

*“For Excellence
in
Neighbourhoods”*



South West Warden Resource Centre

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Hello and welcome to edition 12 of our newsletter packed with articles from schemes around the network. Our thanks are due to everyone who has contributed to this edition. We cordially welcome all delegates attending the Second South West Regional Conference on 28 June in Bournemouth.

Chris to the rescue...

Following recent training Stroud District Council Senior Neighbourhood Warden Chris Acock was able to cover an unusual but a very important role in the community as a "Lolly-Pop Lady".

Sharpness Primary School has had the services of the same crossing lady for 25 years. She is much loved and respected by all and knows all the local children and most of their parents (they were pupils at the same school).

Chris was honoured and a little apprehensive when she was ill and was asked to cover her duties for a week. He is pleased to report that all went well and he has made several new friends. The crossing lady has made a full recovery and is now back on duty.



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Congratulations to Sue Stevens, Lynn Jarvie and Becky Dudley who have passed their City & Guilds Level II in Conflict Management and are now qualified to deliver City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Conflict Management.

Adventures of the Dog Pooh Crew



As some of you are aware, Andrew and I have been in place since August last year. Whilst we

have been very busy since then, we are now concentrating on our biggest initiative yet. A year ago, just before joining the wardens, I was still involved in the selling of beautiful diamonds, now (as will no doubt ring a bell with some of you fellow wardens out there) my life is dominated by Dog Pooh. Who says the life of a warden isn't rich and varied!

Following lots of complaints about 'pooh' from the public and whilst avoiding it constantly when out as 'the feet on the street', it was time for some decisive action. What started as small-scale information and education initiative rapidly became a full-scale action day. Soon we had the District Council and the Dog Wardens on board, along with Ilfracombe Town Council, Police and PCSO's. Additionally, we had great support from Dog Trust and a local Dog Club.

With the help of our Communications Officer, we went all out to promote the action day, which would be the start of an ongoing campaign to highlight the need to be a responsible dog owner and to clear up after your dog.

The poster campaign started around the town with some particularly graphic posters courtesy of Encams. The next step was that we ran a commercial on local radio advertising the day. The idea was to make it a fun and informative day which enticed people out enabling us to 'spread the word' of responsible

ownership. We even managed to get filmed for local television. We have had fantastic support from our local newspaper who agreed to run with the initiative for the next five to six weeks.

The day itself was a great success, the weather being kind to us. We had a face painter, dog groomer and the highlight of the day was the Dog Club who



awarded bronze certificates

for responsible owners. This attracted the crowds and we were able to speak to lots of people about the message of cleaning up. Whilst the day attracted lots of responsible dog owners, the message we were encouraging, is that we need to use peer pressure to spread the message that dog fouling is not acceptable and has implications to ones health.



Louise Round from the Dogs Trust

The people who don't clean up tend to work on the assumption that they will never be caught because no one is a round to catch them. We wanted to let them know that not only are the Dog Wardens and PCSO's around but that the community is watching and enforcement is the next step.

We need to link the message to have pride in our community and what better initiative to carry the clean and safer message.

*Helen Frisby, Neighbourhood Warden,
Transform Neighbourhood Management*

Torbay Junior Warden Recruitment Drive

The wardens have been busy down in sunny Torbay recruiting junior wardens.



It has been exhausting, but the rewards are starting to show. Their involvement with the young community has started to flourish and its impact can only grow.

They have attended schools, held assembly's, had joint litter picks with the schools and RSL's, attended local fetes, community days and had competitions. They also conducted a drawing competition to design stickers to be used at events. The results as you can see are wonderful.



Fun on the Rec, Poole

On Wednesday April 5, the Council laid on a fun day for the residents of Alderney, one of the most deprived areas of Poole and the key area I work in. On the morning over a 100 young people ranging from 3 to 17 years attended the fun day organised by the Borough of Poole, which was a free event to build community engagement.

We had a variety of volunteers for this event from the local churches, Youth services, Rangers team, PCSO's and of course the wardens. The day was very successful and activities included face painting, bouncy castles - 2 of them, a ball pit, a clown who walked on stilts, rock climbing, a fire engine and much more. I found myself supervising the ball pit in the morning. That went very well; after all it was for five years and under. Manning the older children's bouncy castle was a bit more challenging, as they liked to pile on it all at once! At one point we also had a sit- in protest but with the help of the rangers soon had it sorted to everyone's delight.

I did not want to be left out so I had a go as well, my first in years on a bouncy castle! The event was very popular and the weather was fantastic and everyone present appreciated the gesture. It was a good way of bringing a community together and despite getting sun burnt I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Due to tremendous success of this event future events are being planned in other areas of Poole.



Brian Wood, Warden

Cheltenham Borough Homes Garden Project

By Jane Gaskins, Warden for St Pauls St Peters and the Moors estate

This garden project was set up nearly two years ago and was aimed at helping the elderly and disabled to maintain their gardens and in turn keep the estates looking tidy and well cared for.

It is a super project that has been growing daily and over fifty-five gardens have benefited from the service. There are over thirty-five clients on the list at the moment and there is a rota whereby we try and get to each garden every two months to keep them easier to manage.



Group clearing the front garden and cutting the hedge of an elderly lady

A voluntary group Charlton Lane Work Opportunity Programme that consists of up to 8 volunteers and 2 supervisors and myself the warden for the area undertake the work in these gardens. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 2 – 4pm weather permitting.



Picture above of the group clearing two rather large hedges for a disabled man. They managed to finish this mammoth task in a day!

Our clients are very grateful for the help and welcome us cheerfully. Some of the gardens are enormous and take more than one visit. At the end of each session all the green waste is bagged up which then gets collected by the local council's green collection team, where it's turned into compost and used on the flowerbeds in the local parks.

Wardens and Youth Offending Service working together

This is another project that has been set up by the wardens for St Pauls, St Peters and the Moors estate and has been running successfully for over a year now.



The wardens try to place the young offenders in the area that they have offended, or where they live. They undertake a variety of tasks in these areas, which include painting fences and gates for the elderly or disabled and gardening.

Projects are in the pipeline for the offending youths to do something more stimulating by way of creating a sensory garden in the local community house, which the young offenders will design and implement themselves.

Exeter Patrollers share with us what Patrol means to them

Why Community Patrol Wardens?

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Projects in the community - helping the community to organise events to improve their social environment
People to People contact - reassuring the public and showing we care
Putting problems right! - having the knowledge or knowing where to find the answers

Assistance - helping the public / community with day to day problems
Anti-social behaviour - tackling the problem through the Community Safety Partnership
Abandoned cars - removing unsightly and unwanted vehicles from our streets

Trying to make things better - helping to improve the community
Tickets (litter / dog fouling) - cleaning up where others have failed
Trust - building a relationship with the community and organisations

Reaching out - to help the youth in the community
Respectful - to respect every culture in the community
Results - making the community a happier place

Offering assistance - supporting the community
Offensive graffiti - removed to calm situations
Open all hours - 7 days a week

Listen and learn - to be able to diversify to help different cultures in our community
Liase - with different organisations to make things happen
Looking forward - creating a better tomorrow

Exeter Community Patrollers



Young Advisers

What is a young Adviser?

Young advisers are representatives for young people in regeneration areas, selected and trained to be young people's 'champions'. They work directly with other young people to encourage them to get involved in renewing their own community.



Why have Young Advisers?

The purpose of Young Advisers is to ensure that young people are included in the decision-making that affects their communities and brings about positive change. A competent Young Advisor may do much to remove obstacles and transform attitudes in those with decision-making and budgetary power. A wide variety of organisations are requesting young advisers involvement in their work and are valuing their input. They are now also part of government's Youth Engagement strategy.

Why is youth engagement is important?

Children and young people make up as much as 40% of the population of most Neighbourhood Renewal areas. They are close to many of the problems that need to be tackled and quick to come up with solutions, given a chance. It's those 'chances', which the Young Adviser scheme wants to create. All the policies and legislation in the country can't work in making neighbourhoods cleaner, safer, greener places where people want to live, work and play, if the people already there aren't involved and committed too. Young people, advising how this should be done, are an essential ingredient to these aspirations. That's why Government is putting its weight and resources behind recruiting and training Young Advisers.

Personal benefits to the Young Adviser:

Having young people as adviser improves their self-confidence and belief in their capabilities. They feel valued and listened and have new opportunities. This will also give them a feeling of satisfaction.

If this interests you and would like to set one up in your area kindly contact:

Sue Stevens
Development Officer
South West Resource Centre

Regional Network Meeting

The next meeting of the South West Regional Network will be held on **8 September 2006** at **Rugby Football Club, Taunton**. Here is a direct link to the web page where you can get your map. **Taunton Rugby Football Club**

Date for your Diary for future meeting of the South West Regional Network at Rugby Football Club, Taunton.

8 December 2006



Have you visited our new website www.swresourcecentre.org.uk which contains useful information and links.

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