

Community Policing comes to Flackwell

We have a new kind of Police Officer in Flackwell Heath. Alex Beever is tall and blond and has something of the athlete about her. She is our Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), a new kind of Officer developed as a result of the Police Reform Act 2002. As a civilian in uniform she works alongside the police in a supporting role, providing a visible presence and helping to reassure the public. She patrols her local area, providing assistance and dealing with incidents of nuisance and anti-social behaviour which don't require full police powers. By dealing with minor incidents PCSOs enable police to make more effective use of their time. Alex's job is to support Peter Hearmon, our Area Beat Officer.

Alex is able to deal informally with minor crime and people causing a nuisance. She believes that in the long run this approach will ensure that fewer bored teenagers become criminals. The job is designed to avoid paperwork as much as possible so she is out on her patch more often. She shares her time between Flackwell Heath, Bourne End and Wooburn Green which means she is available for about ten hours a week in each village. Flackwell Heath has less anti-social behaviour than the other villages she covers but we demand more police support. (And so we should – Ed)

She only has the same power of arrest as any other citizen but she can quickly call up help if people get out of order. And she can issue parking tickets – just watch out you folk who think it is smart to park on yellow lines outside Budgens. Three of you got ticketed the day before I went to interview PCSO Beever.

An important part of Alex's job is listening to people. For example, someone was making a nuisance of himself on one of the estates. Alex went to meet the residents then she and PC Hearmon paid a visit to the miscreant and reasoned with him. Things are now calm.

Alex was born in Marlow. She went to Wycombe High School and then on to London University where she studied Earth Sciences – geology, physics chemistry etc. She took up rowing at Marlow when she was 15 and went on to row for us in the women's VIII at the Sydney Olympics. She was selected for the Athens games but caught a virus and had to withdraw. ("Alex Beever" brings up over 150 complimentary entries on Google).

She developed an interest in social issues and the problems of vulnerable people while working for a solicitor in Marlow. Her immediate ambition is to become a regular police officer.

She is a very interesting lady and she is happy to talk about her work to local clubs and groups. And she is willing to listen as well. If anyone has problems with vandalism, graffiti or any other anti-social activity a call in confidence to 0845 8 505 505. You are likely to be asked for her shoulder number. Amaze them by knowing it – PCSO 9656

Tim Kendell