

communicate

Compiled and edited by Julia Pack & Mick Holland on behalf of the Southend Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

Proudly launching our brand new **Podcasts**

A brand new approach to conveying crime prevention messages has been adopted in Southend.

Southend's Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is launching its brand new podcast webpage, containing informative crime prevention messages in the form of downloadable radio-ad style podcasts.

This innovative and unique approach to promoting crime reduction messages is a first for Essex and is also understood to be a first for any CDRP in the UK.

Three podcasts have been prepared for the launch of the webpage on the subjects of; 'Staying Safe', 'Knife crime' and 'Bogus callers'. Each podcast involves a short dramatisation and each one is between 60 to 90 seconds long.

The idea of using podcasts containing crime prevention messages was the brainchild of 18-year-old Jack Warren from Westcliff-on-sea, a final year BND Radio Production student at South East Essex College. After approaching the media team at Southend Police Station with the idea of producing the podcasts as part of his project work, Southend CDRP agreed to set up a new facility on their website to accommodate the podcasts. Scripts were drawn up and drama students from the college were enlisted to play the parts of the characters.

Jack said: "I approached the police because I wanted to do something a little different from the rest of the class

and the work the police do is exciting and interesting. The project has been quite a smooth process with only a few minor problems but I'm really pleased with the final product."

Julia Pack, Media & Communications Co-ordinator for Essex Police in Southend said: "Our aim with these podcasts is to convey our crime prevention messages in a way that's different and appealing to the target audience.

"'Staying safe' and 'knife crime' are aimed at young people and we hope the podcasts will be thought-provoking and hard-hitting and, ultimately, we hope they really help to hammer our messages home to a traditionally difficult-to-reach age group.

"The 'bogus caller' podcast is aimed both at the elderly residents themselves and also at anyone with an elderly relative, friend or neighbour. It includes a very real scenario of how bogus callers charm their way into a home in order to commit burglary and offers easy-to-remember clear advice on how to prevent becoming a victim."

Mick Holland is Southend's Community Engagement Officer, who manages the CDRP website. He said: "We are always keen to encourage new ways in which to communicate with the public of Southend and we truly believe that we have hit on an exciting and highly effective way of reaching hard-to-reach



groups. Whilst these three podcasts have been created to initially launch the webpage, we are keen to continue to work with Jack and the college as a whole in developing this facility into the foreseeable future.

"One area which we are keen to develop is a facility for text on the CDRP website to be narrated, so the visually impaired can still have online access to the valuable crime prevention information and advice that our website offers".

Take a listen by visiting us at www.southendcdrp.co.uk



CDRP Person of the Month



Name: Steve Dewberry

Position: Police Officer, seconded with Youth Offenders Service (YOS) of Southend

Responsibilities:

The YOS is a department of the Children and Learning Section of Southend-on-sea Borough Council and comprises of over 50 staff, many of whom are seconded from other organisations, e.g. Health, Education, Social Services, Connexions, Police and Probation. This gives the YOS a truly multi-agency approach to the reduction of Youth Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

I am part of a team that not only manages the rehabilitation of young offenders and reparation to society for the crimes that they commit, but which also identifies the youngsters who may present as being at risk of offending and then engage them in more positive activities in the future.

Activities to address crime and anti-social behaviour:

Over the last year the YOS has extended the ways in which they are addressing the crime and anti-social behaviour that is attributed to young people, with the introduction of several new projects - some of which are as follows:-

Challenge and Support – Where Police and other agencies notify us of young people who have been stopped in the streets and identified as being involved in groups that may have been engaged in antisocial behaviour, including underage drinking. The Challenge and Support team contact the parents/guardians and offer them help in addressing the errant behaviour. If this help is shunned or further acts of ASB happen then the team monitor the situation and, if necessary, progress the matter to court.

After School Patrols/Clubs – Street engagement workers from the YOS are collaborating with the local

Police and PCSOs in identifying areas of concern regarding a young person's behaviour immediately after leaving school. They are engaging them and diverting them where possible to more positive activities, in some instances this has culminated in the setting up of after school clubs, run by the team.

SS1 Buses – Two mobile, specially converted, buses are being deployed to areas already identified as where young people gather and by doing so have caused concern to the residents of that area. These buses will be staffed with Street Engagement Workers and are targeting groups gathering late into the evening, especially Friday and Saturday nights, and sign-posting them to already existing positive activities that are available in the neighbourhood.

Operation Staysafe – These monthly initiatives will be set up in order to protect vulnerable young children who are left to wander the streets unsupervised and, together with local Police, remove them to a place of safety. The parents/guardians will then be contacted to pick them up and, where possible, extra services will be offered in order to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

As the seconded Police officer, I am involved in the support of all the specialised services supplied by the YOS. I also continue my community involvement work by talking to community groups about the help that the YOS can give them. This may be the setting up of Community Circles, to enable the community to get involved in the management of their locality. It may also involve attending Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs) with the local Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) and listening to the representative's perception of crime and ASB in the area.

There are numerous other jobs that I undertake within my Role at the YOS but I am mindful of the limited space that I have. If you wish to know more, feel free to contact me through your NSO. If you would like me to attend a meeting that you run I will do my best to do so.

Useful numbers

Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Southend Central –	07817 968114
Southend High Street –	07791 315961
Southend Seafront –	01702 613449
Chalkwell Marine –	07866 545291
Blenheim –	07817 968093
Eastwood –	07816 661693
Shoebury –	07710 086590
Southchurch –	07976 325346

To report dumped rubbish and graffiti.
email doete@southend.gov.uk or call 01702 215000

CDRP Manager
Community Safety Manager
Simon Ford - 0300 333 4444 ext.30860

Crime Reduction Officer
Lorna Watson - 01702 423187

Neighbourhood Watch Administrator
Mick Holland - 01702 464199

Media & Communications Co-ordinator
Julia Pack - 01702 423138

Park Watch gets to work

On Thursday 15th January pupils from three Year 6 classes at Thorpe Greenways School joined forces with the Southchurch Park Watch scheme and parks officers to plant 600 whips in four prepared beds within the conservation area at Southchurch Park East.

Whips are small saplings, which will ultimately grow into small trees. These have been carefully selected to provide an environment for birds, insects and butterflies.

The Cory Environmental Trust sponsors the Southchurch Park East Conservation Area. Another planting session to expand the wildflower meadow will take place on Saturday 14th March 2009 from 10am.

There are also plans to place a bench carved out of a tree trunk

in the centre of the wildflower meadow so that visitors can sit and take in their surroundings.

The picture shows Southchurch PCSO Rufaro Kapfunde, Parks Officers, and staff and pupils from Thorpe Greenways assisting with the whip planting. Photograph reproduced by kind permission of Tony Little



...News in Brief...

Make time for a NAP

Are you a neighbourhood watch co-ordinator?

Are you interested in attending your local NAP meeting - be it because you have something you wish to discuss or just because you wish to see what happens at one?

Don't be shy! All you need to do is to call your local NSO to get more information via the contact numbers on page 2 and you'll be welcome to come along.

Keep blue bins out of sight

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for Southchurch, Pc Andy Booker, would like to advise residents to keep their blue food waste bins out of their front gardens until collection day.

This comes after some reports of criminal damage to bins throughout the week - a crime that can easily be prevented by simply removing the bins in between collection days.

Your assistance is appreciated.

British Red Cross fundraising tactics

The British Red Cross has notified us that they will be carrying out house to house calls in our area from 2 February to 28 February. They will be represented by a company called Support Direct whose role will be to ask householders to sign a direct debit pledge form to enable the charity to receive regular donations.

The general advice both from Community Safety and Trading Standards is that householders should be wary of divulging banking details to cold callers. However, this method of fund raising is not illegal.

The Red Cross has provided a contact number for queries, which will be manned 9 am to 9 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 5.30 pm on Saturdays. It is **0800 031 9811**. This number can be used to confirm callers are bona fide. If you have any cause for concern, please call the police on 0300 333 4444 and ask for the control room. The people employed by Support Direct will all be in possession of photo ID cards.

Apologies from the Communicate team for the delay in the completion of this edition due to other work commitments. We hope to resume normal monthly distribution as of April 2009 and would like to thank you for your patience.

Can You Help?

The SOS Bus needs your help!

The SOS Bus operates in the town centre area and is a refuge for people using the pubs and clubs. Its role is as follows:

- To protect vulnerable people
- Provide a focal point for those in need
- Help reduce alcohol related crime, disorder & nuisance
- Help reduce problems arising from under age drinking
- Help relieve pressure on the emergency services. For example **Essex Ambulance** spend about **£250,000** a year dealing with alcohol / assault / drug matters on a Friday and Saturday night in Southend-on-sea alone.
- Offer an opportunity for the liquor licensed trade to actively exercise their duty of care to customers / community.
- Improve the image of the town.
- Help create a safer town centre.

How can you help?

The SOS Bus needs the donation of clean blankets and sweat-shirts (end of line promotional items for example) for the use of people who attend the SOS Bus.

Please contact John Bastin on 07790 869 003 for more details



New volunteers needed for vital library service

Sometimes there's nothing better than relaxing with a good book, but for a number of people this isn't as easy as it seems.

Hundreds of residents in Southend are housebound and can't easily access any of the town's seven libraries because of age, disability, ill-health, or caring responsibilities.

That's why the free Home Library Service is such a blessing for many readers.

Through this service, volunteers visit housebound readers with a selection of large or ordinary print books and other resources, including audio books, DVDs and music CDs. Items can also be requested without charge.

This service is proving such a success that new volunteers, particularly drivers, are needed to ensure older residents and their carers can carry on reading and enjoying their library service.



If you like meeting people, enjoy books and reading, have access to a car and some spare time, Southend Libraries would be pleased to hear from you.

Full training and support is provided. Mileage and out of pocket expenses are met by the library service. For an informal chat about volunteering with libraries, or to receive a free fact sheet and application form, please contact Simon Wallace, Community Team Manager, Southend Library, Telephone 01702 534125 e-mail;

librarycommunityteam@southend.gov.uk



Crime Reduction Officer **Lorna Watson** says

Please note that from 19th March, for between 2-3 weeks, the new Yellow Pages will be delivered across the borough. Where possible, the delivery agents will not leave copies visible from the street, as doing so could serve to highlight unoccupied properties where the directories aren't taken indoors. In some instances this will be unavoidable. Please keep an eye out for your neighbours and if you see Yellow Pages has been left out, please look after it in on their behalf.