

# Policing in Highworth

I am pleased to start on a high note in reporting that recorded crime in November, December and January was down on last year and the detection rate of those offences committed was up. I appreciate that we are in an age where statistics and spin are ever present but I am confident when I say there is less crime occurring in Highworth and the villages now than in 2007. However I am acutely aware that the perception of crime and disorder is often different to the numbers and we will be working hard this year to combat this.

One such problem that has come to light in recent weeks, and I fear will grow as Summer approaches, is that of underage drinking and the anti social behaviour it can cause. I will reassure the community that underage drinking will be dealt with robustly and we will seek to identify and take action against those supplying young people with alcohol. The government has this year added to Police dispersal powers around the use of alcohol in public and so I will use this opportunity to point out that drink related Anti Social Behaviour will not be tolerated from any age group and that one 18 year old amongst a group of children does not prevent the seizure of the alcohol and other appropriate action.

On the topic of Anti Social behaviour (ASB) I will use this opportunity to remind everyone that Swindon Borough Council have an Anti

Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) that can assist you and I with problems. My staff and I work closely with them but they will be happy to hear from you directly. The ASBU can be contacted on 0845 605 2222. They are also able to direct you to other assistance within the borough such as environmental health or the housing department. Further information can be found at <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/publicsafety-antisocialbehaviour>, you may also find <http://www.respect.gov.uk> interesting.

To also finish on a high note I have another PCSO coming to police the area at the end of March and the Wiltshire Police has a new Chief Constable. Mr Brian Moore has come to us from 'The Met', via Surrey and has set us the challenge of being "The safest County in the Country". I look forward to working towards that challenge in 2008.

I would like to remind everyone that in addition to the telephone number for Wiltshire Police (0845 408 7000) I, and all my team can be contacted by Email.

The format is [firstname.surname@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

I look forward to meeting more of you this month and to the challenges and rewards of policing Highworth and the villages.

*Sergeant 1651 Paul Fisher*

## Highworth man steers 'ability' sports

Highworth Link's sport reporter Ben Humphrey is now Ability Sports Officer with Active Swindon. They are "working towards a more active, healthy, safer and inclusive Swindon".

Ben says: "The overriding aim of the scheme is to break down the barriers that prevent people with a disability from participating in sport, exercise and physical activity. That means getting disabled and non-disabled people working together.

"I love working with the local community, facilitating positive physical activity experiences. The best feeling is when a coaching session has gone really well, everyone has enjoyed themselves and the

participants don't want to stop!

"The worst is that my position is currently only part-time and it would be great to be able to dedicate more time to the programme."

Ben's priorities are to:

- Develop a multi activity sports club
- Run a disability sports event linked to the Challenge Swindon event in June 08
- Establish a disability sports forum
- Secure funding to sustain the Ability sports programme.



## Historicals in time shift

The Historical Society's March talk is taking place on **Monday 17th March 2008**, not the 24th as shown in the programme. The talk on 'Buscot Park and the Faringdon Collection' is by David Freeman.