

Powitanie, powitanie, powitanie, co jest chodzenie u tutaj wtedy?*

POLICE in Bognor Regis are going Polish.

A Polish-speaking police community support officer is being sought.

Adverts for a person who has excellent multi-lingual skills in the eastern European language are being placed in local newspapers as well as being distributed in community group centres and similar places.

The language skills have been identified as a key to delivering neighbourhood policing in a town where the eastern European population is believed to number some 6,000.

The PCSO will be based at Bognor's police station. The town

currently has 13 English PSCOs working in four neighbourhood policing teams.

Polish shop owner Greg Bigaj welcomed the police's action. "It's a good idea and I think it's necessary because there are a lot of us here," he said.

"There are some Polish trouble-makers, as well as English ones, and a representative of the Polish community in the police will mean better understanding in dealing with them."

Mr Bigaj (28), who opened the White Eagle delicatessen in Station Road last summer, said police officers occasionally called in to see everything was all right.

He came to Bognor in 1998 for five years before he moved to London to work in its ambulance service. He returned to Bognor to open the shop.

More of the multi-lingual officers are being sought for Eastbourne, Brighton and Crawley.

Angela Packebusch, Sussex Police's positive action recruitment manager, said the recruitment campaign supports the force's positive action initiative.

This reflected the commitment of Sussex Police towards equality and diversity.

But she said the force was keen to hear from anyone who wanted to become a PCSO.

"I would like to stress this obviously doesn't exclude anyone who doesn't speak Polish from applying to become a PCSO," she said.

"On the contrary, our recruitment window for PCSOs is currently open.

"We welcome applications from people who can offer a variety of different skills and backgrounds."

Details are available on the Sussex Police website.

■ A public lecture is being held in Bognor next Monday about the impact of new immigration on West Sussex.

Professor Chris Gaine, of the University of Chichester, will present the key findings of his recent

research into the subject.

His work is intended to reduce misunderstandings and myths about the immigrants.

A statement from the University said: "There is very strong evidence the immigrants are young, healthy workers who bring great benefits to the local area."

The lecture will take place in the Assembly Hall at university's Bognor campus off Upper Bognor Road.

Entry is free. Doors will open at 5.30pm, when free parking will be available, and the lecture will start at 6.30pm.

Prof Gaine will answer questions from 7.30pm.

NEWS in brief

Refreshment area plan is kicked out

A BID to place decking on a piece of beach next to Bognor Regis Pier has been rejected by councillors.

Bognor Pier Leisure Ltd wanted to put down the 6.2m by 11m of decking in the summer to enable refreshments to be served in the area immediately east of the structure.

But Arun District Council's development control committee refused the application.

Members agreed it would be prejudicial to the character of The Steyne and Waterloo Square conservation area as well as damaging to the setting of the grade two listed pier.

Speeding warning

SPEEDING hotspots in the area of Bognor Regis seafront are to be monitored by police community support officers.

PCSO Pamela Matthews says in comments to the area's residents the speed of motorists will be checked once discussions with traffic police at Chichester have been concluded.

The crackdown on those who ignore speed limits joins action to ticket every vehicle found by the PCSOs to be parked illegally in the local streets.

Cat in tree rescued

A FRIGHTENED cat was rescued by firefighters after becoming trapped 40ft up a tree in Eastergate.

The pet was reached with the use of a long ladder by a fire crew from Bognor Regis. They spent 35 minutes helping the cat in Critchmere Drive last Thursday morning. The RSPCA was in attendance.

Kitchen blaze

AN ELDERLY woman was taken to hospital after a fire in a Bognor Regis flat.

The woman had treatment by paramedics for smoke inhalation at the scene of the blaze at Sovereign Court in Campbell Road.

The small accidental fire involved a cooker in a ground-floor flat at the warden-controlled building.

A small amount of damage was caused to the flat's kitchen by the flames. The alarm was raised just after 10pm on Sunday. Firefighters declared the flat safe after around 30 minutes.

Council's award

ENVIRONMENTAL health officers at Arun District Council have received renewed recognition for their excellent service.

The government's Cabinet Office has confirmed the Charter Mark, awarded last year for the third time, should continue.

A recent assessment found the service demonstrated a real culture of customer service.

Charter Marks recognise exemplary delivery of public services. They are assessed annually after being awarded for three years.

Arun head of environmental health Paul Unsworth said: "Our assessor was struck by the dedication, skill and enthusiasm of the team. I congratulate them all for their hard work."

New shop in store

A NEW SHOP could be built in Bognor Regis town centre.

Knighthood Homes has applied for planning permission to create the unit between 2-4 London Road. This will fill the gap which separates the outlets of Greggs and Burton.

Two two-bedroom flats will be included in the proposed building.

The plans will be decided by Arun District Council. The council granted permission for a similar scheme in 2004 but it was never implemented.

Flats get go-ahead

C AND R BUILDERS has received final planning permission to replace two commercial premises in Bognor Regis with 20 one-bedroom flats.

The company's detailed proposals for Clifton Works and Tulleys Garage, in Clifton Road, have been approved by Arun District Council. Parking spaces have been included in the scheme.

Ah, paw thing...

A GERMAN Shepherd dog with its paw stuck in a gate in Arun Road in Bognor Regis was freed by the town's firefighters. A fire crew used hydraulic rescue equipment in the incident about 8.30pm last Friday.



New £3m makeover for holiday centre

THIS is how Church Farm Holiday Park in Pagham looks after a £3m makeover.

Much of the work at the site of 900 caravan pitches has centred on its heated indoor and outdoor pools.

A 130ft flume - one of the biggest on the south coast - is being added to the indoor pool ready for early May.

The two water features are being linked by a spectacular glazed walkway to give the whole complex a bright and contemporary facelift. It is also benefiting from a new reception in the Becket's Barn listed building.

Based on a nautical theme, the round windows and timber shiplap cladding offer more space than the previous layout. A changing village is about to open as well.

Other improvements installed on the Church Lane site during its

winter closure are an outdoor climbing activity and a development of 11 top-of-the-range lodges with views of neighbouring Pagham lagoon and nature reserve.

Major upgrades have also been carried out to some 200 of the caravan pitches by putting in piped-in services and driveways.

The latest spending by caravan park operator Haven Leisure - owned by Bourne Leisure along with Butlins - takes the total investment in the past few years to £10m.

The work has included a new patio area and sun terrace as well as a nine-hole golf course and a new shop.

A further £2m programme of works has been lined up for the next few years to keep the tourists coming to a business which employs 150 people in the peak season.



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School pool is a luxury - and now faces axe

By KEVIN SMITH
kevin.smith@bognortoday.co.uk

PARENTS have been warned Rose Green Junior School's unique swimming pool could close.

A consultation document about the future of the outdoor facility has been circulated among the parents of the school's 362 children.

It has also been sent to the parents of pupils at the nearby infant school whose six-year-old pupils have traditionally swum in the pool weekly.

Junior school staff and the school council members have also been asked for their views.

An open evening is being held at the Raleigh Road school at 7pm on Monday, March 17 to discuss the pool.

The document's questionnaires have to be returned to the junior school's board of governors by March 20. They are likely to make the final decision a week later.

Headteacher Linda Slinger said: "I am sad about this situation.

"The pool is a luxury we would love to maintain. It adds an extra element to the school and it gives us a real buzz.

"The staff have, at times, enjoyed swimming in the pool after school as well.

"But it is a luxury which it is looking like we can't continue to afford any more."

Rose Green Junior's pool is the only one of its kind around the Bognor urban area.

The outdoor 22m long pool, about a metre deep, was opened in 1973 in the



Headteacher Linda Slinger

rear of the school grounds and runs parallel to the hall.

It was funded by subscription from parents and the local community and cost around £2,500.

The pool, which has a slightly-raised edge but is otherwise sunk into the ground, has deteriorated over the years and is costing an increasing amount to maintain.

The existing pool liner is beyond repair and needs replacing at an estimated cost of between £10,000 to £15,000.

New sand filters are also required - at £500 each - and a five-way valve will need attention.

Mrs Slinger said the cost had to be met from the school's annual £27,000 maintenance budget.

"Everyone wants to maintain the pool because it is such a benefit to the school but we have to look at the facts," said Mrs Slinger.

Four options for the pool's future have been given in the consultation document. They are:

- Buy and install a new liner and hope it meets European health-and-safety rules likely to be on their way in three years;
- Rebuild the pool with a cover, changing facilities and toilets at a cost of some £250,000;
- Provide swimming lessons at The Arena's pool for around £2 a child for each session; and
- Provide swimming lessons at The Arena and seek extra activities such as a climbing wall and dance studio.

The school's pool has been used for up to seven weeks at the end of the summer term. Last year, it was in action for just three weeks, because of the number of repairs needed, said Mrs Slinger.

It cost £42 from the school budget for each child to have two 25-minute sessions a week in the pool. Parents paid a further £5.

Going to The Arena's 25m pool, off South Way, would cost £2 per pupil each week.

Mrs Slinger added the need to ensure trained supervision at the school's pool ruled out opening for community use during the summer holiday to bring in extra cash.

The national curriculum states every child has to be able to swim 25m by the age of 11. Bognor's coastal location means most are able to do so before they enter the school.

Learning about finance the hard way

LESSONS in finance were brought to life for Bognor Regis Community College pupils.

The 240 Year 10 students, aged around 14, saw the serious effects a few wrong decisions can have on a family's finances.

The fictional Wilton clan's struggles with credit card debts and everyday household bills were portrayed by four members of the Solent People's Theatre.

Their play mixed humour with facts to bring home the message that money matters.

Two of the audience members were Alex Brennan (14) and Leanne Brighten (15).

Alex, who has a bank card and a bank account, said: "I learned quite a bit from the play. It was good information.

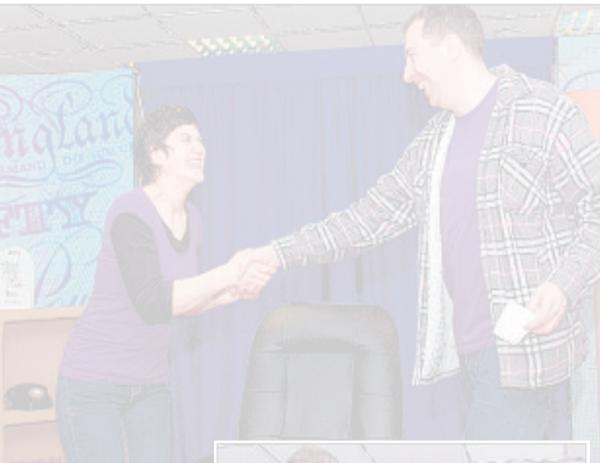
"It's getting to the stage where we have to really start thinking about things like banks."

He is about to start a weekend plumbing job to boost his income.

Bank account holder Leanne said: "It was interesting. I didn't know a lot of the information in the play.

"It showed you have got to be careful with things banks offer you."

Caroline Saunders, a director of learning at the college, said: "By 17, these young people could be facing

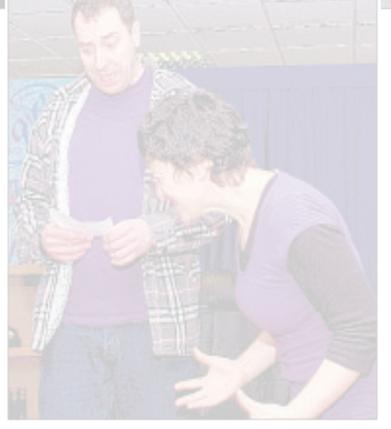


Graham Elwell and Shenna Ellis in a scene from the show C080334-1 & 2

debts. This is about helping them know what to do before they get into that situation."

Three performances of the play were staged in a day-long visit to the Arena sports centre, next to the college, arranged by the Personal Finance Education Group.

This national body is funded by the Financial Services Authority to help colleges assist their pupils making sense of their money options and avoiding unnecessary debt.



Frame of Mind's community work nets £5,000 prize

A BOGNOR REGIS business has won a £5,000 award for investing in the community.

Frame of Mind collected the cash for providing vocational training for adults with mental health conditions or learning disabilities.

The trainees learn picture framing and general business skills in a real trading environment.

Their growing confidence allows them to become more active members of the community and move on to volunteering, education and work.

This clear social objective for

the Shripney Road community interest company made it the winner of this year's West Sussex social enterprise innovation award.

This was open to individuals and companies who could show they were helping the environment and the community.

Cllr Louise Goldsmith, the county council's cabinet member for the environment and economy, said Frame of Mind provided an outstanding service.

"Particularly impressive was the energy, enthusiasm and the commitment shown by both trainers and trainees at the

company," she said.

"Social enterprises are a growing and important part of the local economy in West Sussex and Frame of Mind is a shining example of what can be achieved by this kind of competition."

The prize will be spent on computers, specialist software, scanners, digital cameras and other equipment to increase the products and services for customers.

They order framed photographs and artwork along with football shirt framing and other memorabilia.

Frame of Mind has 16 trainees with room for eight more.

Many are unpaid but trainees can go on supported work placements. Referrals come largely from community health professionals and doctors.

Frame of Mind is run by former mental health service user Theresa Bates. Her husband, Ian, is a volunteer in the business. He said: "We are really proud to receive the award. It shows the strides we have made in a short period of time."

The equipment bought with the prize would enable the business to provide the trainees with skills which could be easily used in the commercial world, he added.



Louise Goldsmith