

Photo: Vicky Ellis



Seen in the photograph from left to right - Cllr Caroline Spencer, Inspector Rebecca Kempster, PC Michelle Charlesworth, Mrs Hall from Cycleman, Ashford

Police benefit from Better Neighbourhood Grant

Cllr Caroline Spencer has used £500 of her Better Neighbourhood Grant to buy a new bicycle and safety equipment for Inspector Rebecca Kempster of the Spelthorne Safer Neighbourhood team.

The Better Neighbourhood Grant Scheme, which was introduced in 2006, gives each Spelthorne Borough Councillor a budget of up to £750 to spend on community enhancing projects in their ward. The bicycle will help Inspector Kempster cover more ground, tackle antisocial behaviour and graffiti and give greater reassurance to the residents of Ashford.



For information contact the Mayor's office on **01784 446275** or e-mail **mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk**

Swan lanterns in Lower Sunbury

Councillor Elizabeth Bell has spent her Better Neighbourhood Grant on a project connecting primary schools with the Borough's best known river life – the swan.

This community project, inspired by Father Paul from St Mary's Church in Lower Sunbury, was led by local artist, Donagh Curwen. She spent a day at each of the five primary schools in Sunbury* helping pupils to make a unique, larger than life swan lantern using willow and paper.

The swans were exhibited in St Mary's Church before being sailed along the river, attached to boats specially adapted for the purpose. The parade was accompanied by music from Swan Lake, arranged by the Riverside Arts Centre. Finally the swans were taken to the Walled Garden, Sunbury where a workshop was led by the artist.

Visitors to the event included the local Swan Sanctuary. Donations received throughout the day were presented to founder Dot Beeson who

has worked to protect the swans on the Thames for many years and received a Daily Mirror Pride of Britain award for her tireless efforts. The event was also stewarded by the local Air Cadet group.

This project succeeded in bringing together many groups, organisations and individuals in the community of Lower Sunbury in an imaginative, stimulating and joyous week.

The swans will be appearing again at the Walton Lantern Parade and can also be found on YouTube (search for them under 'Sunbury Swan Lanterns').



For more information please contact Councillor Elizabeth Bell on **01932 780391** or e-mail **cllr.bell@spelthorne.gov.uk**

*The schools involved were:

- St Ignatius
- Beauclerc
- Hawkedale
- Springfield
- Chennestone

Photo: Councillor Lawrence Nichols



Photo: Cllr Lawrence Nichols

Seen in the photo, left to right - local artist, Donagh Curwen and Cllr Elizabeth Bell

