

LIVING STREETS

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Living Streets Guernsey LBG Newsletter— April 2011

Students take part in tree planting at Baubigny

In February a group of St. Sampson's High students joined Living Streets volunteers and Tree Wardens to plant hawthorn on the new earth banks along the Baubigny Schools pathway.

Six hundred hawthorn saplings and around two dozen trees had been donated by the Guernsey Society of the Men of the Trees.

The two hundred metres of earth banks which delineate the pathway through the 8 acre site were planted over three days. It was a huge undertaking and we are most grateful to everyone who helped.



A team effort: Tom Le Pelley helps two students. On the right Living Streets members Francis Paul and Sue Solway

Andy McCutcheon, Secretary of The Men of the Trees and co-ordinator of the Guernsey Tree Planting Scheme, referred to the event as: *"a great example of a community driven project which benefits the environment"*

We would like to thank head teacher of St. Sampson's High, Anabel Bolt, for allowing her students to take part in the initiative. We hope this will lead to a closer relationship with the school in the future.



Thanks also to the CEPS team who followed up by putting on wood chips to suppress weeds.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 14th April

AGM and Police Forum with newly appointed Traffic Sergeant, John Tostevin. He will tell us about the changes in the Traffic section and will take questions on all issues.

Thursday 16th June

The French experience—traffic ideas which could work in Guernsey?

Thursday 15th September

Topic to be announced later

All meetings 7.30pm Emma Ferbrache Room at the PEH

Living Streets helps RBC with Wellness Day

Living Streets provided information to the Royal Bank of Canada for their Wellness Day in January.

The company was looking to promote sustainable transport to their staff at a Wellness Fair.

With the help of Colin Le Conte and his colleagues at Digimap we produced maps to show a one mile and two mile walking distance of their offices in both Guernsey and Jersey.



We also produced an A4 sheet with information about the benefits of walking and how to keep safe on the roads.

Fund raising activities in aid of the Baubigny Schools pathway

A Quiz on 28th January jointly with the Capelles Methodist Church raised £380 towards Living Streets funds.

Many thanks to everyone who took part and especially to Judith Le Tissier for arranging the joint initiative.

The profits were shared in order to raise funds for cycle racks at Capelles and help our Baubigny Schools project.

The Living Streets Tranquillity Walk 2011

This year's Tranquillity Walk will take place on **Sunday 17th July—2.30pm. Meet in the car park opposite the Grande Mare Hotel.**

Devised by Tom Le Pelley, it will be a circular walk around the Castel parish. This will be our major fund raiser and we do hope that everyone will either try to take up the challenge or encourage their friends and family to do so. Sponsorship forms will be on our website in due course. www.livingstreets.org.gg
Please put the date in your diary now.

Fund raising quiz Friday 6th May

Please do support our next quiz at the Church of Scotland in the Grange—7.15 for 7.30. Tables of 4, £8 each to include a finger buffet. Please book your table with Jean Lees on 716564.

Creating streets that put people first

As we move into the 10th year of our operations it is perhaps a good time to remind everyone of the objectives of Living Streets. We want streets where:

- People are prioritised over traffic
- Walking is the natural choice for short journeys
- Local people, like us, help make decisions

We have recently re-designed our leaflet which now illustrates our range of work on the front cover: Pavements 4 Pedestrians, Safe routes to School, Be Safe Be Seen, 20's Plenty around schools, School Travel Plans, Making zebras safer, More pedestrian crossings, Road Safety—tackling speeding and More Space for Pedestrians.

Our Safe Routes to School objective has dominated our work over the past three years as we have struggled against so much opposition to develop the route for St. Peter Port students to walk or cycle to their new schools at Baubigny.

The rest of our work goes on quietly in the background. It is not publicised. We pride ourselves on the fact that islanders have enough confidence in us to ask for our support over community issues that affect their lives. Unfortunately we can't win all the battles or perform miracles.

These are just three of the issues we tried to solve last year.



We were contacted by a local resident about a planning application which meant that this lovely alleyway from Cordier Hill down to Victoria Road will now have to be shared with vehicles exiting from a new development on the right of the picture. Many school children use this route. We were too late to stop this—**cars before people?**



How would you like to cross the road here? An elderly lady who lives in Lowlands Road has to cross here to walk to the Vale School. She has had several near misses. Sight lines are terrible and the traffic in the Braye Road is fast (and so close to the high granite wall). The lady is now so frightened about crossing here that she (and others) are forced to walk the long way round via the Bridge. The only thing we managed to do was to get a mirror re-instated.



Bicycles parked on the pavement near the official cycle parking area in North Plantation were blocking the route for pedestrians and wheelchair users. A local bike hire company was responsible. The Traffic Section of Environment has now written to the company about this. We are keeping a watching brief in case this happens again this summer.

Please help us create streets that put people first. If you are not already a member of Living Streets, please consider joining us. The subscription is only £12 per annum. We really need your support.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stand up for your neighbourhood

New YouGov online research commissioned by Living Streets UK reveals that 28% of adults, including some of the most vulnerable, struggle to access shops and services on foot, leading to isolation, lack of exercise and neighbourhood decline.

Support for green motoring

The RAC has suggested that charging points for electric vehicles should be made compulsory in new building regulations. They say this will allay the fears among the public that these cars will be difficult to own and will give a clear sign of the Government's commitment to supporting green motoring.

Scouts as traffic cops

Scouts in Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, have been helping the police man speed traps and lecturing offending drivers on the dangers of speeding. In return they have been presented with a community challenge badge. *Daily Mail 20/1/11*

Free parking for green cars

All hybrid and electric cars will be able to park for free in municipal car parks in Paphos, Cyprus, for a year as a trial. Nicos Similides said "We want to send the message that Paphos cares about people and the environment and we hope that this will also encourage more people to use these types of cars." (*Cyprus Today 12/1/11*)

Green living rules in Stockholm

Stockholmers planning to relocate to the City's new Norra Djurgårdsstaden (Royal Seaport) district will have to adhere to strict green-living rules before picking up the keys to their new homes. Residents must prove they can correctly sort out recycling from regular waste, enjoy regular exercise, participate in car pooling and are happy to socialise with neighbours.

Musical stairs for healthier lives

Stairs in stations and public buildings could be adapted to play tunes as people stand on each step making them "fun" to climb a government report has suggested, in a bid to cut obesity and increase public fitness. (*Telegraph 1/1/11*).