



Digging DEEP

for families in need

Liam McCreesh sure knows his spuds!

Earlier in the year, the St Joseph's RC Primary School pupil staked his claim on a plot in the Leigh Neighbours community garden on Gordon Street and - with help from board member Christine Farnworth - planted his potatoes before settling back to wait for his yield to grow.

But even Liam (8) didn't bank on the bumper crop he'd harvest come the summer! In fact, it was so bountiful that he's donated a bag to a foodbank, from where they've been passed on to local families struggling to make ends meet.

Liam is hoping his success this year will earn him a third *Blue Peter* badge, awarded this time for achievements relating to the environment. He says: "My first attempt at growing potatoes last summer wasn't very successful but I decided to try again this summer and I'm really pleased with how well they turned out. I'm very grateful to Christine for helping me, and I'm happy that I've been able to help others less fortunate than me."

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Liam is pictured with Christine Farnworth of Leigh Neighbours and Warren Done of Atherton & Leigh Foodbank.

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Warren Done of Atherton and Leigh Foodbank was delighted to receive the generous donation. "Many thanks to Liam for remembering us and for thinking about those families in the community who struggle to put a meal on the table for their kids. All donations are gratefully received, but none more so than those which have been lovingly cultivated by local people."

Christine adds: "It's wonderful to see the community garden being put to such good use by young people. When Liam approached me to ask about growing the potatoes, I was struck by how dedicated he was. He definitely has a feel for gardening and shows real promise."

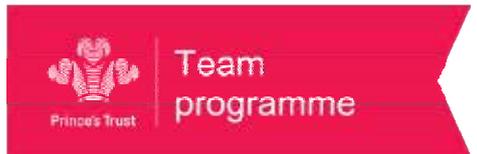


Across the patch



Helping hands

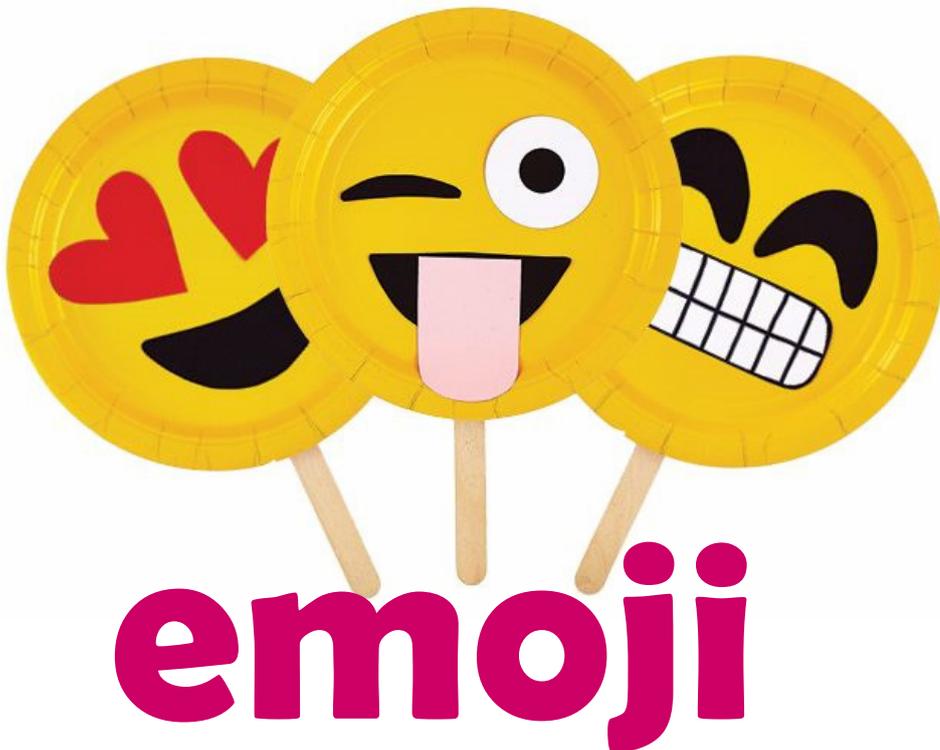
Have you recently retired from public or customer focused service? Are you interested in making a positive difference in your community? Citizens Advice is looking to recruit volunteers who can visit, mentor and support families at risk of domestic abuse, and those that have been tipped into crisis as a result of debt, unemployment, substance misuse or family separation. You'll need access to a car, possess good communication skills and be willing to undergo an enhanced DBS check. In return, we'll provide all the training you'll need. If you would like to find out more, contact Citizens Advice on 01942 267963 quoting STRIVE or email DAPPvolunteer@cawb.org.uk



Leigh Prince's Trust is now recruiting for their Team Programme. This well established nationally recognised personal development programme for 16-25 year olds ensures most participants enter employment, education or training within three months of completion. Prince's Trust provide payment for travel and most young people are able to keep their benefits whilst on the programme. You can also receive an achievement incentive award of up to £200 for taking part. To find out more, text the word **PRINCE** to **80800** (free of charge) or contact Amy Stark on 07849 069574 or email amy.stark@groundwork.org.uk



Our next **BE SEEN BE SAFE** free bike workshop is provisionally planned for **3.00pm on Friday 20th October** on the school playground on Windermere Rd. Bring your bike along and get it serviced ready for winter. Check our Facebook page for more details.



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FREE Family Craft Workshop

10.30am-12.30pm, Saturday 23rd September
As in Eden, Walmesley Road, Leigh
Have fun and get creative at our free craft workshop!

SAFE AND WELL VISITS

Fire safety, health and crime prevention in your home

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service is committed to reducing fire deaths and injuries by ensuring that every home has a working smoke alarm. We are offering FREE Safe and Well visits, at a time convenient to you, where we will:

- Carry out a room by room safety check of your property identifying and making you aware of any potential fire risks.
- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm on each floor level that you use. Where you don't have one, we may fit a FREE ten year smoke alarm.
- Help you put together an escape plan in case a fire breaks out in the future.
- Offer advice on home security and health and wellbeing, where appropriate.

For a FREE Safe and Well visit please call 0800 555 815



New MP joins Leigh Neighbours on a tour of the patch

It was a case of 'The Good, The Bad, and The Downright Ugly' when members of the Leigh Neighbours board invited Leigh's new MP, Jo Platt, on a tour of the project area.

And whilst there was time for some lighter moments - including a quick stop off at the Community Garden on Gordon Street - most of the morning was spent looking at some of our area's less salubrious features, like the fly-tipping on the old rugby ground. We also discussed some of the issues that need tackling, such as the prevalence of anti-social behaviour on Railway Road and the problems relating to the quality of housing and the condition of some 'buy to rent' properties in the area.

"We were keen to explain to Jo what Leigh Neighbours is all about," says chair of the project, Susan Gredecki, "and to show her some examples of the work we do in the community, such as the environmental projects which make such a difference. But we weren't going to gloss over the problems, either, especially around Railway Road. We want to work with Jo to improve the area and, with her support and political influence, we hope to build momentum and, together, make some real changes for the better."



Left clockwise: John Gredecki, Sue Shaw, Susan Gredecki, Jo Platt MP, Jan Eckersley and Christine Farnworth pictured outside Sacred Heart RC church.

From top right: Jo and members of the team discuss the site of the old rugby ground at Hilton Park, a target of anti-social behaviour and dangerous fly-tipping; Leigh Neighbours deputy chair, Jan Eckersley, shows Jo one of her fabulous environmentally-friendly creations... a *Minions*-inspired planter made from recycled tyres; discussing the old college on Railway Road, another anti-social behaviour hotspot and a prime development opportunity for the town.



Autumn hanging baskets workshops

Our FREE hanging basket workshops are back! 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!

10-12 Thursday 28th September, St John's Community Garden

10-12 Friday 29th September, Sacred Heart Parish Centre

10-12 Saturday 30th September, Railway Rd opposite the old college

Free plants and compost are only available to residents or businesses from within the Leigh Neighbours project area. Anybody from outside the area will be asked to donate £5 towards the cost of materials, and all monies raised will be passed on to local charities.



This voucher entitles you to claim

FREE

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

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Leigh Neighbours PROJECT

IN PICTURES



It's been a busy summer for Leigh Neighbours with our In Bloom competition... our sponsorship of the inaugural Leigh 10k community run... and the first of our regular family craft workshops hosted by local resident, Michelle Downs.



Above clockwise: winners of our In Bloom competition, Derek Cunliffe of Findlay Street with his beautiful award-winning dahlias; Christine Farnworth in the community garden; Steven Farnworth and Nancy Webb of Gordon Street. At the starting line for the Leigh 10k, Susan and John Gredecki. And getting stuck into some serious crafting—*Minions*-style!




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