

# LIVING STREETS

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Living Streets Guernsey LBG Newsletter— January 2014

## Another successful Road Safety Week

UK Road Safety Charity, BRAKE, chose “Tune into Road Safety” as its theme in 2013. It stressed the need for all road users to pay attention to the road and to avoid distractions. Driver distraction is a major cause of death and serious injury in the UK and the same applies in Guernsey.

Living Streets, Guernsey Police and the Environment Department all worked together to highlight road safety messages during the week.

Speed checks around schools, a crack down on using a mobile phone while driving and driving and parking on footpaths were some of the activities undertaken by the Police.

Living Streets has always concentrated on its BE SAFE BE SEEN message during Road Safety Week. It highlights the need to wear bright or light (or preferably high visibility) clothes after dark in order to be visible to motorists, particularly on dark rainy nights.



Pat with OSA Recruitment staff on “Bright Day”

We encouraged companies to take part in the dress down day “Bright Day” and £519.72 was raised. All the funds have now been spent on high visibility waistcoats for those companies who took part in the event and also for local schools. 290 items are being distributed to six schools and four companies. We are very grateful to those who took part and, in particular, to Frossard House who raised £354.72.

The Living Streets Road Safety Week display was erected at the Guille-Allès Library. It showed photos of Guernsey road traffic collisions, and gave information on the BE SAFE BE SEEN message with some current statistics and research findings.

It also emphasised the distraction theme by reminding pedestrians of the dangers of walking and talking (or texting) while using mobile phones.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM  
Wednesday 30th April  
7.30pm Emma Ferbrache  
Room at the PEH

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May 12th to 16th  
Walk to Work Week

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May 20th to 24th  
Walk to School Week

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Sunday 13th July  
The Living Streets  
Tranquillity Walk

This year the walk will be  
around the lanes and green  
lanes of St. Martin



The Living Streets Road Safety Week display at the Guille-Allès Library

## New formula leads to re-assessment of rough crossings



The unofficial crossing at the Albion

The Traffic section of Environment has agreed a new formula for comparing sites where we have requested new crossings. It now takes into account not only footfall but also traffic flow and traffic speed, road width, and the ability of those crossing. The calculation gives a higher weighting to those groups who find it more difficult to cross.

Over the past 10 years we have requested many additional zebra crossings (or light controlled crossings) and virtually none have been introduced.

The Board has now agreed new zebra crossings at La Couture (linking the Water Lanes), also at Vauvert/George Street and the southern end of Queen’s Road. High visibility warning signs have been installed on the approach to the Amherst/Fosse André junction—where a zebra crossing would be unsafe owing to poor visibility from the north.

The Board has also agreed to reconsider the issue of the informal crossings at the Albion and opposite Bosq Lane. So it’s good news for pedestrians!

## The Baubigny Schools pathway is extended



Walking to school using our pathway

When we first opened the Baubigny Schools pathway in 2010 children entered the buildings through the schools' back gates. More recently, however, owing to logistical problems, children have had to use the prison road.

We have been trying for some time to resolve this issue and are very pleased that a solution has now been found. With the support of the schools and Minister, Robert Sillars, pupils can now walk around the football pitch and enter the car park through a new opening—thus linking up with their friends at the front of the schools. It also means that local residents can access the path—thus reinstating a route through to the Bouet which existed before the schools were built.

We are now embarking on a huge planting scheme to delineate the path and to provide an outside learning area, a picnic area and a mini woodland for the schools. *(more on this in our next newsletter).*

Whenever we talk to the media about the Baubigny Schools pathway the first question is always “how many pupils are using it?” And the answer is “very few”.

Why is that? One of the main reasons is that pupils are being bussed in from the Bouet area. The Law says you have to live more than 2.5 miles from a secondary school to qualify for a school bus. However, Environment argues that providing school buses cuts down on the number of parents driving their children to school. Each school bus costs around £18,000 per year and we believe that there are 3 picking up children from the Bouet area.

It is a one mile walk from Beeton's to the Baubigny Schools using existing traffic free footpaths and tracks and then our pathway. It takes just 15 to 20 minutes.

All the current research points to a generation of children leading inactive lives. Health professionals keep telling us that we all need to do 30 minutes of exercise at least 5 days a week and the best way is to build it into our daily routine (like the walk to school or work). Educationalists talk of the benefits of fresh air and exercise at the beginning of the day resulting in more alert pupils who are ready to learn.

Spending thousands to ferry pupils short distances to schools goes against the ethos of encouraging children to exercise and is not environmentally friendly. The money would be better spent on developing more off road paths for walkers and cyclists. We will continue to challenge the school bus policy.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### School bus ride costs council £250 a day

A council has been criticised for spending £50,000 a year on driving 115 pupils half a mile to school in four mini-buses rather than build a £100,000 footpath along a dangerous road. Campaigners have been fighting for years to have a path installed alongside a busy B road so children can walk safely to a primary school near Bridport in Dorset. *(Daily Telegraph 16/11/13)*

#### Link between academic achievement and exercise

One hour's physical activity each day can move children up a grade at GCSE, a study by Dundee and Strathclyde Universities suggests. A study of almost 5,000 children found a link between academic achievement and exposure to activities such as PE, lunch time games, or cycling to school. It could make the difference between achieving a C or B grade. Exercise appeared to affect science results most, particularly among girls. *(British Journal of Sports Medicine—October 2013)*

#### ADHD children gain most from walking to school

8 out of 10 children who took part in a walk to school trial by Health IT Company, Intelligent Health, said they were calmer and better able to concentrate in lessons. Dr. William Bird said “Physical activity improves brain elasticity, which allows children to learn. Exercise also releases endorphins, which make you more relaxed.” Research in America with children with ADHD has found that there is a significant calming effect, to the point where the child is almost back to normal. *(Daily Telegraph 27/9/13)*

#### Edinburgh to be first 20mph city

Edinburgh is set to become the first 20mph city in Scotland under plans to boost walking and cycling. Speed limits will be reduced from 30mph in all residential areas, shopping districts and streets heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists. The city centre will also be a 20mph zone. School streets would be temporarily closed for between 20 and 30 minutes during peak times in a bid to cut congestion.

*(www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com)*

### Guernsey Country Walks merchandise



Sales of our cards and calendars continue to bring in enough funds to cover the rental cost of the Baubigny Schools pathway.

We only have about 150 of our 2014 calendars left out of a print run of 1,500. Our new “Guernsey in the Snow” Christmas cards/notelets were intended to last 2 years but we have sold well over half already.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us and also to all those who have helped sell our merchandise at the various outside events.

### Co-op Eco Fund

Living Streets received a donation of £225 from the Co-operative Society's Eco Fund to cover the cost of printing our “Walk to Work” leaflets. Our first leaflet, which featured a walk from St. Martin's Church to Town, was launched last May. The 2nd leaflet (Kings Road to Town) will be launched next May.

We are very grateful for the continued support of the Co-op.