

Burglars are actively targeting homes in our area working under the cover of darkness. But there are some simple steps which you can take to greatly decrease your chance of falling victim to this distressing crime.



Insp Liz Sanderson
Wigan East

These are:

- Leave a light on in using a timer switch to make your home look occupied even if it is not. It will encourage burglars to give it a wide berth. This simple safeguard need not break the bank as modern energy efficient bulbs cost less than a penny a day to run.
- Shut and lock all doors and windows as one in three burglaries are down to homes being left insecure.
- Remember to put your alarm on when you go out and also when you go to bed.

More advice on keeping yourself, your family and your property safe from criminals can be found on www.gmp.police.uk You can report any suspicious activity to us on 101 or to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Please follow this simple advice - it could help you avoid returning home to find a nasty shock waiting for you. Meantime, please keep telling us of your concerns. After all, we can't solve the issues if they're not reported to us in the first place! Your local neighbourhood policing team can be reached by phone on 0161 856 7225 or by email at wiganeast@gmp.police.uk

We're in it TOGETHER!

This newsletter is brought to you by Leigh Neighbours, a community project which is funded by Big Local, a lottery-based funding stream. The project will deliver sustainable change over the next 10 years in an area which has been identified as in need of investment. Following 18 months of public consultation, the Leigh Neighbours Project Board - made up of local people just like YOU - is working in partnership to deliver on the issues you told us were important to you, such as improvements in housing, crime and community safety, greater community spirit, more training opportunities and increased access to leisure facilities. **If you would like to find out more about Leigh Neighbours or you'd like to get involved then please contact the Project Officer, Stephen Ruffley on: S.Ruffley@wigan.gov.uk or call 01942 709709**

Getting to know.... Leigh Neighbours Project Board



Dawn Hurst
Head Teacher
Leigh Central
Primary School

“ I have lived and taught in Leigh for the past ten years and I am now in the privileged position of being Headteacher at Leigh Central Primary School. I joined the Leigh Neighbours Project Board as I am passionate about offering the best life chances and opportunities I can to the children who attend our school. I believe that the local community plays a vital part in this and by working with the project to improve Leigh, our children will be able to succeed in the future. ”

Let's give grot spots some TLC!

Groundwork is looking for ideas for small community projects that our local Princes Trust team can carry out.



The teams have to plan and deliver a project within the local area for personal development and to benefit the community.

Examples of projects could include clearing up and planting up derelict or neglected land; creating a community garden at a residential home; or decorating a community building.

The project should help the team build their leadership and interpersonal skills and to develop skills in time management and decision-making.

This is your chance for some free help from some young people at the start of their careers. If you have an idea, please email lww@groundwork.org.uk



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week
3-7 March 2014

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Neighbour Leigh

Leigh Neighbours Project news February 2014

TRUE GRIT

When it comes to forging a path in life, Aaron Block has already learnt that at times it can be a rocky road to success.

But the plucky 17-year-old apprentice landscaper remains clearly undaunted - even when confronted with the worst that the elements can throw at him!

The former Bedford High School pupil, who left school last summer with 12 GCSEs, is getting plenty of hands on experience helping to lay the foundations for a path at Lune Aquaduct in Lancaster.

Aaron's apprenticeship is being delivered by environmental charity Groundwork and is sponsored by Leigh Neighbours, a community project which aims to give local people a say in how £1M worth of lottery money will be invested in the area over the next 10 years.

Aaron, from Findlay Street in Leigh, says: "It's a fantastic opportunity to be earning whilst I'm learning. As well as lots of practical training, I'm also developing in other ways, for example improving my team building and communication skills. From day one you feel like you're part of a team and that you're making a valuable contribution. I'm confident this is the direction I want my future career to take," he adds.



BUILDING BLOCK: Aaron, pictured at Lune Aqueduct in Lancaster, believes gaining his Level 1 and Level 2 NVQ are crucial steps to landing his perfect job.

Leigh Neighbours Board Member John Gredecki took part in the recruitment process. He says: "I'm thrilled that Aaron is making progress. As part of the Leigh Neighbours project, local residents identified a number of priorities which included training opportunities for young people. It's crucial for the long term that we support local initiatives which raise the aspirations of young people in our patch. I wish Aaron all the best with his career."

Gethin Owens of Groundwork Wigan and West Lancashire adds: "Thanks to the investment of Leigh Neighbours Project, we've been able to recruit another young apprentice who is already showing great promise. Groundwork prides itself on the way it works in partnership with local communities and this apprenticeship is evidence of that partnership working in practice, delivering benefits to the whole community." [continued on back page]

INSIDE

In this issue, you can find out inside how to claim a free packet of seeds... enter a competition to win free annual membership to Leigh Sports Village... gain free entry to a children's puppet show... and bid for cash for your community.

what's ON

How does your garden grow?

Making the area 'greener' was one of the environmental priorities that many local residents told us was important to them.

So, following the success of last year's campaign, Leigh Neighbours Project is once again sponsoring the **FREE SEED GIVEAWAY**.



If you're green-fingered and would like a **free packet of seeds** to plant in your patch, down your

alleyway, at your school or up your street, then come along to **Leigh Library** on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March between 9.30am—12.00. **To qualify, you must bring this newsletter with you or proof of your address.**

There's plenty of choice ranging from wildflowers to vegetable seeds. And as if that's not enough we're also organising some free hanging basket workshops in April, too.



All you need to do is to bring a basket, and we'll supply the plants and the know-how so that you can create beautiful floral displays. We've got a limited number of baskets, too, but book your place early to avoid disappointment.

So come on - let's make Leigh a riot of colour this Summer! For more information or to book your place on the hanging basket workshop, email: S.Ruffley@wigan.gov.uk

Looking after the grandkids during the school holidays can be a challenge! So if you need some inspiration on how to keep the little'uns entertained, pop along to our **Local History & Arts Workshop** during February half term.

Materials will be provided for a range of arts and crafts activities, whilst local history experts from Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust will be plundering the archives to reveal what life was like in Leigh in times gone by. The workshops, organised with the support of Leigh Neighbours Project, are ticket only.

You can find out more about the event by emailing Hannah Turner at: h.turner@wlct.org or calling 01942 404559.

Date: Friday 21st February, Archives Searchroom, Leigh Town Hall/Life Centre
Price: £2.50 includes buffet lunch.

A children's puppet show based on Scandinavian folklore is coming to Leigh Library later this month courtesy of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust - and we've got **10 free tickets** to the performance to give away!

Aimed at pre-schoolers, **The Tomten** is a traditional children's poem which tells the story of a mysterious and mythical elf-like creature that keeps watch over children as they sleep. Following the 45 minute performance, members of the audience are invited to meet the puppets.

We've arranged for 10 tickets to be left at the reception desk at Leigh Library **for the first 10 readers** who go along - just take this newsletter along to qualify.

The Tomten, Friday 21st February
11.00am and 1.30pm performances.
Ticket price £1.00 For ages 3 years +

Here's food for thought...

Following publication of a feature in the December issue of this newsletter, lots of people contacted **Atherton and Leigh Foodbank** offering to volunteer their time. If you'd like to make new friends, have fun and do some good in your community, call Warren on 07980 881925 for more information.



Over to YOU!

Leigh Neighbours Project Board is responsible for managing £1M of National Lottery money - and we're doing it in partnership with you. During our extensive consultation with local residents, you told us what your priorities were, from tackling ASB to improving access to leisure facilities.

What we now need are more of your ideas, together with your vision and your passion. A Resident's Fund is available to help with the costs of delivering projects which meet our criteria and achieve our shared objectives. And we can also help out with practical guidance, too. So what are you waiting for?! Here's a couple of ways you might be able to help support your local community...

Baby Change Facilities

You told us that there's a real need for high quality baby change facilities so Leigh Neighbours Partnership Board has a small pot of money set aside to support local organisations within the Leigh Neighbours project area which are open to the public and which would like to have baby change facilities.



We are able to match fund works to a total value of £2,000 (we'll provide a maximum of £1,000 at a ratio of 1:1) We'll want to know how many people with children under 36 months you would realistically expect to use your new facilities and the reasons why we should support your application.

The Big Lunch 2014



We want to build on the success of last year's Big Lunch - which saw residents across the Leigh Neighbours project area get stuck into a free lunch at events organised by various community groups. The aim of the Big Lunch is to give people a chance to make new friends across generational, social or cultural divides in order to build greater community spirit.

Perhaps you manage a social club or a community interest group? Maybe you'd like to lay on a vintage inspired afternoon tea, a fun street party or a world cuisine finger buffet? Well, we'd like to hear from you! You'll need to convince us that your idea will bring people together and that you have the ability to deliver the project successfully.

To apply for match-funding, you will be required to complete an application form. For a copy of this form, please contact Stephen Ruffley on 01942 709709 or S.Ruffley@wigan.gov.uk

news in brief

Love your Heart! It's yours for life.

Heart disease affects 1 in 3 women. And 3 times more women die from heart disease than from breast cancer. Surprised? We were, too. That's why Leigh Neighbours Project supports **Love Your Heart**, a campaign to raise awareness of heart disease among women.



You can find out about risk factors and learn about diet and lifestyle tips for lowering cholesterol at: www.flora.com/proactiva/love-your-heart

Meantime, we're organising a competition to give away three 12-month gym memberships at Leigh Sports Village - worth over £250 each. The gym has state of the art fitness equipment and friendly, knowledgeable staff.



To enter, email your name, address and contact telephone number to S.Ruffley@wigan.gov.uk before **5.00pm Friday 21st March**. The competition is restricted to residents who live in the Leigh Neighbours project area and is open to people over the age of 16. Competition winners will be chosen at random and will have to complete a gym induction session by WLCT staff.

Are you a young person living in the Leigh Neighbours project area? Do you have ideas on ways to improve the quality of life of people in our community? Then come along to the Youth Council and have your say! We meet on Tuesdays at 4.00pm at Kingsleigh Methodist Church. Refreshments are provided. For more information, contact Lisa-Marie Brew, Co-Chair of LNPNB at abunchofwords@hotmail.co.uk or Carolyn (Youth Worker) C.Maloney@wigan.gov.uk