

LIVING STREETS

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Living Streets Guernsey LBG Newsletter— January 2016

Road Safety Week—Bright Day

“Bright Day” is the dress down day we organise each year in order to emphasise the BE SAFE BE SEEN message. This year it was held on 30th October—so just before the clocks go back. Guernsey’s narrow roads and lack of street lighting can be very challenging—particularly on a dark rainy night.

We encourage pedestrians and cyclists to brighten up at night—preferably by wearing a high visibility vest over their coat. All the funds collected during “Bright Day” go towards purchasing hi-vis vests which we then give out free to islanders.

This year’s event was a bit disappointing. 9 companies pledged to take part when we contacted them earlier in the year. However, only 3 of those eventually took part.



Tom and Pat with members of Guernsey Post in their bright clothes

We are most grateful to the States Departments who, as usual, raised the majority of the money. Also to Guernsey Post and to Clegg Gifford.

We raised £396.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Walk to School Week
16th May

Calendar 2016

Our 2016 calendar has sold very well this year. We printed 1,200 copies and we only have a few left. We have taken £4,303.66 (which includes £1,100 in sponsorship which almost covers the print cost)

Feedback from one of our retail outlets was very good—they said our calendar was the best selling one this year.

We have received quite a few requests from people overseas. Should we be trying to set up a separate website for our Guernsey Country Walks merchandise?

Let me know what you think.

Free hi-vis vests at the OSA Recruitment Pop Up Shop



L-R Belinda Windsor (OSA), Jackie Tebbutt, Pat Wisher, Tom Le Pelley

We are most grateful to OSA Recruitment for allowing us to occupy their Pop Up shop in Smith Street during Road Safety Week. It is a fantastic way of raising our profile and spreading the BE SAFE BE SEEN message.

We spent £907.75 on the purchase of high visibility vests — investing some of our own funds to make sure we had sufficient to meet the demand from islanders.

We gave first choice of items to employees who took part in “Bright Day” and also to schools. Amherst received 25 vests for pupils

who had just passed their cycle proficiency test and Le Murier received 9 vests for pupils who walk for their Duke of Edinburgh practice.

Normally we only offer yellow, orange or pink vests but we decided to extend the colour range adding pale blue, royal blue and green. It is always difficult to gauge demand and the new colours ran out very quickly.

We are most grateful to Sarah Burchett at Specsavers who donated well over 100 small adult vests.



Sheila Cataroche selling our calendars

Very many thanks also to Tom, Jackie Tebbutt, Maureen Pitman, Sheila Cataroche, Judith Le Tissier and Ann Robilliard for their help manning the shop during the week.

We are also very grateful to Creaseys for lending us a mannequin for the week and the Red Cross shop for lending us some clothes to dress the mannequin!

As well as our BE SAFE BE SEEN message we had leaflets on “Safe walking in Guernsey” and “iPod Oblivion” plus some of our Walk to Work leaflets. We also encouraged islanders to talk about any pedestrian safety concerns.

During the week we sold a good quantity of our merchandise—our 2016 calendars, Christmas cards and greeting cards. We sold 103 of our greeting cards, 34 calendars and 115 Christmas cards taking a total of £318.

In addition we received £288.51 in donations.

Baubigny Schools pathway—we try to deal with the muddy parts



Tom and Pat met with the Environment Board last year to talk about the Baubigny Schools pathway and how we could encourage more pupils and islanders to use it. The Board unanimously supported our efforts in the past. We then met with Colin Le Page and his colleagues at the Active Travel Unit to discuss what needed to be done.

The picture above was taken in October 2012—can you imagine what this would be like today after all the rain? There are two

muddy areas in the track which goes from the Bowl to the Bukit Estate. We believe that more people would use the pathway all the year round if only we could deal with this problem.

We have done hours of research in the Greffe which shows that none of the landowners bordering this track own it.

It was decided that we should write a letter to the landowners on each side of the track saying that we would like to deal with the flooding problem and asking them whether they have any evidence showing that they own the track.

Although no landowner has claimed ownership, we have had two angry letters, one of which threatens legal action if we do anything. Advice from Mourant Ozannes indicates that this could lead to a costly litigation and the Environment Department would, therefore, not be able to support this.

CT Plus winter bus timetable



Living Streets members provided feedback via the Bus Users Group about two proposed new “smaller bus” routes.

Seven of our members provided feedback and we are pleased to see that much of our comments have been taken into account. One of their suggested routes was described as “tortuous” by one of our members so we are glad that they didn’t go ahead with it.

It is good to see that the winter timetable is virtually the same as the summer one. The new P2 route also now links the Bridge to the PEH. As someone who has recently spent a great deal of time in the PEH visiting my sick husband, I have found the parking horrendous and my No. 61 bus invaluable.

Living Streets Guernsey LBG AGM

At our AGM on 9th January we welcomed Lyndsay De Sausmarez who gave us a detailed picture of what the St. Martin’s School Active Travel group had managed to put in place. There is now a daily “walking bus” and a “cycle train” with 30–40 children on bikes wearing hi-vis

vests. They are working towards providing more “kiss and drop off” sites at places around the school. They are also hoping to get more safe crossings along the Grande Rue for pupils living on the north side of the road and a pedestrian priority zone in the school feeder lanes.

The accounts showed cash at the bank as £12,066. The Baubigny School path rental had increased by £500 to cover insurance. The general feeling of the meeting was that it was getting harder to justify the annual payment if usage did not also grow in similar proportions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

“Forget the gym — take a brisk walk to lose weight

A study from the London School of Economics found that people may benefit more from “high impact” walking than other activities, such as going to the gym. Men and women who regularly walked briskly for more than 30 minutes had smaller waists. (*Telegraph 8.11.15.*)

Parents to issue parking tickets at the school gates

Thurrock Council in Essex is piloting a scheme that will give parent and teacher volunteers the power to issue £70 fines to inconsiderate motorists. The volunteers will undergo a week’s training similar to that of a full-time traffic enforcement officer, then shadow a qualified warden for 4 weeks. John Kent said: “Some of the parking is frankly dangerous. We don’t have the resources to employ an army of people to do this so we do need to work with the community.”

(*Telegraph 26.9.15*)

2014 National Travel Survey

According to the National Travel Survey, the number of people using their legs as a mode of transport is at an all-time low, falling 31% since the mid Nineties. Putting one foot in front of the other is now seen as a novelty, a hobby to be measured with FitBits and Jawbones and Apple Watches. (*Bryony Gordon, Telegraph 24.10.15.*)

Paris Climate Event

Encouraging an urban mobility mode shift to cycling and walking could almost halve carbon emissions from urban passenger transit by 2050, saving trillions of dollars, an event organised by the FIA Foundation at the Paris Climate talks has heard. Political leadership would be needed to deliver a package of policy measures. Describing walking as “the truly zero-carbon form of mobility”, Bronwen Thornton also urged greater political commitment for pedestrian rights. (*FIAFoundation blog 18.12.15.*)

Health & Wellbeing of 15-year-olds in England

Only 14 % of young people said they participated in at least one hour of moderate vigorous activity per day in the last seven days.