

June/July 2017

## Flower power

**Anybody familiar with Leigh Neighbours will know that we're particularly proud of our hanging basket workshops which are popular with people right across our project area.**

Every Spring and Autumn, we arrange a series of workshops to help make the area brighter and more cheerful.

Not only are these events instructive and fun, they are also great at bringing the community together. This Spring, we hosted three events including one at the community garden in Gordon Street; a second at Sacred Heart Parish Centre; and a third one by the car park on Railway Road.



**Pictured: Pupils from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School**

Once again, our thanks to everybody who came to our events, and especially to the schools, businesses and community groups, True Colours and As in Eden, for their support.

Altogether, we have planted up nearly a hundred hanging baskets and troughs. And, thanks to the generosity of local people, we've also managed to raise over £80 for the foodbank, too!

## PRINCE'S TRUST: THE A-TEAM



**Pictured: Pupils from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Leigh Central Primary School with students from the Prince's Trust Team Programme who transformed the landscaped areas outside the joint school entrance on Windermere Road.**

**We love it when a plan comes together. In fact, Leigh Neighbours positively thrives on it!**

With some of our activities, that can be as far as our direct involvement goes... into the planning. Quite often, we focus behind the scenes on bringing people together and helping groups forge new partnerships.

Of all our local partnerships, one of our most valued is with The Prince's Trust. The Prince's Trust Team Programme, managed by the charity Groundwork, often calls on the community to nominate small, self-contained environmental projects for their students to get involved in, and so far have completed many such projects in our area (calling on additional support from Tracey, the local Tesco community champion).

So when we heard on the grapevine that the heads of both Leigh Central and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Schools were wanting to have their shared front entrance landscaped, we stepped in and introduced them to the wonderful team at the Prince's Trust. The result...? Well, the picture speaks for itself!

If you'd like to suggest any landscaping projects which might be suitable for The Prince's Trust Team Programme, email us at [info@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:info@lnpb.org.uk)

## Railway Road Revival – the latest update

In our last issue of NeighbourLeigh News, we asked people to let us know what they thought were the main issues which needed tackling on Railway Road. So far, we've had over a hundred responses to our survey, with respondents providing us with even more insight into the problems as well some interesting ideas for the future.

Many people expressed concern about anti-social behaviour, litter and the decline in small, independent retailers. Others focussed on the positives such as the architectural facades and the community spirit of the Leythers who live there. Given the scale of the response we've had, it will take us some time to collate your feedback but rest assured we will report back to you with the results as soon as possible, together with thoughts on our next steps. In the meantime, just to remind you of what we've done so far... we have:

- Carried out an intensive clean-up at the car park on Railway Road, which included picking up twenty bags of rubbish, clearing overgrowth and treating woodwork. (Thanks to all our volunteers!)
- Fitted brackets to properties along Railway Road for hanging baskets, followed up by a hanging basket workshop for local businesses and residents on the street. If your property on Railway Road was missed, and you didn't get a bracket or a hanging basket, email us at [railwayroadrevival@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:railwayroadrevival@lnpb.org.uk) and we'll arrange to get one fitted.
- Hosted a Big Lunch get-together at the Coffee Stop on Railway Road, which provided us with another opportunity to get people's feedback.
- Carried out a survey of local residents and businesses. There's still chance to complete our survey. Simply visit [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk) and follow the link.
- Hosted a 'walkabout' of the area with former MP Andy Burnham and Chief Executive of Wigan Council, Donna Hall, to discuss the issues.

Susan Gredecki, chair of Leigh Neighbours, says: "This is just the start. We're looking at lots of ideas to support the community and to tackle the issues, but it's a big challenge and there's no quick fix. The good news is we are beginning to make headway. We're especially encouraged by the positive momentum of support we're seeing from local businesses on Railway Road who appreciate what we're trying to do and are getting behind us. It's already clear to us that people feel very passionately about the project, which is great because the more energy and enthusiasm we can generate, the more we're ultimately likely to achieve."

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



**Local resident Tony Wilde of Eyt Street helped out at our recent hanging basket workshop on Railway Road.**



**Local people completed more than 30 surveys at our recent Big Lunch get-together on Railway Road.**



## No such thing as a free lunch...? Think again!

**Leigh Neighbours recently invited local residents to join them for some complimentary refreshments as part of a national campaign which encourages people to get-together over food as a means of promoting community spirit.**

Stephen Ruffley of Leigh Neighbours, says: "The ethos behind The Big Lunch - building community spirit - encapsulates everything we do. Over the previous four years, we've supported community groups and schools by giving them the funding to host their own Big Lunch event. But this year also marks the first time we laid on our own Big Lunch, and it proved really popular with local people.

"Altogether, we welcomed nearly a hundred people to our free event at the Coffee Stop café on Railway Road. We were delighted to see familiar faces and to make new acquaintances. We know of several people who left our lunch having made new friends - which of course is what Leigh Neighbours is all about!"

If you're interested in organising an event in our project area to build greater community spirit, email [info@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:info@lnpb.org.uk)



**Neil Fallows of the Coffee Stop on Railway Road (standing) is pictured with Sue Shaw and Stephen Ruffley of Leigh Neighbours; and Rhiane Peers and Kevin Caren of JPS Printing of Railway Road.**

## In Living Memory

Leigh Neighbours is developing a new project which explores the area's social history and cultural heritage.

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



## We're proud to support the Leigh Community 10k

 Wigan & Leigh Hospice

# Run 2 Gether

Run, walk, race...take it at your pace!

Let's do the Leigh Community 10k together and raise money for Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

## LEIGH 10K COMMUNITY

Sunday 13th August 2017

For more info  
or to sign up visit  
[www.leigh10k.co.uk](http://www.leigh10k.co.uk)  
or call 01942 525566



Inspiring healthy lifestyles

Wigan Council

Nectar Creative

Rotary Club of Leigh

Leigh Harriers

Wigan Old Runners

Time 2 Run Chip Timing

## Art from the heart



Year 3 pupils from St Mary's on Walmesley Rd recently organised an art exhibition at the school to display some of their summer-inspired works of art. To see more pictures, visit [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk)

## The BIG BIKE Revival



Leigh Central pupils, Aaron Taylor (10), brother Paul (5) and sister Hannah-Leigh (11), took their bikes along to our recent workshop to have them serviced ready for summer. The event, held on the playground of the Windermere Road school, is one of many workshops run by specialists, Gearing Up, as part of The Big Bike Revival which aims to get cyclists back in the saddle. Simon Dale and Chris Evans from Gearing Up are pictured (above) with the Taylors after servicing over twenty bikes at the workshop.

**SUMMER MARKET  
VINTAGE TEA PARTY**

Handcrafted Mini Markets invite you to join us on  
**SATURDAY THE 8TH OF JULY 2017**  
AT LEIGH PARISH CHURCH  
ST MARYS WAY, LEIGH, WN7 5EQ

Our market will be open to all from  
**11AM-3PM** £1 ENTRY (UNDER 10'S FREE)

We will also be serving our vintage Tea Party  
by advance ticket only at the following times  
**11.30AM, 12.45PM AND 2PM**  
**ONLY £3** (UNDER 3'S FREE)  
*includes market entry*

All proceeds from entry fee and tea party to  
**LEIGH PARISH CHURCH ROOF FUND**

For more details visit our facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/Handcraftedminimarkets](http://www.facebook.com/Handcraftedminimarkets)  
For tickets call us on: 07740 285864  
Or buy online at  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/373183>



We are looking for the very best public spaces, alleys, hanging baskets, yards and gardens, from across our area!



Above: One of our 2016 winners, Derek Cunliffe with judge, Bill Burton of Leigh Neighbours.

Main picture: Christine Farnworth of Leigh Neighbours in the community garden on Gordon Street

Leigh  
**Neighbours**  
PROJECT

# In Bloom

Leigh Neighbours is once again inviting green-fingered residents to enter our In Bloom competition for a chance to win up to £50 in high street vouchers.

Entrants can submit applications for themselves, or alternatively you can nominate friends, clubs, neighbours, schools, churches and other community groups.

There are 5 categories, each offering 1st and 2nd prizes.

Your name:

Your organisation:  
(if relevant)

Your address:

Your phone number:

Your email address:

If you are nominating somebody else, please provide their name and address:

I'm entering in these categories:

**Fabulous front garden**

**Beautiful back yard**

**Awesome alleyway**

**Perfect public space**

**Glorious hanging basket**

## Terms and conditions:

To be eligible, entries must be based in the Leigh Neighbours project area - that is the area bound by Kirkhall Lane, Atherleigh Way, Twist Lane, Market Place and Leigh Road. Entering the competition is easy. Just tick the box/boxes you'd like to be considered for and return the form to us. We'll get in touch with you to arrange a visit from our judges. For more application forms, visit [www.lnpb.org.uk](http://www.lnpb.org.uk)

## By submitting this form you are agreeing to the following:

- Photographs of you and your *In Bloom* submission can be used in Leigh Neighbours publicity.
- You take full responsibility for your *In Bloom* project and indemnify Leigh Neighbours for any loss, damage or injury.
- If your application is unsuccessful, Leigh Neighbours will not be liable for any costs incurred by the applicant.

Please submit your completed entry form by **5.00pm on Wednesday 26th July**. Judging will take place between 31st July and 11th August, and we will notify winners by 18th August. Please return your entry form to: Leigh Neighbours Project, c/o Leigh Citizen's Advice, Second floor, Magnum House, 33 Lord Street, Leigh WN7 1BY. Alternatively, you scan this completed form and email to [info@lnpb.org.uk](mailto:info@lnpb.org.uk)