



Offington in the 1920s: Part 2

Kathleen Underwood was the granddaughter of Samuel Ransom, the coachman to Lady de Gex, the owner of Offington Park in the early part of the 20th century. Samuel and Alice Ransom lived at the stables of Offington Hall. As a child she spent her summer holidays in Offington (1921-26).

When my cousin and I were small children our respective parents sent us to spend our holidays with our Grandparents, who lived at the stables of Offington Hall in Offington Park. Grandfather was coachman to Lady de Gex who lived at the Hall. To us she seemed very grand and stately and very old and just once removed from Royalty and we held her in great awe.

In those days the Park extended over many acres. Adjoining the stables was what had been the Home Farm but it was at that time let out to a farmer who soon gave it up. When he left it became an unsuccessful mushroom farm and, when that was given up, the builders moved in and began converting the barns and other buildings into attractive dwellings. The first nail they put in was the first nail in the coffin of the rural charm of the place, that was paradise to two such townees as we were - and the beginning of the complete submerging of the stables in a tide of modern development, as can be seen today.

Behind the stables was a paddock, used sometimes as a hay-field, sometimes as grazing; sometimes it was let for a summer camp for children or a camp for soldiers. Once it was used for a large dog show and, always, it was a wonderful place for us to play in.

The stables, at this time, housed on amiable black horse, called "Steadfast", who pulled the carriage or the wagonette for Lady de Gex. The stables had been built to house at least half a dozen horses. In addition to the loosebox used by "Steadfast" there were three stalls and another loosebox that our Grandmother used as a storing place for vegetables and brushes and pails. One stall housed "Teaser", our Grandfather's wirehaired fox terrier.

In addition, there was a wing of pony stables, opposite the wing containing the coach house, jutting out at right angles to the main building. There were four stalls here. One was used to store corn, one to store hay bales and straw and one was kept as a wonderful place for us to play in, when the weather was unsuitable for us to be roaming freely outside. We played wonderful games there, our young imaginations developing in all directions.

The living quarters consisted of three rooms. One large room served as kitchen and living room. From this led off what served, as a bedroom-cum-sitting room for our Grandparents and, beyond that room, was the spare bedroom. This was used when any of our large, warm and happy family of Uncles Aunts and Cousins visited Offington stables. Beyond that room again was the lumber-room, which was just a roughly finished storeroom. It was full of old treasures to be taken out, admired and played with by two small children.

The living room was entered by a quite massive door, situated immediately under the arch that divided the living room area from the stables and supported the attractive stable clock and white bell tower.

The room was heated by and the cooking was done by an old-fashioned cast iron stove with hob and oven adjoining. It also heated a tank of water that gave hot water at the sink, under the window. The window was always covered by crisp lace curtains and the windowsill bright with pots of geraniums. On this range our Grandmother produced delicious meals.

I think our Grandfather received twenty-five shillings a week in wages, in addition to the living accommodation and a supply of coal. Grandmother, therefore, had not much money to manage on. The stables were very far from shops. In the twenties refrigeration had not reached our level of society and so storage must have been a problem. In the absence of refrigeration Grandmother used to keep all fresh food in a "safe", which was a wooden cupboard with perforated zinc to the door and sides. All it could have done was to keep the flies off the contents. Bread was kept in a large earthenware "crock" with a lid, which helped to keep it cool and moist.

Fruit and vegetables were mostly homegrown, on a patch of allotment Grandfather was allowed to use, near the kitchen garden of the Big House and close by the chicken run and chicken-house that supplied the Big House with eggs and poultry. Grandfather collected the eggs, daily, and wrote in the number collected on a calendar that hung on a knob of the large cupboard in the living room that housed Grandfather's smart livery. He never once cheated in this duty, keeping our Grandmother supplied with eggs from his own chickens, housed in a small run situated across the stable-yard, between the stone stile by the entrance gate and the terrifying privy. This was a black place with a roof covered with ivy that dangled through the ceiling and housed spiders and who knew what horrors. A wooden seat, scrubbed to a gleaming whiteness topped a cupboard that contained a bucket underneath. An old bath outside full of ashes from the kitchen was the only means of "sanitation"; a shovelful of ashes being flung into the bucket after each time the place was used.

John Simkin.

COMING SOON...

PUB QUIZ 26TH MARCH 14 page 2

BARN DANCE 28TH JUNE 14 page 9

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Neighbourhood Watch

I would like to begin by thanking you for your kind invitation to December's meeting of the Association at the Allan Fletcher Hall. The attendance was impressive and it was very encouraging to see that some of those present were not only active in running Schemes but also looked out for vulnerable residents in their area. Chris and Wendy Kraszewski are to be congratulated for their initiative in creating what promises to be a strong network at local level.

Since then, we have received ten Community Bulletins from the Police in which the same number of crimes were recorded in Offington. Three of these consisted of burglaries, six involved thefts from sheds and garages, and there was one case of a starter motor being stolen from a vehicle. I am pleased to say that, in four cases, nothing was stolen, although some damage was caused.

Two cases involved the theft of bicycles from sheds, which, sadly, remains one of the commonest crimes in Worthing. Too many bikes still remain inadequately secured, with D-locks not being used, and it's also worth considering the use of ground anchors. The Police advise the use of two different locks - that way, the thieves need different types of tools with them - and that you spend at least 10% of the value of your bicycle on your lock. Shed security alarms are also available for purchase from the Police.

While on the subject, don't forget to visit the Sold Secure website (www.soldsecure.com) if you're thinking of buying security products. This is because Sold Secure is recognized by the Police Crime Prevention Design Advisors (who promote the use of Sold Secure approved products) and by insurers, a number of whom require Sold Secure approved products to be used prior to providing insurance or agreeing to provide a discount on the insurance premium.

As you may know, Terry Rickards has been hard at work in updating the Worthing Neighbourhood Watch database. At a recent NHW Federation workshop, it was acknowledged that email addresses for coordinators as regards a number of NHW schemes are no longer valid, either because the email address is no longer used or has been changed, or some coordinators (for whatever reason) cease their Scheme without informing NHW.

The preliminary result of Terry's findings is that Offington still has by far the highest number of active Schemes of any Ward in Worthing (35 - the next highest is Tarring with 13). However, that represents a far cry from the 80 Schemes for Offington as they appear on the database and, out of the 365 Schemes registered in Worthing as a whole, only 118 are confirmed as being active. Also, 135 Co-coordinators failed to reply to Terry so, if you are one of those, please let him know whether your Scheme is still active as soon as possible.

We have a duty to keep a record of the number of households served by NHW in our area, but it also became apparent over the last year that many Co-coordinators had been left with a sense of isolation in that they were unaware of other active Schemes in their vicinity. It is all the more important, then, that we get as much help as you can give us if we are to provide an accurate reference point whereby all Co-coordinators will know where their nearest active Scheme is.

Lastly, on Saturday 22nd February, Worthing Neighbourhood Watch will be represented at the Worthing Rotary Club's Hobbies & Leisure Exhibition at the Assembly Hall in Stoke Abbott Road between 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. We look forward to welcoming you there.

Tim Drew



Schedule of Works for the Replacement of Lighting

In the Offington Park Area "Street Lighting in Your Road"

Some week's back a leaflet was delivered advising residents of what to expect with the forth-coming replacement of our street lighting. Although informative the information did not include the schedule of works.

Below is an extract from an email received in response to an enquiring made about the schedule of works to be carried out in relations to the new street lighting?

Offington Avenue - 25/02/14

Offington Gardens - 05/03/14

Offington Lane - 21/02/14

Shirley Drive - 03/03/14

Shirley Close - Design currently in progress, the lights will be exchanged soon but unfortunately no estimated start date agreed yet.

Poulter's Lane - 04/03/14

Southfarm Road - Already completed

Warren Road - Cannot find any lights/record of us maintaining lights in this road at present.

Hall Avenue - 26/02/14

Hall Close - 26/02/14

Valentine Close - 26/02/14

Albany Close - Already completed.

Offington Drive - 27/02/14

Helen Jones Customer Care Team

**Street Lighting - South Coast PFI SSE Lighting Services - Unit 1
Royal London Park, Flanders Rd, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 2LG**

Are you interested in a Play Street session?

Play Streets are a resident-led activity for the purposes of children's play on the street. It involves temporarily closing the road for up to 3 hours and restricting car access (residents take turns to 'steward' cars leaving or returning to their properties).

Parents and local residents supervise children and all residents are welcome

Want to feel at home beyond the walls of your flat or house?

Want your Children or other Children to play out safely in the street?



- Children need to play. It is vital for their physical and emotional development and for their social learning. It is also a human right under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Play England defines play as "what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way and for their own reasons". This implies a degree of freedom and independence, which cannot be satisfied by organised or over-supervised play.
- Children like to play near home and have traditionally done so. A 2007 poll found that 71% of adults played out on their street every day compared to only 21% of children today. (Play England). The main reason cited for not playing outside was traffic.
- Children need space to play energetically. Many city homes do not have gardens with ample space for broad physical activity. Parks are great but children don't always have independent access to these so the street is a convenient place for everyday play.
- Playing in the street increases a sense of community by bringing neighbours of all ages together. It encourages feelings of belonging and shared responsibility. These qualities can increase the safety of the neighbourhood.
- It enables children to meet and develop friendships outside school and also increases contact between children and adults, helping to build up familiarity and trust.
- Through dealing with situations that arise independently, children can learn valuable social skills and gain understanding about the world around them
- Playing in the street allows for 'semi-supervised' play. Parents can get on with responsibilities inside the house while allowing children to play outside. Children are far more likely to get a good daily dose of physical activity if allowed to play outside their home, rather than relying on parents to take them somewhere.
- The street is the "starting point for all journeys" (Tim Gill, 2007) and the ability to play out in the street is an important step towards greater independence and self-reliance. Children gain vital skills and confidence to visit friends, go to the park or walk to school on their own.
- Streets make up the major part of public space in the city. To limit them to being only places to drive and park cars is to massively undervalue them. Streets can and should be places where people can sit, talk, read, play and walk – and even sing and dance if they want to! The only way this will happen is if we start to use them differently!

With the playing out events, the idea is that we (adults) simply provide the space and permission for play. What children do with that space is up to them. This can be a slightly unnerving prospect for parents who are used to having to organise their children's time in order to keep them from being 'bored'. But the proof is in the pudding – children have no problem finding things to do when they are given the opportunity, freedom and space to play unhindered. What are your views? We would love to hear ... Kraszewski@sky.com



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Down The Line is a sports league provider based in Brighton & Worthing. We currently offer badminton and squash with more to come.

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Everything is managed through our website so you can log in, update your results, view your match statistics, fixture list, competitions and NEW we can now boast special benefits at certain leisure centers for DTL members.

So if you love the game of badminton or squash then please visit our website and register today. The first league you join will be half price at £5; so don't miss your chance, sign up now!

If you get a mate to sign up then you will be awarded with a FREE go!

We hope to hear from you all.

Contact details: info@dtlsports.co.uk 07724746436

If you are interested in the Squash league then please follow this link:

<http://www.dtlsports.co.uk/squashIndex.php>



Worthing Astronomical Society

There is growing interest in the fascinating hobby, astronomy; West Sussex provides the opportunity to observe the sky at some very dark locations. Astronomy appeals to people of all ages who can share the wonders of the night sky

Worthing Astronomical Society was founded in 1965 and is affiliated to the [Federation of Astronomical Societies \(FAS\)](#). Our aims are to:

- Promote interest in all aspects of astronomy
- Encourage observational work
- Organize regular meetings with invited guest speakers and reports of members' practical work
- Provide equipment that members may use to develop their interest in astronomy
- Provide a focal point for astronomical activity in Worthing and the surrounding area
- Provide a channel of communication with other local, regional and national astronomical societies
- We would love to see new members at our monthly meetings and other activities. If you would like to join us, please contact Peter Goodman, the Membership Secretary at membership@worthingastronomicalsociety.org or phone for more information on 07872 300883
- You can also find further information on our website at

<http://www.worthing-astronomical-society.com/>

Annual membership is £25 payable in November, those joining after this date will only pay a pro-rata amount, the subscription covers all monthly meetings and use of the observatory, there is a charge of £1 for refreshments at meetings

We meet at 1930-2200hrs on the 3rd Monday of each month (except August) at:

Emmanuel United Reformed Church Hall
St Michaels Road, off Heene Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 4SD

We also have our own Observatory, which is situated a few miles North of Worthing; it is equipped with an 11-inch telescope, which provides magnificent views of many interesting objects

We also hold observing evenings and star parties. We would love to see you there; they take place locally in the Worthing area

Easter Colouring in Competition attached.

Colouring pages are fun for children of all ages and are a great educational tool that helps children develop fine motor skills, creativity and colour recognition!

Have a go.....Good Luck Budding Artists.

BENEFITS OF COLORING PAGES:

1. Self-expression 2. Colour Recognition 3. Therapy 4. Building motor skills 5. Focus

Offington Park in the 11th Century

King Cunata gave Offington Park to Earl Godwin in 1016. By the time Edward the Confessor became king in 1042, Godwin was the most powerful Anglo-Saxon in England. In order to maintain power Edward married Godwin's daughter, Edith. Godwin hoped that his daughter would have a son but Edward had taken a vow of celibacy and it soon became clear that the couple would not produce an heir to the throne.

When Godwin died at Winchester on 14th April 1053, his son Harold took his place as the leading Anglo-Saxon in England. He also became head of Edward's army and in 1063 led the invasion of Wales. It is said that Harold's army killed every adult Welsh male they could find and the country was almost completely depopulated.

In 1065 Edward the Confessor became very ill. Harold Godwin claimed that Edward promised him the throne just before he died on 5th January 1066. The next day there was a meeting of the Witan to decide who would become the next king of England. The Witan was made up of a group of about sixty lords and bishops and they considered the merits of four main candidates: Harold Godwin, Edgar Etheling (Edward's nephew), Harald Hardrada of Norway and William of Normandy. On 6th January 1066, the Witan decided that Harold was to be the next king of England.

On 25th September 1066, Harold successfully defended his kingdom against his brother Tostig and King Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge. Harold and his English troops devastated the Norwegians. Both Hardrada and Tostig were killed. The Norwegian losses were considerable. Of the 300 ships that arrived, less than 25 returned to Norway.

While celebrating his victory at a banquet in York on 1st October, Harold heard that William of Normandy had landed at Pevensey Bay. King Harold immediately assembled the housecarls who had survived Stamford Bridge and marched south. He travelled at such a pace that many of his troops failed to keep up with him. When Harold arrived in London on 5th October and there he waited for the local fyrd to assemble and for the troops of the Earl of Mercia and the Earl of Northumbria to arrive from the north. After five days Harold decided to head for the south coast without his northern troops.

We have no accurate figures of the number of soldiers who took part in the Battle of Hastings on 14th October. Historians have estimated that William had 5,000 infantry and 3,000 knights while Harold had about 2,500 housecarls and over 6,000 members of the fyrd. On the death of Harold, William of Normandy became king of England.

After his coronation in 1066, William claimed that all the land in England now belonged to him. William retained about a fifth of this land for his own use. The rest was distributed to those men who had helped him defeat Harold at the Battle of Hastings. This part of Sussex came under the control of William de Braose. Offington Park went to one of his knights, William fitz Norman (fitz meant the illegitimate son). The Domesday Book records that: "The same William (fitz Norman) holds 2 hides in Ofintune of William (de Braose). They have not paid geld. Godwine held them. There is one plough in demesne. Nothing more. It is and was worth 26 shillings."

At this time Offington was a relatively small and unimportant manor. There is some dispute about the actual size of a hide but the best guess is that by the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, Offington was about 240 acres. However, over the next few centuries the estate steadily increased in size and value. I will cover this in future editions of the newsletter.

John Simkin

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Offington Park Resident Association: Problems and Actions

Message from the Chairman -February

Welcome to the second issue of the OPRA newsletter and I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and is having a positive start to 2014 too. It would seem that we're all fortunate not to live where flooding is a problem. My sympathy goes out to all and anyone affected by the appalling weather in the past couple of months.

Following on from the last residents' meeting in December, the Committee met in January and it's genuinely heartening to see that some of the original aspirations from the original residents' meeting in September have now led to some positive achievements.

Subscriptions have reached **180 households** which is a fantastic response since just September start off. My pledge was to show residents that £5 per house gets you so much more and I think we're well on our way to delivering against that commitment.

I recently met up with Peter Ellis from Parks & Foreshore (Adur & Worthing Councils) to arrange not just the replacement of the two old benches in Offington Lane, but for the provision of a further two benches (see picture below). One will hopefully be at the Broadwater roundabout end, near where we're looking at locating our new noticeboard, and another one on the green in Halls Avenue.

I used the Love West Sussex app for the first time, to report a problem that some of the residence where having since the new pathways where put in, one of which weren't draining water away properly. Emily from Love West Sussex has passed photos on to WSCC Highways for them to follow up.

Regarding parking at the eastern end of Offington Avenue, the process of seeking a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has been advanced to the local councilors and as well as WSCC Highways as an ongoing task. We will share further updates about the proposed traffic easing and calming measures via our website and future newsletters, particularly when the TRO consultation opens for residents and road users alike to submit their comments into.

Additionally, we are awaiting an update from PCSO Ed Mitchell on the speed check for the surrounding area.

I was also invited to the meeting between Worthing College and Hill Barn Residents committee on 5th February 2014, which was held by Peter Corrigan and Paul Riley from the College. I felt that the college understood the various aspects of the issues affecting residents. The likes of parking, congestion, cycling, litter and planting of new trees are all issues which need to be addressed effectively but I appreciate that students are only likely to be studying there for one to two years. So for some of these issues, it would seem that educating students from the start of their course would be the best way forward. It was also pointed out that a cycle lane would mean residents would not be able to park outside their own homes, as this would act as an effective double yellow line. More details will be shared at our next meeting.

The gas leak in Offington Court seems to have been resolved but having spoken with Southern Gas Networks (SGN), it would seem that this is a high pressure porcelain valve, which can only be repaired if it fractures. Therefore, SGN will only replace if it continues to be problematic in the future, as the disruption would be significant for the surrounding area.

I've also spent some time with all the local estate agents to inform them of our intentions to go back to using Offington Park as a header. This will also need to be followed up with Worthing Borough Council, as a change of this nature would ultimately require a consultation process to be formalized.



Letters

There was a comment in the last newsletter about the amount of parking on the final bend of Offington Avenue as it runs into South Farm Road and Broadwater Green. Whilst I hate the idea of more signs and painted lines the amount of parking that has happened since the arrival of the College over the roundabout is now making passage around that point dangerous or at least very difficult.

What are the potential parking restriction options and how would we go about raising this as a concern with the relevant authorities, with a view to action happening?

Oliver Smith Boyes 32 Shirley Drive

I would like to add my concern regarding parking at the bottom of Offington Avenue. This does not inconvenience me on a daily basis but on driving back from Holmbush this lunch time I was astonished how far up the road this parking now stretches, have the College no parking of their own or like most of us are the users from there finding the new road layout worse than it was before joining the A27 West, Hillbarn Rd and the turning through to Broadwater. All these new cars and scooters added to the car sharing parking at this point make the whole area most dangerous and as a resident I would like this problem addressed through the Association if possible.!

Christine Bellingham Hall Close

The good news is that this section of road at the bottom of Offington Avenue has already been put on the list for a TRO as a result of a joint effort by myself, PCSO Shauna Bowen and Brian Morgan our Worthing Community Officer.

The bad news is that it joins a waiting list for staff time to action and it could be some time before anything actually happens 'on the ground'. The process for a TRO is a long and complicated one involving legal procedures and advertising and WSCC will not be able to start work on this for some months due to pressing needs elsewhere in the County.

In the meanwhile we have to rely on peoples' common sense in not parking or stopping in a manner that could be risky.

Cllr John Rogers (Offington Ward)

Hi and thanks for your note today about tomorrow's meeting with Mr. Peter Corrigan

I live in Offington Avenue and there has been a noticeable increase in car and pedestrian traffic since September although any inconvenience is largely confined to small periods during weekdays and quickly passes. There are however a few areas of concern

1. You mention the riding of bicycles on pavements, this is very dangerous and compounded by a lack of lights or visible clothing, it is an accident waiting to happen
2. Inevitably there are some boy racers in the college or collecting friends from the college, when the road is busy this slows them down but there are quieter periods in the evenings when the speed of the lads is again an accident waiting to happen.
3. There has been a habit started by some of the people who park in Offington Avenue to park on the grass verge, it may be helpful for Mr. Corrigan to come and see the state of the grass verge outside the houses from number 8 through to number 14 that now resembles the Somme

The real big ugly problem I am afraid is litter, this is now everywhere including our front garden. The main areas are

- The grassed and wooded area between Offington Avenue and the Warren road, please take a look at the volume of empty drinks cans etc that have been tossed in there
- The whole length of Broadwater Street West, there are several bins on the stretch of the road from Broadwater to the College however it appears they are not conveniently spaced as the amount of litter is horrid, in particular KFC cartons and various other take away waste, in particular it appears ketchup sachets are freely abandoned
- Offington Avenue, I am picking stuff up on a daily basis from the street and a lot of stuff that is tossed into our garden, this includes glass bottles and drinks cans

My eldest son attends the college and he has advised me that he has not received any correspondence or communication from the college about behavior outside of the college therefore one can only conclude that no attention has been made to these areas, perhaps the college would like to sponsor some community activity aimed at improving or maintaining the local environment to highlight this area? I am sure the size of the problem can be expressed in tons of rubbish collected per week/month/term/year to paint the picture.

One final observation is the grounds south of the college by the Warren Road roundabout, it appears that the contractors have not made good the grass verges after they have vacated, they are covered in colossal flints and no grass, apart from being unsightly they are dangerous to anyone attempting to walk across that area. It is also odd that the pavement now stops at the college gate and there is no pavement to allow pedestrian access from Warren Road to Hill Barn Lane, as a dog walker I now have to either run the gauntlet of the flints or do battle with the traffic to get to Hill Barn Lane. I would expect that come the Spring this area will become a haven for weeds at will be visually very poor and leave all the thousands of people passing with a poor vision of Worthing and the college.

Please let me know if I can be any assistance

Richard Tune 10 Offington Avenue Worthing

Have your say!

Chairman kraszewski@sky.com 42 Offington Avenue Worthing. Newsletter john.simkin@ntlworld.com,

Treasurer timbobted@hotmail.com, Subscriptions louise.murphyuk@gmail.com

Greetings from County Hall

Hello – I am John Rogers your County Council representative for the Cissbury division of West Sussex County Council. I took over from Clem Stevens after the elections last May. Many of you will know me from my other connections in Worthing – as Chairman of the Neighborhood Watch Committee and member of the Rotary Club of Worthing (joint organizers of the August Bank Holiday Carnival among other things). I am also a Borough Councilor for Offington ward.

At WSCC I am a member of the County Planning Committee and we have in recent months had a number of very different planning applications to consider including developments of new waste management sites, storage and distribution sites at Shoreham Harbour and a number of exciting new school buildings needed to accommodate expanding pupil numbers. These are very different to deal with in comparison to the 'routine' applications for smaller scale developments that I was used to at the Borough Council when on that Planning Committee.

For those of you who may personally or have a family member in need of mobility equipment, you may like to know that from 1 April there will be a new integrated Community Equipment Service. This will meet a wide range of therapeutic, mobility, communication, independence and rehabilitation needs within the home. More information will be available in due course on the WSCC website.

The future organization of schools in Worthing has been high on the agenda recently and changes have been agreed to the intake system to deal with the rising numbers of pupils and the pressure for places in some areas. WSCC has invested heavily in improvements to many of Worthing's schools and a sum in the region of £30m is being spent to provide a new school at Broadwater, which will be of benefit to the whole town.

As a member of the County Local Committee (CLC) I shall be shortly involved in discussions about future TRO's for the town (Traffic Regulation Orders – these are the legal documents needed for single/double yellow lines, parking restrictions etc.) and I would be glad to hear from anyone who has a request or suggestion to make especially if it is in Cissbury.

I am pleased to support any of the Residents Associations and if you want to speak to me you only need to drop me an email to john.rogers@westsussex.gov.uk or call 07761 848820 and I will get back to you asap.

Best Wishes

Councilor John Rogers

BARN DANCE



SAT 28TH JUNE 2014

7.30pm-late

Marquee BROADWATER GREEN

An O.P.R.A EVENT TO RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS

Tickets available soon...



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5 Becket Buildings, Littlehampton Road, Worthing, BN13 1QD

Cycle Safety Initiative

OPRA Social Committee would like your opinion on how the WASP Cycle Safety initiative could help promote community spirit for the residence of Offington, Worthing and the surrounding areas? An Offington resident (Leonard Weaver) has designed a state of the art, home office award winning electronic security system called WASP (wireless asset security protection) to protect Cycles and other high valued assets.

The WASP Cycle Safety Initiative was created from an idea by PC David Fairbrother, a cycling policeman at the University of Portsmouth who was tired of seeing hundreds of students' bicycles stolen every year, (Portsmouth is among the worst cities for bicycle thefts in the UK).

Originally installed on King Henry 1st Street - Portsmouth, covering the local cycle parking for the university campus in 2007, during a 50 student and staff bike trial over a 12 week period – no bikes taking part in the trial were stolen, albeit others parked in the same area were! During the same period based on year-on-year Police statistics bicycle thefts were reduced across the city of Portsmouth by 92 per cent. This was a knock on effect from the trial as the bikes taking part were also being parked in different locations across the city, giving the impression that many areas were being monitored. Due to the impressive results the system won a Home Office award for equipment and technology innovation in 2008. The MET police cycle taskforce are proposing a wider trial of the WASP system to measure its effectiveness in parts of London. **How does it work?**

The Core principle is based on a proven deterrent, a burglar alarm system, however using modern 'mobile' and tracking technology integrated with CCTV adds another dimension of collecting evidence - thieves do not want to be caught on camera. The WASP system points the cameras in the right direction to catch them in the act along with providing a beacon to track and locate.

System Design: A WIFI Gateway would be located within your home and strategic locations adjacent the dedicated cycle street parking. This creates a network of Safety Zone hot spots (each gateway has a range of 500m+ depending on radio topography). Residents will be encouraged to share the open format radio signal (hot spot's), thus helping to develop a community based service and in turn generate 'community spirit' through collaboration and social networking, we envisage the Neighbourhood watch might like to get involved and become the local communication hubs? If not already registered with the bike register database we offer this as part of our registration process. Highly visible signage in the area around the Wasp zones warns thieves that bicycles are being monitored, if stolen Tracked and recovered by our partners G4S. Your bike equally has branded stickers and a waterproof seat cover to show it is protected with a WASP tag (a low cost - long range radio transmitter), which is secured to the bike/asset. **Operation:**

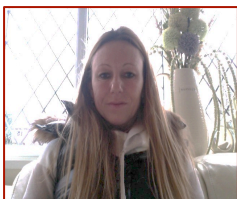
The bicycle/asset is secured as usual with a D-lock or other good quality lock, a text message is sent to the automated system to start or stop the monitoring. Whilst being monitored - If someone tampers with the bike or items secured to it, a motion detector in the tag emits a silent alarm sending the user/owner an alert with the location of the bicycle and triggers a local CCTV camera to zoom in and record the event (when in range). The WASP system also sends an alert to security staff the live images on their monitor's enable verification so a team can be dispatched to track and recover the bike.





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Benefits to £5 membership per household

Have your say or simply listen

Community involvement to inspire others

Be inspired

4 newsletters per annum

Knowing thy neighbour

Be a part of making a difference

Issues addressed/social events organized

COMING SOON



O.P.R.A - Next General Meeting: -

TUESDAY 18TH MARCH 2014 at 7.30pm

ALLAN FLETCHER HALL

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH

HAPPY EASTER!

