

Spotlight on Sandy Boyce-Sharpe



I am a 'Johnny come lately' to Eastbourne only having moved here 7 years ago but I couldn't have chosen a friendlier or more interesting town. When my family was young we lived in South Devon in an idyllic seaside town, and something draws you back to the seaside. We had a family business in the town. I was thrilled to be the first female Chairman of The Chamber of Commerce and was also involved in a number of local groups. They were all associations who campaigned to get things done, and I suppose it rubbed off.

But things move on; the children went to university and I started a new company specialising in Project Management. I travelled a lot and found being closer to London easier for communications and moved to a Surrey village handy for the M25, etc. One of my most rewarding times in Surrey was when I became a volunteer and a Director of the East Surrey Domestic Violence Forum. I was working mainly with the Children's Awareness Programme, but also liaising with outreach workers in the community.

With modern technology and a laptop, grandchildren in Rottingdean and looking towards retirement, my husband and I decided to move to Eastbourne. My nearest park was Hampden Park and the Friends of the Hampden Park had just been formed with the aim of enhancing the quality of the park, and particularly ensuring the lake, known historically as the Decoy Pond was restored. I was delighted to be elected Chairman 5 years ago and the Friends have gone from strength to strength in membership and achievement, culminating in 2011 with a Grand Lottery grant of £50,000. This, in addition to the £60,000 Eastbourne Borough Council has allocated towards the work, can ensure the majority of the works to improve the ecology of the Pond can be carried out. Our thanks go out to everyone who donated to the Friends Pond Appeal through all the NatWest Banks in Eastbourne.

The appeal is still open! Our website, www.friendsofthehampdenpark.co.uk details projects, funding, social events, and information on how to join us.

As long as I can remember my hobbies have included gardening and flowers. When I was a teenager Mum could get me to weed or prune but not wash up! So it was with delight that I accepted an invitation to be part of the Eastbourne in Bloom Team; I have now also become involved with Hampden Park in Bloom and Pevensy in Bloom. These groups encourage pubs, businesses, schools, allotments, private gardens and community groups to get involved in beautifying their area with flowers.

Some years ago I was also invited to become a Trustee of the Friends of the Eastbourne Hospitals which is very rewarding, working with a great team raising funds for many worthwhile projects. I specifically sit on a group liaising with the Hospital Trust and Chair the committee that run the Flower Shop.

About two years ago the Police invited me to form a Neighbourhood Panel for Hampden Park. This was completely innovative. These Panels were devised to ensure that the will of the people, residents or businesses, is translated up to those who make the decisions, rather than the community feeling decisions are made without their input. The Panel has representatives from the whole community with often 20-30 attendees from the community and businesses. It was through this Panel that I first became involved with Neighbourhood Watch which does such invaluable work, their representatives often being the first port of call for people with a problem.

In Autumn 2010 I was invited to become a Governor of The Eastbourne Academy having had close connections with staff and students who attend the Panel. Such an exciting time to be involved in this new venture.

It has been daunting to try to précis so many years and interests and I haven't even mentioned historical research, reading or travel. I thought when I retired there would be more time for everything. The opposite is true! But I probably wouldn't have it any other way.

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Your local NHW Scheme Co-ordinator is:

Spring 2011

Issue 39

EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Association encouraging the Community to work together to fight crime in close co-operation with the Police, Crime Reduction Partnership and supported by Eastbourne Borough Council

CONS AND COWBOYS

As promised in our last issue, here are a few more examples of how to avoid being conned by doorstep callers, and unsolicited phone calls from would-be so-called 'traders'. To check if traders are genuine, see details on page two.



BUILDING AND GARDENING WORKS

Do not let doorstep callers do any building or gardening works without a written quote – an estimate is NOT a quote. An estimate is a rough idea of what the work will cost, which can be increased by the trader. A written QUOTE, once agreed and accepted by you, is legally binding and the total cannot be changed without your consent. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is! So think carefully before committing yourself, and get more than one quote so that you have a comparison. For small jobs such as garden tidying, pruning shrubs or small trees, you may be persuaded that a written quote is not needed – but beware! Recently there was a case where an elderly gentleman was charged £50 for trimming a shrub – this was badly done, in just a few minutes, with a chain saw!

INSTALLING ALARMS AND SECURITY SYSTEMS



Never give this type of work to casual tradesmen. Such work is complex and should only be done by an established company. In a recently reported case, a lady was contacted by phone about installing a 'free' alarm system, similar to 'Lifeline'. However the 'maintenance' was going to cost £5,500 per year. After handing over a cheque she realised she could not afford this. She was told she had a 7 day cooling off period, but they actually installed the system the next day. When she changed her mind, she was told its removal would cost several hundred pounds. She now

faces this cost, and a delay of several months before her £5,500 will be credited back to her account. The lesson to be learned is that nothing is free in this world, so if something is apparently free or cheap, there will definitely be a catch, and you will be the victim!

ILLEGAL METER CREDIT

Energy companies are warning about organised criminals targeting homes, selling illegal meter credit. You are told by this doorstep caller that their offer of electricity meter top-ups are much cheaper. But after paying them, you will discover that this credit is not accepted by the meter, so you then have to pay the normal amount to your supplier, meaning that you have paid twice! 85,000 customers in the UK have already been affected.

You can contact Consumer Direct for information about pre-payment meters, on 08454 040506 or look up the 'TopUp Safe' website.

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Contact: www.eastbournenp.org Tel: 07733 480858 email: jan.newens@sky.com

Don't get caught out!

East Sussex Trading Standards 'Buy With Confidence Scheme' Directory see their contact details in their article below. For an Eastbourne & East Dean 'Checktrade' Directory call 01243 601234. For a free copy of 'Scambuster' call the Office of Fair Trading on 0800 389 3158. This publication gives advice on avoiding scams. If you have been a victim call Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506. Cases of Fraud can be reported to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau on actionfraud.org.uk or 0300 123 20 40.

East Sussex County Council, Trading Standards - Rapid Action Team

The Rapid Action Team (RAT) assists vulnerable consumers at risk from the activities of rogue traders and door step callers. If you are concerned that you have been targeted by such people using unscrupulous tactics we are on hand to intervene. We can carry out limited personal checks on the police database to identify whether the person is wanted for similar incidents. Our team can then investigate. Often we do so jointly with the Police, which can lead to prosecutions and civil injunctions. A recent case saw our RAT respond to a call from a concerned resident whose elderly neighbour was due to hand over a large cheque to a builder. A cheque had already been paid earlier that week. The team quickly established that the 'builder' had cold called and the client was able to cancel the contract. The team stopped the client from handing over the second cheque. Trading Standards are committed to working with the Police and pursuing the individuals behind these crimes. Contact us on 01323 463430.

Neighbourhood Watch Gets Things Done!

A Ward Co-ordinator was asked to help deal with overgrown vegetation, litter and bad lighting along an enclosed footpath used by families with children; the elderly were frightened to use it! Overgrowth was soon cut back by the Council. A site visit by a Highways lighting officer and the Co-ordinator identified the need to improve the lighting. Funds were successfully secured from the CRP and the Devolved Ward budget enabling the work to proceed. Litter bins are to be installed and notices warning that enforcement patrols will be in the area. **Safe Passage!**

A Co-ordinator, already suspicious about a parked car in his Close was outside his property when a 4x4 vehicle approached and stopped nearby. A male jumped out and ran towards the parked car, started it and raced away, following the 4x4. Memorising the numbers and appearances of the males, 999 was called. The police response was very fast, and the males apprehended. The car had been stolen, drugs were found and items suggesting that other crimes were intended. The Co-ordinator has received a letter of commendation from Commander Jayne Dando. **Co-ordinator on the ball!**

Worried about something in your area?

Ring John & Pam on 507665 or Alf on 507639.

We are here to help!

Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership 'Quality Streets' for Eastbourne

Eastbourne hosted several Quality Streets events over the last few months. Dozens of residents took the opportunity to speak to Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Eastbourne Borough Council's Community Enforcement, Environmental Health, Dog Warden, Eastbourne Homes, East Sussex County Council Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch, the local Neighbourhood Panel and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's Home Safety Team. Issues ranged from dog fouling and litter to concerns about youths and home fire safety.

During the meetings Officers called at homes around the area to bring the event to residents' doorsteps and ask people about their concerns. Sergeant Fiona Munro said, "We had a very good turnout to the events with people of all ages coming to speak to Officers. It's clear that Quality Streets events are giving the community an opportunity to ask questions of all the agencies involved and we welcome the feedback that we receive." Quality Streets offer the opportunity for a multi-agency approach to an area to deal with concerns and improve confidence for the community.



The Partnership will be holding a Quality Streets event every month throughout the year across Eastbourne in addition to the day to day work that partners undertake. **If you feel the area where you live would benefit from being included in the initiative ask your local PCSO or the Crime Reduction Partnership on 01323 415346.**

For more information please visit www.eastbourne.gov.uk/crime

LANGNEY NEEDS YOUR HELP !

We are seeking a public spirited person who lives in Langney to become NHW Ward Co-ordinator. You will represent Langney at our quarterly Committee meetings. This voluntary post involves promoting Neighbourhood Watch in the area. Help and advice will be provided and you would be a vital member of our team. Come and help to reduce crime with us.

For more details call: **Jan** on 07733 480858, or the Editors **John & Pam** on 01323 507665 or **Alf** on 01323 507639

Tribute to Professor Walter James CBE,

who passed away at Christmas aged 93, having been a Meads Street Co-ordinator for many years. He was a University lecturer and saw the benefit of using mass media for education purposes, and was one of the lead founders of the Open University. He was appointed CBE in 1977 for services to voluntary organisations and the community. He was an Eastbourne Liberal Democrat Councillor for 4 years in the 1990s. He will be sadly missed. He leaves widow Joyce, and their two sons.



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EASTBOURNE CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP
 "Making Eastbourne Even Safer"

Overall crime has reduced by 21% from 2003/4 compared with 2009/10
 Crime in 2010 continues to fall compared with 2009/10
 Burglary, criminal damage and violent crime have seen a major reduction over the last 12 months

OUR PRIORITIES FROM 2008 - 2011 INCLUDE:
 • Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage
 • Public place violence, particularly in the Town Centre at night
 • Supply of illegal drugs

Working to make Eastbourne an even safer place to live, work and visit.
www.eastbourne.gov.uk/crime

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SOME NEWS FROM YOUR PCSOs

PULL OUT AND KEEP SHEET

- MEADS** – PCSO Dave Smith – 07787 685811:
A man was rescued from the cliffs at Beachy Head on 27th February. Police attended, and an immediate search of the area, involving the Police helicopter and local coastguards, found the man nearby. He was airlifted to the Eastbourne District General Hospital and treated for minor injuries.
- DEVONSHIRE** – PCSOs: Brian Burton – 07787 685814: Mike Easton – 07787 685759:
Steve Parsons – 07787 685812 : Ruth Seal – 07901 715967 : Sue Robinson – 07787 685820
A warrant was executed in Pevensey Road on 23rd February. Drugs in excess of £6000 were seized. A male was arrested for possession with intent to supply and remanded in custody.
- UPPERTON** – PCSO Anita Edwards – 07787 685810 There are parking problems at the bottom half of Arundel Road and Leaf Glen. There are no yellow lines so people park on both sides of an already narrow road. Residents & Cllr.Marsden are trying to get Highways to put yellow lines in place to alleviate the problem.
- OLD TOWN** – PCSOs Austin Milson – 07787 685808: Anita Edwards – 07787 685810:
The community centre is undergoing an upgrade to attract more people to use the facilities and clubs. Speed checks have been conducted around Cavendish School and numerous warnings and fixed penalties have been issued.
- RATTON** – PCSO Austin Milson – 07787 685808 Speed checks continue across the ward. Patrols are conducted in the area so please say hello to your PCSO. Police surgeries are being held at the DGH for residents to get crime prevention advice and to raise issues that they may have. Contact your PCSO for the next date.
- HAMPDEN PARK** – PCSOs Brett Williams – 07787 685809: Lee Osborn – 07787 685807 PCSOs have been conducting more late patrols recently to address Anti-Social Behaviour, this has resulted in 7 youths being stopped with cannabis which in turn resulted in them being issued cannabis warnings.
- ST ANTHONY'S** – PCSOs Wendy Turner – 07787 685803: Tony Holland – 07787 685821
In January 2011 there were a spate of breakins to the beach huts along the seafront of Langney Point and to some of the garages as well. Two local youths were arrested by Police and dealt with accordingly and property was returned to the owners.
- SOVEREIGN** – PCSO Martin Hylands – 07909 873787 We had reports of youths throwing eggs at homes in South Harbour. The following evening 4 youths were stopped in the area with eggs they had bought from Asda. All youths and their parents received home visits from me and a letter from the Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. The most targeted home even had a visit from the remorseful youths to apologise.
- LANGNEY** – PCSOs Andy Monico – 07787 685819: Craig Oakley – 07787 685806:
A group of youths were identified as responsible for Anti-Social Behaviour in the area. They have been dealt with through Community Resolution, whereby a written or verbal apology is given to the victim. A zero-tolerance policy will be adopted by taking positive action against people for associated offences.

REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE: Crime in progress or about to happen: **Call 999;**

Concern or recent incident: **Call 0845 60 70 999** Crimestoppers (anonymously); **Call 0800 555 111**



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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WARD CO-ORDINATORS

1 MEADS: Roy Peacock: 01323 647729: 'Cold callers in blocks of flats are a concern in this Ward. We encourage blocks to become Neighbourhood Watch members, because a combination of warning window and door stickers, and increased awareness of residents has proved to successfully stop this type of activity.'

2 DEVONSHIRE: Nigel Goodyear: 01323 641211: 'Reported crime figures in this Ward continue to fall. Good work by Police, community groups, Neighbourhood Watch and local residents shows that by working together we can achieve positive results. Don't forget – keep your sheds and outbuildings securely locked against opportunist thieves.'

3 UPPERTON: Colin Sargent: 01323 731909: 'Organisers of Community Payback have agreed that the growth along King's Drive by the field will be cut back. Police report that crime has been up slightly recently, and high visibility patrols are now in place around parks.'

4 OLD TOWN: David Visick: 01323 724982: 'A new Scheme has started in Den Hill. It has been observed that scrap metal left in front gardens has been removed without authorization by men in a pick-up. No vehicle details available so far.'

5 RATTON AND RODMILL: Alf Pulfer: 01323 507639: 'Crime statistics in this Ward are low. Small amount of anti-social behaviour receiving Police attention. Parking issues are a priority. Indiscriminate parking will be acted upon. Members can also phone NSL (EBC Parking Enforcement team) on 0845 680 1129 for assistance.'

6 HAMPDEN PARK EAST: Keith Fillery: 01323 504042: 'Plans are still going ahead for a No Cold Calling Zone in this Ward. Fly tipping is being pursued by EBC Enforcement officers. If you see fly tipping, take vehicle details and report it.'

6a HAMPDEN PARK WEST: John & Pam Rollison: 01323 507665: 'Hampden Park level crossing is being monitored by CCTV vans and prosecutions are being issued to anyone ignoring or trying to jump the lights.'

7 ST ANTHONY'S: Nigel Parker: 01323 645529: 'Thanks to EBC, Archery and Roseland Recreation Grounds have new equipment for children to enjoy. Now Spring is here, lock up the doors of your sheds and homes – don't let the opportunists in!'

8 SOVEREIGN: 'We are delighted to announce that we have a new volunteer to look after this Ward – more information next time!'

9 LANGNEY: 'WE NEED YOU! A Ward Co-ordinator plays a vital role, in spite of needing to give very little time. Interested? Ring Jan on 07733 480858.'

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