

LIVING STREETS

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Living Streets Guernsey LBG Newsletter— August 2012

54 islanders take up the Tranquillity Walk challenge

This year's Living Streets Tranquillity Walk took place on Sunday 15th July when 54 islanders (including 6 children) plus two dogs walked from the Longfrie Inn in St. Pierre du Bois through the lanes and green lanes down to the Pearl Centre at Fort Grey and then back again via the Torteval Lanes.

We were really lucky with the weather – lovely sunshine and a nice breeze.



Silbe Nature Reserve

Many of those who took part said they were unfamiliar with this part of the island and very few had visited the



Tom Le Pelley leads walkers down Route de Lihou

La Société Guernesiaise's beautiful Silbe Nature Reserve.

Other places of interest were the Moulin de Quanteraine (the water wheel), the site of the old Coudré windmill and the newly developed Torteval Jubilee Walk near the church.

High up overlooking Fort Grey and Rocquaine Bay we saw six Guernsey donkeys (as depicted on one of our "Guernsey Country Walks" greeting cards).

Most walkers took two hours to do the circular route (which included a refreshment break at the Pearl Centre) and everybody said they really enjoyed it.

We raised £564 which will go towards our Baubigny Schools pathway project.

Many thanks to everyone who took part, to the marshals and volunteers and, in particular, to the Longfrie Inn for the use of their car park.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Since our Open Meetings have not been well attended in the past we have decided to only hold a meeting (other than our AGM in April) when there is a subject of real importance to our members. If you have a topic that you would like us to debate, please do get in touch.

In the meantime we will be representing your interests during the following months:

October: Walk to School month

November: (19th—23rd) Road Safety Week

Walk to School Week

Each year we encourage schools to take part in Walk to School initiatives. La Houquette school always takes part and in May they ran two walking buses.

St. Andrews decided to take part in the WOW initiative—Walk once a Week. We provided an A1 map so that pupils could pinpoint where they lived, and Val Rowland went along to their school assembly to talk about the joys of walking in their country parish.

Pat and Tom visited the Vale School to talk to the Head about School Travel Plans—ways of reducing congestion around the school. With the help of an A1 map they will try to encourage more pupils to walk to school.

Chief of Police, Patrick Rice, joins Living Streets at its 10th anniversary AGM

Patrick Rice used a Power Point presentation to talk about his vision for policing in Guernsey. His aim was to be more responsive—restructuring the force to provide more on the front line.

"Everyone is a neighbourhood policeman—we need to take care about segmenting things. We need to be proactive rather than reactive, targeting repeat offenders and focussing on victims and witnesses."

Mr. Rice said the focus is also on the quality of prosecution files—good quality files means good quality investigations.

Accompanying Patrick Rice was Traffic Sergeant, John Tostevin, and the 20 Living Streets members and friends who attended the meeting were particularly interested to hear about the enhanced Traffic Section.

There are now 3 members of the team—one Sergeant and two Police Officers. From 1st June officers started patrolling on mountain bikes. The aim is to target poor drivers. He wants the Police to confront inappropriate behaviour—doing it politely.

The "Licence to kill" Road Show (aimed at young drivers) would be run by the

three Emergency Services in September. The Traffic section would continue to work with Living Streets on road safety issues, especially pavement "surfing" and pavement parking.

Everyone present enjoyed Mr. Rice's presentation.



Pavement "surfing" - Saumarez Street

New Ministers walk the Baubigny Schools pathway

Following the elections, Living Streets invited the new Ministers for Environment, Home and Education to walk the Baubigny Schools pathway. We wanted to show them the route and explain about some of the barriers that prevented more children using the route. The reactions were very positive and we are hoping that there will be a closer working relationship with the three departments in the future.

Living Streets has also produced an “Active Travel” strategy which it has given to the Environment Minister. In our introduction we say:

*“We cannot continue to allow free and unrestricted use of vehicles in our crowded small island. Safer and more attractive conditions for walkers and cyclists should be given **high prior-***

*ity in any Transport Strategy. It should be just as important as developing a better bus service. Indeed, we would argue that **Active Travel** should be at the heart of the Transport Strategy.”*

We have set out 13 ideas of what we need to do to encourage more walking and cycling.



Environment Minister, Roger Domaille, & Tom

NEWS IN BRIEF

Walking & cycling should be norm for short journeys says NICE

The UK’s National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published a draft guidance saying lack of physical activity is contributing to a wide range of health problems including coronary heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. The guidance recommends a co-ordinated approach to include local authorities, the health service, private voluntary and community sectors, environment and transport planning to support and encourage people to walk or cycle for transport and recreation. (NICE draft guidance—24th April 2012)

Costs end love affair with car?

A survey of 2,000 people by WhipCar.com (a rental service) found that 25% of people believed that it is less important to own a car today than it was 10 years ago. High running costs and the price of petrol appears to have changed attitudes towards driving. (Daily Telegraph 28/5/12)

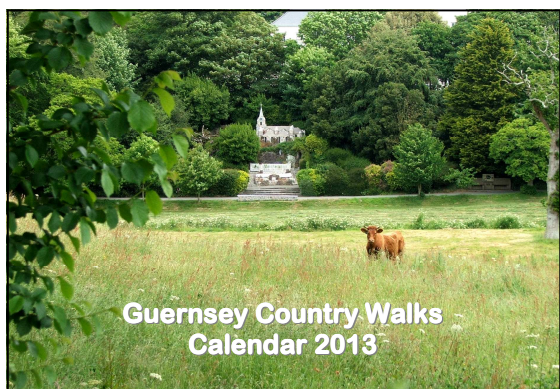
Most older pedestrians are unable to cross the road in time

A research study has found that the vast majority of people over 65 in England are unable to walk fast enough to use a pedestrian crossing. Walking speed was assessed by timing a walk of 8ft at normal pace. The health impacts on older adults include limited independence and reduced opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. Current pedestrian crossing timings should, therefore, be reviewed. (Laura Asher et al, *Epidemiology & Public Health*, UCL 14/6/12)

Playing Out—inspirational mums in Bristol reclaim their street

A simple idea of closing their street after school and before tea time so that children can play together outside their homes has been a huge success. “Right up to the last minute we were panicking that we hadn’t organised any games and weren’t providing anything beyond some bits of chalk” says Amy. However, the children just turn up and play. Bristol City Council is now not only giving Playing Out a grant to expand the scheme and run workshops for the many interested parents, but also is creating Temporary Play Street Orders to close roads up to once a week. (www.playingout.net)

“Guernsey Country Walks” Calendar 2013 is now available



Guernsey Country Walks Calendar 2013

Our new calendar is out! It costs £5.50. We have managed to get all twelve pages sponsored to keep the print costs down. Each page has a circular walk of about an hour (like our cards). **Please help us by buying one for your friends and family.** You can get them directly from Pat or in most card/tourist outlets. We sell direct at the Farmers Market at Sausmarez Manor on the last Saturday of each month. We will also be at the GSPCA Seafront Sunday on 9th September.

Islanders seek our help on pedestrian safety issues

The majority of our work goes on quietly in the background. We don’t publicise it. We undertake walking audits when islanders seek out help. Then we do a report which goes to the Environment Department. Three audits recently are:

La Mare Pellées Road, Vale: Demolish house and build 9 two bed houses with 18 parking spaces. La Mare Pellées Road is actually quite a narrow lane with no

footpaths and blind bends. It’s used as a rat run from the Braye Road to Sohier Road. School children use it and residents walking to the nearby Alliance. We have raised concerns about additional traffic and asked for a white line pedestrian walkway.

Museum Facilities and Equestrian Centre—Oatlands Lane & Les Gigands: Whereas Oatlands Lane is one way with a

wide pedestrian & cycle pathway, we have concerns about traffic slicing through the walkway in order to enter & exit the site. We are also concerned about an increase in large vehicles (horse boxes) in Les Gigands—a very dangerous road with no footpaths and high granite walls.

Crossing to North Beach car park from the Glatigny Esplanade end: We have asked for traffic calming—preferably a raised table like the one on the Liberation Monument side.

A Quiz in March raised £360. Thank you to everyone who took part and especially to Jean for organising it. Sales so far this year from our cards: £3,030; Calendars: £2,417

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