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“For Excellence in Neighbourhoods”

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2008 .

We would like to thank Darren Mobey, who has recently completed his work experience with us, for all his help with this edition.

Stroud Wardens Show Their Age. By Ashley Nicholson, Lead Neighbourhood Warden



The Stroud Warden Team

Stroud Wardens are working with Trading Standards to promote the VALIDATEUK identify card scheme to young people in schools throughout their area.

The scheme encourages young people from 11 – 12 upwards to carry a proof of age card aimed at ensuring that age related products are only sold to those legally entitled to buy them. It also helps those who look younger than they are to prove their age.

The wardens visit schools in their area, giving a presentation to year 7 pupils telling them of the benefits of having a card.

The cards are offered free of charge (normal cost £5) and the wardens will return to the school to arrange for the photos to be taken and to help the young people complete the form if necessary.

In addition, the wardens visit retailers on their patch, to make them aware of the scheme and how it can help them stay within the law. This is welcomed by many retailers who struggle with the complexity of the various age restrictions on different products, not to mention the problems of trying to guess the age of young people seeking to buy the products.

The cards can be used when purchasing a range of goods, including DVDs, video games and cinema tickets. As the holders get older the cards can also be used as proof of age to the benefit of the holders and the retailers.

The scheme has proved very popular with 100% uptake amongst the young people and strong support from local retailers.

Warden Super Mare!

By Vikki Rooke, Community Development Worker

A new community warden scheme has been introduced to the South Ward area of Weston super Mare. The South Ward Neighbourhood Management Partnership has implemented the scheme, in conjunction with North Somerset Housing Association, after the area was awarded £3.7 million of regeneration funding.

Our wardens, Darrell Evans and Shane Edwards know the area well and will be out patrolling every day ready to react and respond to incidents of fly tipping, litter, graffiti, abandoned cars and to be on hand to help out residents with any queries or problems they may have. As you can see from the photos, fly tipping and environmental issues are major problems for our estates.



Shane and Darrell get to grips with fly tipping on the estate

During their 2 week induction Darrell and Shane met colleagues from the Police, Environmental Protection, Streets and Open Spaces, the Park Rangers and the Fire Service.

Darrell and Shane have also recently completed their core warden training with the South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre, along with new wardens from Stroud, Plymouth and Helston.



The challenge faced by the wardens

Its early days for the wardens in their new post but they have already made links with the local primary school and will be doing an assembly and a joint litter pick with the children after half term, teaching them responsibility about litter and keeping their neighbourhood tidy.

The wardens are also working in partnership with the local housing provider, the local authority and police at fortnightly 'tasking meetings'. At these meetings information from all the partners is shared and resources deployed accordingly to tackle problem areas and hotspots.

Over the coming months the wardens will be a key part of a campaign in the neighbourhood to tackle fly tipping and to clear up the neighbourhood.

Festive Fun in Boscombe

Churchill Gardens Festive Fun - Friday 21st December 2007
By Hannah Beech, Neighbourhood Warden

Families wrapped up warm and ventured out in to the cold on the evening of the last Friday before Christmas. Around 100 people joined in the festive fun in Churchill Gardens, Boscombe to take part in a variety of festive activities including meeting Father Christmas and enjoying some home made soup.



The event was organised by the Boscombe and Springbourne Neighbourhood Wardens in partnership with local residents and Dorset Police's Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Neighbourhood Management and the Community Parks and Countryside team.

While some sat outside sipping soup and chatting with friends other huddled into the warmth of 'Top Spot' to make Christmas cards and badges.

Towards the end of the evening, everyone was encouraged to sing along to carols with the Salvation Army Youth Band.

The Wardens have had a great response following the event on the 21st December. Nigel, a resident from the surrounding area said "it was good to have a festive event in the gardens that included the whole community and considering it was so cold there was a great turn out".



Congratulations

To Swindon Neighbourhood Wardens John Carr, Rob Anscombe and Ray Woodfield on successfully completing their Community Warden NVQ

Street Pastors on Patrol

By Swindon Street Pastors

After completing a twelve week training course in areas ranging from Safety Awareness to listening skills Swindon Street Pastors hit the streets on the 28th September.

Dressed in our distinctive blue uniform, we are a team of dedicated Christian volunteers on the frontline of Swindon's Pubs and clubs on Friday and Saturday nights. We operate in teams of four from a communication base in the heart of Swindon Town Centre.



Most people out on the town are just out to have fun and Street Pastors are not out to condemn those who drink too much. However, sadly today's binge drinking culture leaves many people vulnerable. We are there to help those who end up unable to look after themselves or become separated from their friends. Sometimes just there to hand out a pair of Flip Flops when those high heels become too much after a night on the dance floor.

Within hours of our first night out, we were called to a club to assist the doormen with a young lady who had been ejected because she was drunk and incapable. We found her

sat on the floor in heavy rain. She was refusing to leave the area, and was very abusive to the door staff. We were able to get along side her and comfort her and gently persuade her to move to somewhere dry and warm. This takes time, which door security or the police don't have.

Sometimes people just need someone to talk to and we are a listening ear. We don't go out on the street and bible bash people, that's not what we're about. We really just want to touch base with people and help them at those times of the night and early hours of the morning are when people are most vulnerable.

We aim to bring the church out of the church and into the community.

Facts about Street Pastors

- ❖ Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems
- ❖ It was pioneered in London in January 2003 and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working.
- ❖ Each city project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local coordinator with support from Ascension Trust and local churches and community groups.
- ❖ For more information please see. www.streetpastors.org.uk or www.streetpastorsswindon.org.uk

Getting to know you

In this edition, we are featuring Chris Acock, Lead Neighbourhood Warden in Stroud.

If there is anyone you would like to see featured in this section, please let us know.

Name: Chris Acock

Job title: Senior Neighbourhood Warden

Scheme: Stroud

How long have you been in the job? Three Years



Chris showing one of his many talents by doing lollipop duty.

What would you say was the most enjoyable part of your job? Every now and then you can improve the quality of someone's life.

What part of the job don't you enjoy? Wet, cold and dark evening shifts in the winter.

What do you like doing in your spare time? Cooking, playing golf and watching most sports

What's your favourite TV programme? The one showing when the set is turned off.

What's the best place you have visited? Hamilton Island Australia

What would you say to anyone who is thinking of becoming a warden? Go for it.

What's your favourite song? Another Brick in the Wall

What job did you have before you became a warden? Manager for DuPont PLC

What skills do you need for this role? Good communication skills and a good sense of humour.

Welcome

to our new wardens

During the last few months we have welcomed several new wardens to the South West team.

Claire Young – Cheltenham Borough Homes

Pete Gammon – Transform, North Devon

Darrell Evans – Weston Super Mare

Shane Edwards – Weston Super Mare

Craig Bowcutt – Helston

Jo Loughton – Plymouth

Carol Novoth – Stroud

Andy Murray - Stroud

A warm welcome to all of you and we look forward to seeing you at a Network Meeting soon.

and farewell

We would like to wish all the best to:

Barbara Panczak, Resource Centre

Administrator

and

Gerry McGrath, Neighbourhood Warden, Stroud

who have both left for pastures new.

Resource Centre Networking

**Don't forget to come along to the
Regional Network Meeting**

**The next meeting is on Friday 14 March from 10.30 –
3pm at Taunton Rugby Club.**



**This is your chance to meet other South West wardens. Alex,
Nick and Simon were obviously enjoying the last meeting!**

CONTACT US

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