

**LEIGH 10K**  
COMMUNITY

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017  
Form more info or to sign up visit  
[www.leigh10k.co.uk](http://www.leigh10k.co.uk)



# Neighbour Leigh news

April/May 2017

## Railway Road Revival

**Leigh Neighbours, the million pound charity based in Leigh West, recently drafted in support from across the community as part of their mission to improve Railway Road, kicking things off with a spring clean around the car park. But as they're keen to point out, there's much more to this campaign than just tackling litter!**

As part of their spring clean on Friday 7th April, the charity carried out some consultation with local residents to find out what they thought of Railway Road and how it could be improved. And the findings confirmed the frustration many feel.

Susan Gredecki, chair of Leigh Neighbours, says: "The response was unanimous: something needs to be done about Railway Road. One of the main issues highlighted to us was the prevalence of anti-social behaviour and drug-related criminality, which some people told us they find very intimidating, so much so they tend to avoid the area. The physical environment was also a serious concern. Empty buildings, shuttered shop fronts and litter create an overwhelming air of depression and neglect which residents are keen to see addressed. They want the area to be brighter, busier and safer.

She adds: "Leigh Neighbours is asking people to rally around and help revive this once bustling road. Formerly the heart of Leigh town centre, Railway Road is looking tired and forgotten, and in need of some investment and real vision.

"We don't want to simply focus on the negatives; we recognise that some residents and businesses on Railway Road have a genuine stake in the area and care about its future. And there's some positive signs, too, with new enterprises moving into the street and news from the local authority of additional investment in the town. Leigh Neighbours wants to be a part of this revival and will invest in it, but we need your ideas, your passion and your support. Together, we can create long-term, sustainable change, and make Railway Road a place we can all be proud of."



**Volunteers collected 20 bags of rubbish, dug out kerblines, cut back trees and shrubs, cleared weeds and nettles and painted the fence around the car park. The results look great!**



**Have your say!**  
Please complete our short survey by visiting our website at [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk) and following the link or by emailing us at [railwayroadrevival@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:railwayroadrevival@lnpb.org.uk)

**Leigh Carnival of Colour**


Brass Band  
Climbing Wall  
Morris Dancers  
Car parade  
Zoe Unsworth - Vocalist  
Dancers/Gymnasts  
Elsa  
Porky Pig

Sheeeks Fun Fair  
Craft Fair  
Face Painting  
David Brown Tractors  
Food stalls  
Procession

LEIGH CENTURIONS SUPER LEAGUE CLUB  
f5bn Community Radio

**LEIGH LIBRARY CAR PARK**  
4TH JUNE 2017 - 11:00 TIL 3:00PM  
PROCESSION STARTS AT 11:00AM  
FREE ENTRY



 Ellie Barnes looks like she enjoyed our recent Easter craft workshop - our themed events are always popular with creative kids!

Leigh Neighbours would be happy to host a craft workshop every month, just let us know what you think by emailing [info@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:info@lnpb.org.uk)

**In planning... for *In Bloom!***

Following the success of last year's *In Bloom* competition, we're now planning this year's event. Once again, there will be several categories you can enter: hanging baskets, back yard, alleyway, garden and public space.

We're also opening up this year's event to allow people to nominate not just themselves but other deserving gardeners... perhaps you think your gran, neighbour, club, school or church deserves to be recognised for their green-fingered efforts? In the next issue of NeighbourLeigh News (out in June) we'll include a nomination form so you can do just that! Prizes will be awarded in August for the best submissions.

In the meantime, get cracking on those beds, baskets and boxes... and don't forget, our judges will be watching!





# In Living Memory

## CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS!

**Leigh Neighbours is developing a new project which explores the area's social history and cultural heritage. This a community-led project - so tell us what you'd like to do and we'll help make it happen.**

**If you'd like to get involved, email us at [historyproject@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:historyproject@lnpb.org.uk)**

*What was it like living in this area of Leigh West half a century ago?*

*How has our area been influenced by its industrial past?*

## Leigh Neighbours on a mission to improve the area

**It was sheer frustration that led John Gredecki to finally pick up the phone and call his MP to ask for help.**

After years of religiously cleaning up the alleyway along the side of his property on Gordon Street, John had quite simply had enough.

"I've always been proud of where I live. I was born and bred here, and I've raised my family in this street. But over the years, the neighbourhood has changed and some people these days don't show the same respect for their neighbours. Keeping the alleyway clean has become more and more of a challenge. The fly-tipping. The litter. The dog waste. I'm struggling to keep on top of it. And I'm afraid it's getting the better of me."

What John's talking about is anti-social behaviour of the worst kind: the type of thoughtlessness that affects quality of life for those affected, depresses an area, and robs it of its pride.

That's when John called in his MP, Andy Burnham, to assess the problem and find a solution. But it didn't end there... Mr Burnham also invited the chief executive of Wigan Council, Donna Hall, to join him - and she in turn was accompanied by two of her most senior officers in the local authority. It was, John believed, an opportunity not to be missed!

"We were delighted to host some of the most influential people in our Borough," explains John. "We took them on a tour and showed them examples of the work we're doing in partnership with many people in the community. We talked about some of the big issues: empty properties, neglected wasteland, anti-social behaviour and grot spots.



He adds: "And we talked about the good stuff, too. Our investment programme for refurbishing community facilities. Our campaigns with schools. The activities and events we organise. The fantastic volunteers we work with. The local charities and groups we give funding to. Our ambitions and hopes. I think it's fair to say that everybody left the meeting feeling very optimistic about the future. Yes, there's a lot of work to be done, but we've got a commitment from the local authority that they're in total support of what we're doing and the good news is that they are keen to work with us."

If you'd like to be kept up to date on any progress we make, you can sign up to receive our e-news bulletins at [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook!



Pictured: John Gredecki; Andy Burnham MP; Karl Battersby, Paul McKeivitt and Donna Hall of Wigan Council; Sue Shaw and Susan Gredecki of Leigh Neighbours.

## Spring hanging baskets workshops

Our hanging basket workshops are *growing* in popularity! And we're expecting our Spring events to once again attract green-fingered residents from across our patch. There's no need to book, just turn up. But don't forget to cut out your vouchers and bring them along to claim your FREE plants and compost. And, if it's your birthday and you live in our project area, email and tell us. We might just surprise you!

**10-12 Thursday 8th June, St John's Community Garden, Gordon St**

**10-12 Friday 9th June, Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Walmesley Rd**

**Please note: Only residents or businesses from within our project area are entitled to free plants and compost. Anybody from outside the area will be asked to donate £5 towards the cost, and monies raised will be passed on to local charities.**



## VOUCHER

This voucher entitles you to claim

## FREE

plants and compost at the Leigh Neighbours Spring hanging basket workshops.

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**Would you like to host an event which encourages residents to come together over some delicious food... to become more neighbourly... to form new friendships... and to help make the community of Leigh West stronger?**

**Leigh Neighbours is now inviting applications for funding towards THE BIG LUNCH!**

We're offering local residents, community groups, schools, churches and charities the opportunity to apply for funds so they can put on a BIG LUNCH event any time between Sunday 28th May and Sunday 11th June.

Previously, we've helped to fund a range of lunches, from children's tea parties to bingo club hot pots!

For conditions and an application form, visit our website [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk) or email us at [residentsfund@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:residentsfund@lnpb.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is 5pm Wednesday 10th May.

