

Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Community Safety E-newsletter



June 2011 Issue 09

Police use Bluetooth to cut crime in Southend



Photo: PCSOs Maria Tolhurst and Grace Pratt, with one of the electronic Bluetooth devices.

Police in Southend are using Bluetooth technology to broadcast crime prevention messages to residents.

The Bluetooth kit, which has been funded by Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, sends out picture messages to mobile phones with tips to reduce theft, burglary and other useful crime prevention advice.

Insp. Leigh Norris, of Southend Central Policing Team, explained: "Providing people have Bluetooth switched on, we can ping a message out to the public every ten or fifteen minutes."

The technology was used for the first time during the Southend Airshow which took place over the bank-holiday weekend in late May.

It proved successful in spreading advice to reduce cycle and purse thefts, and for broadcasting missing people alerts at short notice.

Simon Ford, community safety manager, added: "The aim is to target the messages to get them across to

the right people, in the right place, at the right time.

"The use of Bluetooth in Southend compliments the host of enforcement and proactive crime prevention activity already employed in the town."

Schoolchildren tag safe during half-term holiday



Photo: Pc Gary Collard with Westcliff resident Melanie Eveleigh and her daughter, and Mick Holland.

Schoolchildren had their bicycles tagged at a free crime prevention event during half-term.

Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and officers from Essex Police's schools liaison team fitted 34 bicycles with electronic tags as part of an effort to reduce pedal cycle theft across the borough.

The session took place after Southend's dedicated team of schools officers visited children at schools across the borough to talk about bicycle security and safety.

Pc Gary Collard, who helped to organise the event, said: "Over the past few weeks we have been going into schools and educating the kids about the importance of properly securing their bicycles and basic cycle safety."

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"By offering this service today we hope to reduce the chances of bicycles being stolen by deterring opportunistic thieves."

Mick Holland, of Southend CDRP, added: "This was a great opportunity to work together with our schools officers as part of an ongoing process to reduce cycle theft in the Southend borough."

"The service is provided free for all Southend residents and I would urge them to come along to one of our many events taking place this summer. "

The next event will be held at Eastern Avenue allotments on Saturday 11 June between 2pm and 5pm.

For more information please contact **01702 464199** or visit **www.southendcdrp.co.uk**

Crime prevention roadshow rolls into Shoeburyness



Photo: Mr and Mrs Wright, of Shoebury, get their bicycle and mobility scooter tagged at the event.

Residents in Shoebury benefited from a free crime prevention roadshow at the weekend.

The event was organised by Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Southend Libraries, and took place at Friars Library, in Shoeburyness, on Saturday 21 May between 9.30am and 1pm.

34 bicycles and mobility scooters were fitted with electronic security tags in an effort to deter thieves

and to help return them to their owners in the event of loss or theft.

Numerous personal attack alarms, purse chains and UV property marking kits were also handed out to security-conscious residents.

Mick Holland, Community Engagement Officer, said: "As well as offering real, practical advice, the event also helped to reassure members of the public that action is being taken to reduce instances of crime in the borough."

Officers from Essex Police's Shoebury Neighbourhood Policing Team were also present throughout the session to talk to local residents about any issues or concerns they had.

For more information please contact **01702 464199** or visit **www.southendcdrp.co.uk**

60 bicycles tagged in Southend High Street

60 bicycles were tagged in Southend High Street in an effort to reduce cycle theft and improve security.

Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) teamed up with officers from Essex Police's Southend Central neighbourhood policing team to provide the free service on Friday 6 May, between 2pm and 5pm.

The session was part of a wider operation to raise awareness of bicycle theft and improve security by offering useful advice to cyclists.

In April this year there were 58 recorded pedal cycle thefts across the borough, with 25 of those stolen from the central Southend area.

Sgt Paul Ahmed, of Southend Central Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "Cycle thefts have increased recently as they tend to at this time of the year as the weather improves.

"We are encouraging owners to take measures to prevent becoming a victim - the chances of which can be greatly reduced by locking and securing a bike properly and keeping it indoors overnight, if possible."

Having your bicycle security tagged will improve the chances of it being returned to you in the event of loss or theft.

If you would like to get your bicycle tagged, simply bring it along to one of the free events that are taking place across the borough this summer.

For more information please contact **01702 464199** or visit **www.southendcdrp.co.uk**

Weeding out allotment crime



Photo: PCSO Martin Mansfield talks to plot-holder David Horsley and Neighbourhood Watch volunteer Pat Butcher.

Plot holders at a Southend allotment site benefited from a free crime prevention event aimed at protecting their valuable equipment.

Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Essex Police visited Hamstel Road Allotments on Saturday 7 May, between 2pm and 5pm, to offer reassurance and useful advice to its members.

Lawn-mowers, wheelbarrows, strimmers, leaf-blowers, shears, bicycles and a generator were fitted with electronic security devices to deter thieves and help return them to their rightful owners in the event of loss or theft.

Officers from Southchurch neighbourhood policing team, who regularly patrol the site as part of the Allotment Watch scheme, were also on hand during the afternoon session.

Pc Victoria Bax, Neighbourhood Constable for St Lukes ward, said: "The event not only provided plot-holders with useful, practical advice, but helped to reassure them that action is being taken to prevent

crime at the site. It also provided us with an opportunity to talk to members about any concerns they had."

Allotment members and local residents are being urged to report any suspicious activity at the site to their local policing team on **07974 148602**.

Polish community plugs in for safety at town's library

Members of Southend's Polish community can now pick up EU-to-UK conversion electrical plugs at Southend Library's weekly information sessions.

The free plugs are being provided along with copies of the Electrical Safety Council's (ESC) Polish / English language information leaflets, 'Adapt your electrical appliances for safe UK use', and 'Fire Safety in the Home'.



Photo: Jadzia Haughton with some of the free plugs and fire safety material.

The EU-to-UK conversion plugs incorporate a fuse making it possible for people to use their own electrical appliances safely. The plugs have been generously donated by the ESC, working in partnership with Essex County Fire & Rescue Service and Southend Borough Libraries.

Polish people coming to the UK often bring their own electrical equipment with them, such as mobile phone chargers that are equipped with two pin plugs.

They can often be unaware of the dangers of using these appliances in UK sockets if they have not been correctly converted for use in this country - this could easily cause a fire or electric shock.

Simon Wallace, Southend Library's Community and Diversity Team Manager, said: "Libraries continue to make real efforts to respond to the information needs of the town's Polish communities.

"This latest safety initiative will enable local residents to make sure any of their appliances are fitted with the correct electrical plugs for use in the UK, as well as raising awareness of fire safety in the home".

Jadzia Haughton, of Polish Advice Service, has been employed by Southend Borough Council to run a weekly information advice service based at the town's Central Library.

She said: "Members of the Polish community are delighted to receive practical advice on fire safety and the conversion plugs, which are proving very popular with people attending the weekly library sessions".

Tweet Tweet! Twitter offers a great way to stay informed

Insp. Leigh Norris, of Southend Central Neighbourhood Policing Team, is keen for more residents to get online and 'follow' his Twitter feed.

Insp. Norris uses Twitter to keep residents informed of the latest police operations, crime alerts and other useful information.

Insp. Norris said: "We are always looking into new ways of communicating with the people who live in, work in and visit Southend.

"Social media is big business which is growing at a rapid rate and, as a police force, it's important that we keep up with society and use a wide variety of media to communicate our messages rather than just the traditional means."

Insp. Norris' Twitter page can be found via www.twitter.com/southendinsp

Southend CDRP's Twitter page can be found via www.twitter.com/SouthendCDRP

Southend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership's
Community Safety Roadshow 2011



Our partners include:



Eastern Avenue Allotments
 Saturday 11 June, 2pm to 5pm
Southend High School for Boys
 (Community in Harmony event)
 Sunday 19 June, 12.30pm to 5.30pm
Chalkwell Park (Bangla Mela event)
 Sunday 26 June, 11am to 5pm
Leigh Fire Station, Mountdale Gardens
 Saturday 2 July, 10am to 4pm
Southchurch Library
 Saturday 16 July, 10am to 2pm
Uncle Tom's Cabin, Shoebury Common
 Wednesday 20 July, 2pm to 5pm
Southchurch Park (Community Tie-in)
 Wednesday 3 August, 11am to 3pm
Manchester Drive Allotments
 Saturday 6 August, 10am to 1pm
Shoebury East Beach
 Wednesday 24 August, 2pm to 5pm
Tesco, Prince Avenue
 Saturday 3 September, 10am to 2pm
 Saturday 10 September, 10am to 2pm
Kent Elms Library
 Saturday 22 October, 10am to 2pm
Morrisons, Western Approaches, Eastwood
 Saturday 26 November, 10am to 1pm

Come along to one of our free events to benefit from the following services:

- Electronic security tagging for bicycles, mobility scooters, laptops, and other large valuables;
- UV property marking kits for mobile phones, cameras, iPods and other similar items;
- Personal attack alarms, purse chains and intruder alarms to improve your security;
- Advice on crime prevention, health, waste and recycling and much more!



If you have any comments or would like to contribute to future editions, please contact:

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