



Paws on Patrol – the Launch Event

After the wettest April in the UK since records began in 1910, Paws on Patrol was launched in Gloucester Park on May 12th 2012 in brilliant sunshine.

The afternoon was opened by Gloucester Police Superintendent Gary Thompson and the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Gloucester Councillor Andy Lewis. Then followed the dramatic and exciting display of police dogs at work with a commentary from dog handler PC Rich Hunt.

Police dogs are a huge asset to the police. Not only do they deter criminals and safeguard the public (would you want to argue with a German Shepherd?), they also have an amazing sense of smell. A dog's nose is many times more sensitive than a human's and so is ideal for tracking or detecting, whether it be drugs, criminals, bombs, stolen property or people who have lost their way.



The demonstration that we watched on May 12th displayed all of these skills - those dogs (and their trainers!!) were amazing and delighted the crowd who watched.

After the police dog display, we enjoyed a fantastic agility display from the members of Monty's Allsorts Dog Agility Training Club.



We were in awe of all breeds and sizes of dogs weaving their way through poles, jumping over jumps and obstacles, tunnelling, negotiating slopes, see saws - and at such speed. They



were obedient, skilled, speedy and such gorgeous dogs too! Their loving bond with their owners was clear.

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Then came the novelty dog show - with categories of Cutest Pup, Golden Oldie, Prettiest Female, Most Handsome Male, Best Fancy Dress, Waggiest Tail and then Best in Show. We were surprised at the interest in these events with forty six entries in some categories!

Once again there were the most beautiful dogs, all competing for the rosettes and prizes kindly donated by The Lady and The Tramp Grooming Salon and Spa and Rushwood Luxury Boarding Kennels and Cattery. All of the dogs paraded around the arena in an exemplary style making the decisions very difficult for our judges Carol Hutchins from The Lady and The Tramp and the Mayor of Gloucester Councillor Andy Lewis.



Winner of the Golden Oldie and Best in Show was 20 year old Spot who is pictured with owner Ziggy Hiron

The launch event concluded with another display from Gloucestershire Constabulary's working dogs.

All in all it was an enjoyable afternoon for everyone. There were fun activities for children, tips for dog owners on grooming, exercising, training, massage and even a "have a go" dog agility course. All the experts were there including a vet to answer doggy

health or behavioural queries and animal rescue centres explaining the commitment involved in owning a pet and hoping to find a home for their lovely rescue dogs. The various local charities raised over £1,000 at the event to aid their respective causes.



Paul Smith (pictured above) whose dog Mollie won the prettiest female said it was "The best day ever!".

Three hundred and sixty four people signed up to be a member of Paws on Patrol and received their goody bags containing reflective collars for their pooches, bottle openers, poop bags and crime prevention material.

Safer Gloucester would like to thank all the sponsors of the Paws on Patrol event - The Citizen, The Royal Agricultural College, The Lady and The Tramp Grooming Salon and Spa, Rushwood Kennels, Monty's All Sorts Agility Training Club, Royal Canin and Lead-On Pets, all the helpers and volunteers, all the exhibitors who came along, both charities and businesses and most importantly everyone who came along!





All of the Safer Gloucester photos are available to view and download on the Paws on Patrol pages of the partnership website <http://www.safergloucester.co.uk> .

What is Paws on Patrol?

Safer Gloucester invites all dog owners to join the scheme, register yourself and your dog and be a “lookout” whilst you are walking in your neighbourhood each day. Members are issued with a membership card that hold all the necessary contact numbers including the Police non emergency numbers, Crimestoppers, the City Council and Highways.

Members attending the launch event received a goody bag containing a reflective dog collar, a poop bag and some crime prevention material.

Safer Gloucester recognises that dog walkers spend a lot of time out and about in their community and would be highly likely to recognise when something out of the ordinary is happening. At no time will they be asked to intervene in incidents - their role is simply to report and gather evidence.

Paws on Patrol will link in to other parts of the Partnership including Neighbourhood Watch and the Local Policing Teams. If members can provide an email address, they will be notified of Partnership news and also of anything that the police or City Council want them to be alert to.

What are the benefits?

It is hoped that Paws on Patrol will build community spirit where dog walkers can contribute towards the protection of their neighbourhoods, reduce the opportunity for crime and anti social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime especially in the vulnerable.

Local company Lead-On Pets have kindly offered 10% discount for all members off their

Forever Living Animal Products and Dog Bags on proof of membership.

Safer Gloucester still has some goody bags available for anyone enrolling for Paws on Patrol which can be collected from the City Council’s Herbert Warehouse by phoning 01452 396984 once a membership form has been completed.

How can I Register to be a Member?

- Download a membership form from our website <http://www.safergloucester.co.uk/Projects.aspx> and email it to cdpartnership@gloucester.gov.uk or post to Gloucester City Council, Herbert Warehouse, the Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EQ
- Telephone 01452 396984 and a form can be posted to you
- Check the events page of the website to see where we will be registering new members especially the Grand Jubilee Fete at King George V playing field, Hucclecote on 3rd June and Free City Fun Day in King’s Square on 6th June.

Keep watching the Safer Gloucester website for up to date news for Patrollers.

Results

Members are already alert - we received the first report of an incident of concern from a Patroller on Monday 14th May at lunchtime in Gloucester Park which enabled the Police to investigate and ensure that everyone was safe. Other reports to date have included incidents of fly tipping. We would like to thank those Patrollers and ask everyone to keep the reports coming in!

Dog Fouling

Over the last few months there have been an increasing number of reports of dog fouling across the city. It is very important to pick up your dog’s poo as it is not only unpleasant but can in some circumstances be dangerous. We therefore want to raise awareness of the importance of cleaning up after your dog and leaving the pavements and open spaces in a safe condition for other residents to enjoy. As part of the Paws on Patrol initiative, Safer Gloucester has produced a leaflet for responsible dog owners - “Keeping Paws On Patrol Under Your Control”. Copies can be collected from the Herbert Warehouse or downloaded from the website.



Skin Deep

At the beginning of May, Safer Gloucester commissioned performances of the Solomon Theatre's 'Skin Deep' tour for students. The play 'Skin Deep' was developed in partnership with the Police, Trading Standards and PSHE specialists to tell the powerful, moving story of two friends who are attracted to boys from rival gangs. The relationships between the group members become threatened by violence and intimidation until the play's conclusion where their lives are changed forever by an explosive turn of events.

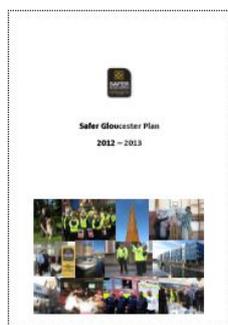
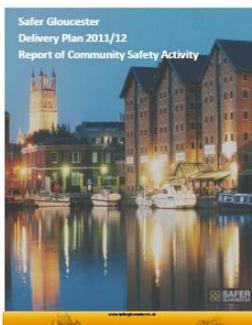
The play is hard-hitting and immediately connected with its audiences through compelling



dialogue and rap music. Following the performance, specially designed workshops explored a variety of themes all led by the actors who spoke powerfully from personal experience. These included the role of myths in creating a culture of fear, the reasons for the existence of gangs and extremist behaviour, the consequences of carrying knives and the nature of intolerance and prejudice. Ultimately, the aim is to challenge thinking and change attitudes.

Safer Gloucester Annual Report 2011/12 and Partnership Plan 2012/13

The Safer Gloucester Annual Report 2011/12 and the Partnership Plan 2012/13 are both available on the Safer Gloucester Website www.safergloucester.co.uk. Hardcopies are available from the Community Safety Team.



Project Solace

Safer Gloucester recognises that every agency has a part to play in tackling anti social behaviour (ASB) and it is our role to ensure that safe and tolerant communities are built and maintained.



Project Solace was introduced to bring agencies together to deal with ASB in Gloucester. Gloucester City Homes in partnership with Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary have taken on the management function of the team.

Project Solace tackles ASB where it exists in private sector tenancies, owner occupied homes and in public places and has developed processes to act swiftly to prevent ASB.

Project Solace will:

- Offer advice and support to victims of ASB
- Aim to deal with ASB cases quickly and effectively
- Investigate cases thoroughly
- Keep victims and complainants informed throughout
- Advise you clearly of what action they can take and how you need to work with them to achieve a successful outcome
- Refer you to other agencies if you need ongoing support

In October 2011, Project Solace, in conjunction with Gloucester City Council and Gloucester Police secured gang injunctions against two individuals who were known to be involved in gang activity in the city. The injunctions imposed a variety of conditions including exclusion from certain areas in the city and restrictions on their association with others.

One of the individuals breached the injunction three times and on April 12th was jailed for six months at Bristol Crown Court.

Whilst the gang problem was not on the scale of the bigger cities, it was something some members of the community were seriously affected by and after much consultation this action was determined necessary. We are not complacent about the situation and the team continues to monitor the possibility of new gangs emerging.

If you are affected by anti social behaviour phone Project Solace on 0800 408 2000 (Freephone) or 01452 530626 (cheaper for mobiles).