

# SPLAT!

No 10/01

## It'S Pevensey Local Action Team

An occasional newsletter about what's happening for the young people of Pevensey and Pevensey Bay

### WHAT'S A LOCAL ACTION TEAM?

## The Police are on the case

You know what it's like in villages: as soon as a few teenagers stand around in the street the old folks think they're going to cause trouble. So to let the young people have a good time without upsetting the rest of the population, a number of local Police Forces around the country have helped to set up Local Action Teams. In these teams, members of local councils and other organisations, ask the young people what they need, and help them to get hold of sports equipment, or set up meeting places or organise activities: which the youngsters will run for themselves.



Jackie  
Baldwin-  
Charles our  
Neighbourhood  
Policing Constable

Jackie used to be a civil servant. She says, "I decided to become a police officer because I wanted to work with the community. My on duty mobile number is 07787685732. Please feel free to contact me, but don't use this number for emergencies.

Jackie works in Pevensey Bay, Pevensey, Westham, Stone Cross and Hankham.

Pevensey Local Action Team was set up in July last year, with advice from our Neighbourhood Policing Constable Jackie Baldwin-Charles and PCSO Jamie Harwood. Cllr Shirley Clark is chairman and the team includes members from the county and parish councils, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, Pevensey Community Action Group, Anderida WI, Pevensey and Westham Sports Club, Glacier Bay and the parish Church, plus two or three youth representatives.

The LAT has made a few moves already: like fund-raising activities run by the young people themselves, and we want to hear your ideas about what you need for your leisure time. To help this we're going to let you set up a local youth forum. (See below).



Jamie Harwood  
our PCSO  
(Police Community  
Support Officer)

Jamie says, "I joined the police because I wanted to make a difference in the community. My role is to provide a visible police presence in the village.

I really enjoy meeting and talking with people, and I am pleased that the majority of residents are happy to see us in the area".

You can contact Jamie on 07787685748

## **FUNDRAISING, £500.00 in one go!**

East Sussex County Council's YouthBank held an event in the style of the hit TV show Dragons' Den to encourage young people to bid for money to improve their communities.

YouthBank is a pot of money which is made up of money from government and money from East Sussex County Council's Cabinet. It gives out grants to a whole host of youth groups and organisations. This is to make sure young people in the county have access to the best services and opportunities possible.

Young people are involved throughout the process from putting in applications for funding to deciding which projects receive money.

YouthBank is part of East Sussex County Council's Youth Development Service.

On Saturday, October 24 the YouthBank team visited the Access All Areas Youth Arts Festival at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill. Groups of young people took turns to face a panel of dragons, all young volunteers themselves, and had five minutes to convince them that their idea deserved some cash to make their project work. They were told they could aim for anything from £25 to £500. A team from Pevensey Bay, led by L A T member Fiona Roberts, put in a bid for £500 to pay for the construction of a concrete base for their proposed youth shelter on the Wallsend Road skatepark site. Bradley Manners and Charlie Florey were our speakers and were helped to develop their PowerPoint presentation by Mrs Dixon and Mrs Skilton of Willingdon School. Brad and Charlie found themselves up against tough opposition, but they made such a good case for the project that they convinced the Dragons, and they were delighted to be presented with a cheque for £500.00



**Charlie and Brad  
get their hands  
on a nice fat cheque  
from YouthBank  
Well done, guys!**

### **And another £50.00!**

The same weekend Maz, Scott, Connor and Charlie, with Parish Council Chairman John Grout set up a car wash facility on the Pevensey Bay car park. Sheila Clarke had made some fliers and posters and spread these around the village: sadly not many people took up the offer, but the lads made £50 for the LAT funds. Thanks go to Whitley Road Car Sales, who provided the team with buckets, sponges and cleaning materials.

### **There's more to come, we hope!**

With the plans we've got for all sorts of facilities for sports and leisure in the village, it's obvious that we're going to need a lot of money. There's a number of organisations that will give grants for projects like ours, and members of the LAT will be applying for funds as the plans are worked out. Now that the guys know that they are good at local fund-raising, with Fiona backing them they'll be laying on few more events for you to join in around Pevensey Bay and Pevensey this spring and summer. Keep a look-out for posters and in the news.

## SKATE AND BIKE PARK

# A good job done

The Wallsend Road site has been in use for ten years, provided with a 'half-pipe' bike and skateboard ramp. In the last year the lads who use it have worked hard to build some earth ramps and bankings, and have got really good at bike acrobatics. The half-pipe had worn smooth and was very slippery – there'd been a few falls and one broken ankle. So we thought it was time to make it safe again. When we asked them what was needed, the lads all said we should have it resurfaced with 'Sk8lite'. That was going to cost £3500.00, but we found out about a special non-slip paint which would cost a lot less. So at autumn half-term a gang of young people, and a few older ones, got together and did the job. It took a whole day for four of us to sand down the surface, using electric sanders. And thank you to Philip Jago of Haven Garage who let us plug in to their electric supply when our generator couldn't cope.



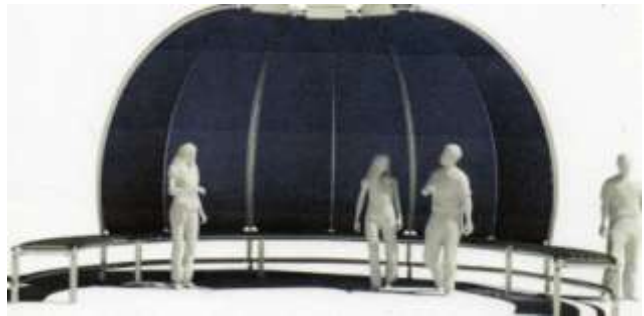
**Mason, Bradley, Connor Ben and Shane, putting the next coat on. Charlie, Richard, Scott and Lewis did some painting as well.**

Then we spent three days painting it: fourteen youngsters turned up, a few at a time and we managed to put on three coats. We were dead lucky with the weather, every day was dry and warm. But it rained one night, after we'd done the first coat, and we had to do some frantic mopping to get it dry. Then the paint went on easily and dried overnight. But there hasn't been much good

weather since so the half-pipe hasn't had a lot of use yet, but the guys say that the surface is a lot better now.

## NEXT – A YOUTH SHELTER

Young users of the site have been asking for a shelter so that they can sit and talk out of the wind when not performing acrobatics. We looked at lots of different shapes and sizes, we've decided on the best shelter for your site and it's been ordered.



**Here's the sort of shelter we hope to put on the site**

It needs a concrete base, and the £500 won from the Dragons' Den will be spent on getting one built. At the same time, there are plans to extend the area of the site to make room for further activities: the bikers want a Wall-of-Death and some more earth jumps, plus a basket-ball basket and a "goal-wall" for you other sporty guys and girls. You can build some of these things yourselves, but some of the equipment will cost money: that's why we'll be keeping up the fundraising. The Parish Council have passed plans for the extension to Wealden District Council for approval, and Parish Clerk Malcolm Lawson and Council Chairman John Grout are working hard to overcome any delays in the granting of planning permission. Time is important: we have to spend the money by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010, or we lose it. So we hope that the planning people at Wealden will not keep us waiting any longer.

## WE WISH

The old Environment Agency site in Coast Road would be an ideal place for a youth centre with indoor and outdoor facilities. Chairman Shirley has been trying for months

to contact the EA, but so far they haven't even answered her letters or phone calls.

### **IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS**

## **The vandals are still at it, but not for long.**

LAT Member Jim Saunders, Chairman of Pevensey and Westham Sports Club was horrified to find that cars had been driven around the football field, making donuts on the pitch and the cricket square, churning up the ground and making it impossible to play or practice on.

Jim says *"We are devastated with the continuous interruptions to our play. With cars driving over a wet soft field it makes furrows in the ground and tears off the grass where they turn round. This obviously means that the ball will deviate badly when kicked and not run true and it represents a safety hazard to the players.*

*As a result all games have to be played wherever we can get a ground, which means ground hire costs, and referees will not allow us to play on an unsafe ground. The gated entrance to the ground is not one that was expected to stop access altogether as it is often needed for the fire brigade to train on. for work to be done and local activities.*

*The cricket area is a specialist area and had cost nearly £1000. to resurface, seed feed and loam at the end of the season. We obviously can do nothing now until spring and see what the local firms will quote us for what we can't do for ourselves.*

*The minimum requirement for the football areas will be to rake the entire area, seed it and roll it flat then wait for the grass to grow again. having not done this extent of work before we can't estimate cost. It has always been all hands on deck but this is beyond our capabilities".*

This has happened twice in the last month. What sort of idiot wants to spoil other peoples' fun and cause them so much trouble and expense? The parish council are making the entrance more secure, the police are making investigations and a lot of people will be keeping watch on the site. None of this should be necessary, but we hope it will stop it happening again.

And the bus shelter in Beachlands has been damaged again, and windows at St Wilfrid's Hall broken. Anyone who has any information about this sort of thing being

done, please contact PC Jackie or PCSO Jamie. (see front page)

### **NOW IT'S YOUR TURN**

## **Youth Forum.**

Youth Forums are a new and exciting opportunity for young people to have a voice, raise their concerns and get things done locally. They already work in other communities around the country, ensuring that the needs and priorities of children and young people are taken into account. Local Forums are usually affiliated to Area forums, so that the members can exchange ideas and experiences with others.

So the intention is to set up a Youth Forum within the Pevensey L A T. Leaflets and posters are being designed, and will be distributed around the village and in the schools which our young people go to. Though the structure of the forum hasn't been decided yet, It is likely that representatives will be invited from each school year-group: regular meetings will be arranged and will report back to the L A T for action.

Guy and Jane Hook have kindly agreed to let Glacier Bay be the meeting place for the Forum, once it's up and running. And they are quite happy for young people to meet there at other times – they can get drinks there and have access to computers and the internet. There is also the voucher scheme where our local Police Officers will hand out vouchers which youngsters can use to pay for items at Glacier Bay.

### **BUZZ WILL HELP**

BUZZ is a local group which helps rural communities by giving advice about youth activities and facilities. It is funded by East Sussex County Council. People from BUZZ are available to give talks to young people and give them advice, but they will listen to any suggestions from the Youth Forum.

The success of the Dragons' Den presentation and the half-pipe refurbishment has already shown that there is a lot of potential in the youth of Pevensey and Pevensey Bay. It's up to them to let the LAT know what they want, and then help the team to provide it for them.

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If you have any comments or queries,  
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