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Local PCSOs have already identified a number of residents who are now benefitting from the scheme, including a pensioner with disabilities who was left traumatised after a recent break-in at his home.

“During the course of a typical day, we sometimes come across people who are vulnerable, perhaps as a result of an attempted break-in or a distraction burglary, or simply because of their age or disability,” says PCSO Gabrielle Fitsimons. “Sadly, this gentleman is still very distressed. It was a particularly disturbing crime because the victim was at home at the time and woke to find thieves rifling through his possessions. We can only imagine how frightening this must have been.

“So, we’re absolutely delighted that Leigh Neighbours has agreed to fund the scheme. We will now be able to refer people for a free home assessment aimed at reducing the risk of crime and the associated fear of crime.”

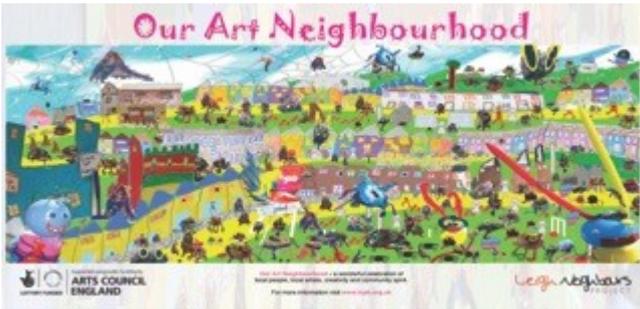
A free home security scheme designed to give vulnerable people in Leigh added peace of mind has been welcomed by police and local residents.

Stop and Lock has already been rolled out in homes across the Leigh Neighbours project area, targeting those residents who are most likely to benefit from the installation of additional security measures on their property.

How does it work? Any resident in the area bounded by Railway Road, Atherleigh Way, Leigh Road and Kirkhall Lane can apply for *Stop & Lock*. The scheme provides people with a free home assessment carried out by a registered security tradesman, who will then install appropriate security features free of charge.

How do I apply? Please contact Leigh Neighbourhood Policing Team on 0161 856 7225 or wiganeast@gmp.police.uk Alternatively come along to *Cuppa with a Copper* every fourth Wednesday at ASDA in Leigh or to any of the regular police surgeries. Visit www.gmp.police.uk for more information.

Our Art Neighbourhood 2015



Last summer, *Our Art Neighbourhood* captured the imagination of local people, young and old alike.

And now we're looking to find out how to make this year's community art project even bigger and better!

We realise that any event is only as good as the people who take part... which is why we want you to tell us what you'd like to see organised as part of the second phase of *Our Art Neighbourhood*.

"Art in the community comes in many forms," explains project curator, Martyn Lucas. "Last year, we organised a variety of textile and graffiti art workshops leading to temporary public art works. And the feedback we received from local people was overwhelmingly positive.

"We are now hoping to attract further funding to develop the arts in our area, and so this year we want local people to tell us what kind of community art projects they'd like to get involved in. It could be anything from performance poetry to a mosaic mural. Just so long as it brings people together, generates local pride in the area and fosters fun and friendship.



"We'll be carrying out some consultations to see what local people want and we'll feed this back to you in the next newsletter in May."

If you'd like to get involved in this consultation and have your say on what workshops we lay on this year, email:

ourartneighbourhood@lnpb.org.uk

Green-fingered fun!



Dig out your trowel & learn how to craft a hanging basket that will be the envy of all your neighbours!

FREE
hanging basket
workshops!

Even if you're not green-fingered, we promise by the end of the workshops, you'll be walking away with a beautifully crafted design for your garden. Just bring a basket and we'll provide the rest!

- **St John's Community Garden, Gordon Street, 15th May, 10am**
- **Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Walmesley Rd, 22nd May, 10am**
- **Kingsleigh Methodist Church, 23rd May, 10am**



RESIDENTS FUND

Do you have an idea which could make a positive difference in your community? Do you have the energy and passion to bring your idea to life? Well, with your inspiration - and probably a fair bit of perspiration! - we can help you make it happen!

If you have an idea which improves a local community facility... encourages people to take part in leisure activities... builds community spirit... or makes our area cleaner, greener and safer... then we'd like to hear from you!

We are responsible for a pot of National Lottery money which we're managing on *your* behalf. And so far, we're already helped local groups in a variety of ways, from replacing the stolen standards at the local air cadets to helping lay on children's craft activities. So, come on and tell us about your idea! What have you got to lose?!

You can apply for up to £500 from the Leigh Neighbours Resident Fund by visiting www.lnpb.org.uk or by emailing residentsfund@lnpb.org.uk



When you hear the words *street party*, what comes to mind?

The 1977 Silver Jubilee celebrations marking the Her Majesty's quarter century on the throne? Kate and William's more recent nuptials?

Or maybe the VE street parties of 1945 which marked the end of war?



These happy memories no doubt conjure up images of party games, bunting, home-made cakes and lashings of lemonade!

So, why not help create some *new* memories by organising a Big Lunch street party of your own on **Sunday 7th June**?

It's all part of the Big Lunch... an idea from the Eden Project which aims to get as many people as possible from across the country to have lunch with their neighbours as a simple act of fun and friendship.

You can even apply to Leigh Neighbours for match funding up to £500. Contact us by emailing biglunch@lnpb.org.uk

Read more about the Big Lunch at www.thebiglunch.co.uk

Greater Manchester Police

Insp Liz Sanderson

Neighbourhood
Inspector for
Wigan East



Reducing crime - and the fear of crime - remains our number one priority. In particular, we've recently been focussing our resources on tackling burglary, a distressing crime which leaves victims feeling vulnerable and traumatised. We've been targeting known offenders, conducted property searches, and made some significant arrests in the Leigh Road area. PCSOs are carrying out regular patrols to give reassurance to local residents, as well as identifying potential security issues and offering practical crime prevention advice. As the days get longer, this time of year often sees a spike in insecure burglaries. So we're reminding residents to ensure their homes are secure. Don't make it easy for opportunist criminals. Other local priorities in Leigh include tackling anti-social behaviour. As well as conducting high visibility patrols, we're also working with partners on key prevention: improving behaviour by laying on diversionary activities and ensuring young people adhere to acceptable behaviour contracts.

For more information, please visit:

www.gmp.police.uk

You can also call **0161 856 7225** or email wiganeast@gmp.police.uk

For non-emergencies, call **101** or Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Use 999 only where there is a threat to life or crime in progress.

The faces behind Leigh Neighbours...



Audrey Ward
Leigh Neighbours
Board Member

"I've lived in the Leigh area all my life - for 82 years. I also worked in the area and I've been involved with the school and parish of Sacred Heart so I know a great many people in the Leigh Neighbours area. That's why it is so important to me that we continue to build local community spirit. I'm keen for people - both young and old - to get involved with local events and get access to the services they need."

What's on... for young people?



Young people from the area are being asked to help shape a new group which has just been set up to give a voice to the younger BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) community.

The group already has a representation of young people from Roma background and is now looking to include other ethnicities. The group, led by Wigan Council's Voice and Engagement Team, meets most Wednesdays 4-6pm at Leigh Town Hall.

Meanwhile, Wigan Council's Restorative Solutions team has set up an X-Zone in Leigh town centre offering activities, workshops and information sessions. They happen on Fridays 4-6pm for 8-12s, and 6.30-9.30pm for 13-18s.

And don't forget, there's still lots going on at Kingsleigh Methodist Church youth centre, where Leigh Youth Voice meet every Tuesday, 4-6pm.

For more information about these activities, email: youthandengagement@wigan.gov.uk

This newsletter is brought to you by Leigh Neighbours, a community project set up by Big Local, a National Lottery charity which is investing £1 million in your area over the next 10 years. Leigh Neighbours Project Board is working hard to deliver on the issues you told us were important to you, such as improvements in housing, training opportunities for young people, environmental projects and increased community spirit. If you would like to find out more, go to www.lnpb.org.uk or email info@lnpb.org.uk

Leigh Neighbours PROJECT in partnership with

Local Trust
creating
lasting
change



Wigan Council