

## A Modern “Society of Action”

Source: SVP (2014) Young SVP Education Resource Pack. Dublin. Page 9 and 10.

In one corner of the park lay a forgotten playground. The local community raised funds through raffles and supermarket bag-packing to clear the weeds and repaint the rusting equipment. Everyone young and old worked together to make the playground safe and fun to use. The playground filled once more with happy children.

One Monday morning on her way to school Anna noticed that there was one bench which had a lot of beer cans scattered around it, despite the bin nearby. She picked up the cans and put them in the bin. The following Monday there were even more cans around the bench. Anna spoke with her friends and they decided to collect the cans and bring them to the recycling centre. Her parents volunteered to bring them to the centre and they had a tour of the centre, learning all about what happens to recyclable products.

As the weeks passed, the cans continued to be thrown around the corner of the playground. More and more children began to collect them and a rota was organised to ensure that there was a litter check every day. Specific bags were given by the local council for the collections. Notices were hung asking people to use the bins and not litter. Anna began to wonder where the cans came from...

- What is important about the playground story?
- What did the local community do and why?
- How can the actions of the local community be related to the work of SSVP?
- What do you think Anna should do now?
- Who else has responsibility for the playground?
- Which do you think is more important; dealing with the issue or dealing with the cause of the issue?
- Can you think of some issues/ problems that are relevant to your own community nowadays? Do you think these issues are being addressed? By who? How? What else could be done?