

Greater Manchester Police

Insp Liz Sanderson

Neighbourhood
Inspector for
Wigan East



Our key priority as we head into summer is theft from motor vehicles, which we're working to reduce by increasing patrols. Our PCSOs will be checking and challenging any insecurities they come across. Anti-social behaviour and youths causing annoyance are both recurring issues at this time of year and again we're increasing patrols at hotspots. We're also working with partners to reduce incidents and we urge young people to visit www.safe4summer.com to find out about positive activities taking place in their area.

For tips around security, please visit: www.gmp.police.uk/60secondsecurity
To get in touch with us, you can 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 a crime in progress.

The faces behind Leigh Neighbours...



Rev Kevin Crinks
Leigh Neighbours
Board Member

"I came to Leigh in 2009 to become the priest at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. Leigh's churches work well together to support the community we serve. There's a real feeling of 'we're all in this together'. I am passionate that Leigh should not be forgotten as a town in its own right and I want the people of our community to feel that they matter. Leigh has suffered from the loss of traditional industries over the years but our local schools and colleges are equipping young people with new skills so I believe there is room for optimism in the future!"

If England lose... don't abuse!

That's the uncompromising message behind a campaign which urges victims to seek help if they feel threatened or experience abuse during this year's World Cup games. Chris Ashton of local domestic abuse charity WAVE says: "The kind of competitive tension and increased alcohol consumption often synonymous with football tournaments is a heady cocktail, and can trigger higher than usual instances of abuse and violence in the home. I urge women who feel concerned to seek help. Our mission at WAVE is to help secure emergency shelter for victims as well as offering confidential support and advice." WAVE can be reached on a 24-hour helpline: **01942 262270**.

[continued from page 1] Lisa Brew, Joint Chair of Leigh Neighbours and ambassador of Leigh Youth Voice, says: "Leigh Neighbours recognises the importance of engaging with young people to ensure they are able to play a positive role in the community as well as having a say on how the £1 million Lottery money is invested. The BBQ was a fun way of bringing the entire community together and a chance for young people to shout about the good things they do!" Leigh Youth Voice meets every Tuesday at Kingsleigh Methodist Church Youth Centre 4pm-6pm. To find out more, call 01942 486257 or email voiceandengagement@wigan.gov.uk Meanwhile, Leigh Youth Council will be holding a food collection for the local foodbank on **Tuesday 24th June at Kingsleigh Methodist Church Youth Centre, 4pm-6pm**. Pop in for a brew, all welcome!



Hanging basket workshop

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

Neighbour Leigh

Leigh Neighbours Project news June 2014

Big Lunch On Us!



Young people in Leigh recently treated passers-by to a slap-up barbecue feast as part of a fun recruitment drive to encourage more young people to get involved in their local community.

The free BBQ was organised by Leigh Youth Voice as part of the Big Lunch annual celebration which aims to give people a chance to make new friends and build community spirit.

Young people aged between 14 and 21 manned the grill on Leigh Town Hall Square for three hours and, in between serving burgers and hotdogs, managed to collect 40 signatures from other young people keen to join the group and make a difference in their town. You can read more about the event on Page 4.

INSIDE In this issue, find out about an exciting new visual arts project coming soon, in an inspiring celebration of Leigh!

Our Art Neighbourhood



Budding artists from the Leigh Neighbours area are being urged to get inspired this summer... with a view to having their creative efforts showcased on huge billboards around the town come the autumn!

Our Art Neighbourhood is a programme of visual arts workshops supported by the Arts Council and Leigh Neighbours community project which aims to engage people of all ages with exciting visual art, and to promote a positive view of the Leigh Neighbours area across the borough and beyond. As part of the project, we will be employing 'artists in residence' to work with local people in the delivery of hands-on workshops, leading to exhibitions, urban art works and an ambitious billboards project.

Project Co-ordinator, Martyn Lucas, says: "I'm delighted to be part of this exciting project. We'll be nurturing local professional and aspiring artists as well as profiling the area in a positive way through innovative artworks. Come October, local people will be able to enjoy a burst of colour and creativity throughout the neighbourhood in a trail of urban art."

Susan Gredecki, joint chair of Leigh Neighbours, adds: "We wanted to support a project which genuinely inspires. We're keen to encourage local artists to get involved and we want people to enjoy engaging with homegrown visual art. I look forward to seeing the results this autumn!"

Yarn Bombing

If you're tired of the mundane and yearn to add a splash of colour to a familiar and featureless urban landscape, yarn bombing might be right up your street!

Yarn bombing is urban art with a difference. Instead of aerosols, chalk and stencils, it calls upon the need for yarn.

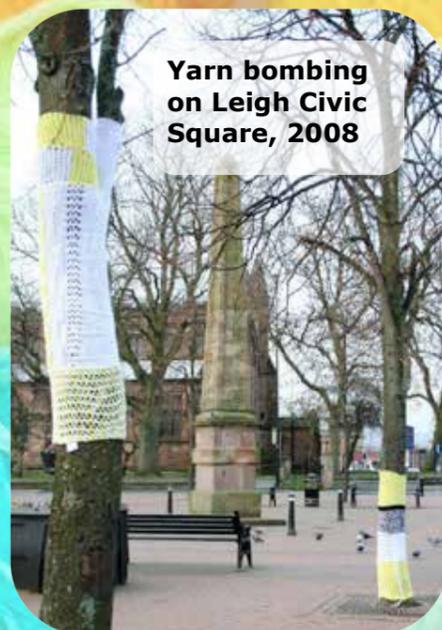
Lots of yarn.

In lots of colours!

As part of *Our Art Neighbourhood*, renowned Lancashire artist Rachael Elwell will be inviting knitters young and old to embellish street furniture and key buildings within the Leigh Neighbours area to create a bright, fun knitted and crocheted trail.

We're going to need lots of wool for these street knit workshops so if you have any spare balls, we would make good use of them!

Please hand your balls of wool in at Leigh Local Studies desk on the ground floor of Leigh Library.



Local artist Gecko will be leading a series of urban art workshops for young people.

How can you get involved in Our Art Neighbourhood?

All the sessions are free and open to local residents. We're particularly keen to encourage people who have never taken part in arts activities before, or those who just want to join in to create something which will brighten up the neighbourhood. We're currently planning dates, times and venues for the workshops. If you'd like to take part in any activities, please email: ourartneighbourhood@lnpg.org.uk

We're looking to employ aspiring visual artists as paid assistants and volunteers. If you are a self-employed local professional artist looking to develop your experience in community arts, or wish to volunteer, please contact Martyn Lucas by Friday 27th June at: bowerarts@talktalk.net



Leigh Neighbours Project Board recently hosted an information evening at Leigh Central Primary School to talk to people about what we've been up to lately. Look out for future events to find out how you can get involved too!



The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project: get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours as a simple act of fun and friendship.



Leigh Neighbours match funded a number of Big Lunch events, including bingo and hotpot with Leigh Central Residents Association; a fun day at craft group, *As In Eden*; and of course the BBQ organised by Leigh Youth Council. To see pictures from the events, visit www.lnpg.org.uk

Hanging Basket Workshop



Following the popular hanging basket workshop held at *As in Eden* earlier in the Spring, Leigh Neighbours is hosting a second workshop later this month.

So dig out your trowel and learn how to craft a hanging basket that will be the envy of all your neighbours!

Just visit www.lnpg.org.uk to find out where and when!