

Greater Manchester Police

Insp Liz Sanderson

Neighbourhood
Inspector for
Wigan East



As we prepare for the seasonal spike in anti-social behaviour (ASB), we ask for your continued support in helping us to tackle this issue. We'll be working closely with partner agencies, who are laying on a range of diversionary activities for young people to get involved in.

I urge parents to play their part and to ensure they know *where* their child is and *who* they are with. Please don't allow them to drink alcohol and if you suspect alcohol or drug use, then please contact the school or other support agencies for help and guidance.

And remember, it's only a small minority of young people who get embroiled in ASB - most youngsters just want to have fun. And we just want them to be safe and show consideration while they're doing so!

Meanwhile, as the lighter nights are now approaching, don't let opportunist thieves into your home by leaving doors or windows unlocked. Don't make it easy for them!

To get in touch with us, you can call the team on **0161 856 7225** or email us at **wiganeast@gmp.police.uk**

For non-emergency calls or to report a crime, call **101** or Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**. **Use 999 only where there is a threat to life or a crime in progress.**

The people behind Leigh Neighbours are local residents just like you...



John Gredecki
Local resident
and Leigh
Neighbours
Board Member

"I have lived in Leigh all my life and I've seen over the years the area become more and more neglected. So, when we were awarded the Lottery money, I recognised it was a fabulous opportunity and immediately signed up to get involved. One way in which we're investing the money is to generate improvements in the condition of local housing, and we're already making progress in this area. I've also become involved in arranging apprenticeship schemes, giving hope to young people who may not otherwise get an opportunity. Change isn't going to happen overnight and the area will take time to recover - but I'm a great believer in the importance of TEAMwork because *together everyone achieves more.*"

Home is where the hurt is

Sadly, domestic abuse is a major concern in our community. And big sports events - such as this summer's World Cup - can often coincide with spikes in reported instances. Leigh Neighbours supports local organisations which help victims and their families in our area, including WAVE, a small charity run almost entirely by volunteers. For more than 25 years, WAVE has operated from a base right here in the heart of Leigh. It also manages a 24 hour telephone helpline for victims of domestic abuse. **If you're worried, you can call the Domestic Abuse Helpline on 01942 262270. However, if you, or members of your family, are in immediate danger, call 999.**

We're in it TOGETHER!

This newsletter is brought to you by Leigh Neighbours, a community project which is funded by Big Local, a National Lottery charitable trust. The project aims to 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 for young people and increased access to leisure facilities. **If you would like to get involved then please contact the Leigh Neighbours Project Officer, Stephen Ruffley on 01942 709709 or email info@lnpb.org.uk Or to find out more you can also visit www.lnpb.org.uk**

Neighbour Leigh

Leigh Neighbours Project news April 2014



Petal Power

Pupils from Leigh Sacred Heart RC Primary School recently enjoyed a lesson in the Spring sunshine, learning how to create colourful hanging baskets for display across the school and the wider community.

The free workshop was organised by Leigh Neighbours, a community-based project tasked with delivering long term improvements to an area of Leigh West using £1million of National Lottery money. The event gave local residents an opportunity to get tips from an expert on how to craft lavish hanging baskets. Thanks to Moss Bank Nurseries and Wigan Council for your support! You can see more pictures from the workshop on page 2.

Leigh Neighbours PROJECT in partnership with

Local Trust
creating
lasting
change



Wigan Council

INSIDE

In this issue, find out about a new community organisation which aims to promote and support local volunteers... learn how to go about funding an event as part of The Big Lunch... and look at more photos from our free hanging basket workshop.

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 afternoon tea, a fun street party or a finger buffet inspired by world cuisine? 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, please contact Stephen Ruffley on 01942 709709 or info@lnpb.org.uk by Friday 2nd May.



And from the last issue...

Dozens of green-fingered residents turned out for our **free seed giveaway** last month so we'll be expecting to see lots of floral displays sprouting up across the area come summer! Our **Local History Arts Workshop** during half term was also well attended and feedback was so positive that we're hoping to run another one soon - so watch this space. And finally, congratulations to Charlotte Williams of Thirlmere Street who won a 12-month gym membership package at Leigh Sports Village in our **Love Your Heart competition**. Good luck with your gym induction, Charlotte!

Bloomin' Love-Leigh!



Damian Jenkinson, the Wigan Council employee who shot to fame in 2012 when he became BBC *Young Gardener of the Year* runner up, hosted our hanging basket workshop.

Damian says: "A hanging basket can bring instant colour and fragrance to a garden, street or alleyway and they're surprisingly easy to craft once you know some of the basic rules."



He adds: "For summer baskets, geraniums and begonias are always popular centrepieces, although you might also consider baskets of one single variety such as petunias for a mass flowering impact all summer long."



Joint Chair of Leigh Neighbours, Susan Gredecki, says: "When it comes to improving our area, we all have a part to play, and really there's no more effective way of making a difference than with flowers. Planting projects like this bring people together, creating not just beautiful end results, but also building a greater sense of community spirit, too."



It's all in the name!

Members of Leigh Neighbours Project Board have welcomed the launch of a brand new organisation which aims to channel, stimulate and support local volunteering.

Acting as an umbrella organisation, *Trust in Leigh* hopes to establish a cohesive network for a more co-ordinated voluntary sector in Leigh.

"As with many local communities, Leigh faces a number of social challenges," explains Trustee, Mike Baker MBE, whose work with Leigh Sports Trust gave him the local knowledge and contacts to spearhead this new initiative.

"The existing voluntary sector across Leigh and the borough is a cluttered landscape with

around 30 or so groups, clubs and other social enterprises often acting in isolation. Invariably these groups are made up of community champions who work tirelessly to tackle a range of issues including social care, health and wellbeing and community safety.

"*Trust in Leigh* will engage with the public, private and third sector to support these individuals in the fantastic work they do, and build greater capacity in the voluntary sector.

"Our experience with Leigh Sports Trust has given us the confidence to explore new ground, beyond sport and across the broader voluntary sector. We want to tap into this local resource, build on relationships and unlock the potential for even greater 'social productivity' that already exists in Leigh."

Lisa Brew, Joint-Chair of Leigh Neighbours Project Board, says: "We look forward to collaborating with *Trust in Leigh* on a range of exciting initiatives which meet local needs and address some of the priorities that residents are concerned about. By working in partnership with other like-minded groups, we know that we can achieve that much more."

To find out more, visit www.trustinleigh.org Alternatively, check out the Facebook page or follow the group on Twitter.

House calls Community calling for better quality housing in Leigh West

Improving the quality of local housing is one of the main priorities of the Leigh Neighbours Project.

Members of the Board recently hosted a national event where delegates from local authorities, housing associations and from other Big Local areas across England met to share ideas on how local communities can work in partnership to tackle poor quality housing.



Delegates discussed ways that the community can address issues such as the condition of private-let properties; the enforced upkeep of housing; and the availability of community green spaces.

Joint-Chair of Leigh Neighbours Project Board, Susan Gredecki, says: "From our own personal experiences in Leigh West, we know that the quality of some privately owned and rented housing is a concern for many local residents."

The 2-day seminar allowed those who work in this field to share the different ways they go about addressing the issue, such as working in partnership to ensure locals authorities adopt a timely and proactive role in addressing residents' concerns. Susan adds: "Our vision is to create an area in Leigh West where people aspire to live and where residents are proud to live. It's a vision shared by many local communities across the country who face similar social and economic challenges."

