panel was doing and feels that a key part of his role is to ensure that this information reaches the young people of the town, as well as representing the interests of his peers on the

Network Meetings

Many thanks to Tara and her team for hosting the September meeting in Torquay, and especially to Pam and Kevin for providing such an informative tour of the town centre, showcasing the work of the warden team. For one group, the tour was more exciting than planned when a lady fell over in the street and cut her head. Luckily a whole host of wardens were on hand to administer first aid while she waited for the ambulance!

The next meeting will be held on **Friday 5 December at Plymouth** (time and venue to be confirmed). Many thanks to the Plymouth wardens for their kind offer.

Nigel Moore Retires

After three years service with the Stroud Neighbourhood Warden Team, Nigel Moore has retired due to ill health.



Nigel & PCSO at a summer event

In his time with us Nigel has been a very much liked and valued member of the team with a passion for helping the community and for his work with the Duke of Edinburgh awards in his spare time. The team will be keeping in touch with Nigel and recently the community safety team helped with a clear up of his garden with everyone from the head of service to the admin support lending a hand.

Nigel's colleagues in the Stroud Neighbourhood Warden scheme, the South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre and across South West would like to send him their best wishes.

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